



Tick-borne Infections Council of North Carolina, Inc

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Mission

Tick-Borne Infections Council of North Carolina, Inc is a non-profit organization formed to improve the recognition, treatment, control, and understanding of tick-borne diseases in North Carolina.

History

TIC-NC was incorporated as a non-profit organization in the state of North Carolina in May 2005 by several North Carolina residents whose lives were negatively affected by tick-borne infections. In March of 2007 we were granted 501(c)3 tax-exempt status by IRS.

Goals

Educate the public, medical and veterinary professionals, school health nurses, and the public health system about tick-borne diseases in North Carolina, including risk factors, emerging infections, and prevention.

Foster an enhanced public health response.

Encourage state public health agencies to conduct ongoing surveillance of the prevalences of tick-borne infections in (a) at-risk populations and (b) ticks and vectors; and make this information available to the public and the medical sector

BIANNUAL REPORT TO MEMBERS AND DONORS Fall 2007

Dear TIC-NC Members and Supporters,

We hope you enjoy this Fall 2007 report. We have been operating now for a little over two years. You can see a lot has happened!

Purpose of this report

1. To let you know of our accomplishments and status.
2. To get your updated contact information.
3. To ask you and others who know who have had a tick-borne infection to fill out our Case Registry form if you haven't already. These are very important for our public health work.

Activities and Accomplishments

2005

- Wrote educational brochure. Began distribution.
- Designed Case Registry Form and began collection of cases.
- Developed our website.
- Participated in the Chatham County tick study conducted by the state.
- Had a booth at the NC Lyme Disease Foundation (NCLDF) annual meeting.
- Had a booth at the Hope to Heal Conference, Reston, VA.
- Attended the annual meeting of the NC Mosquito and Vector Control Association.
- Attended national meeting on tick-borne infections (TBIs).
- Communicated with the CDC about their STARI studies.

2006

- Wrote a report on the state study in Chatham County, distributed it to appropriate state officials (report available at our website).
- Began our periodic newsletters distributed via email and on our website.
- Attended meeting on TBIs at the NC School of Veterinary Medicine.
- Communicated with scientists researching STARI.
- Researched tick collection methods.
- Met with state entomologists and had local ticks identified including the *Ixodes scapularis* (black-legged tick) that carries Lyme disease.
- Visited the National Tick Museum in Georgia and met with Dr. Oliver there, a national expert on southern ticks and TBIs. Report on website.
- Sent letter to the state Medical Board about ticks and TBIs with relevance to the Dr. Jemsek matter.
- Had a booth at the Shakori Hills Spring Music and Dance Festival with help from the NC Lyme Disease Foundation; reached many people.
- Participated in a community health forum in Chatham.
- Successfully collaborated with the NCLDF to have the governor designate a week every May as Tick-borne Disease Awareness Week.

PO Box 841 Pittsboro, NC 27312

Phone & Fax 919.542.2529

TIC-NC, Inc is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.
www.tic-nc.org



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periodically.

Develop and maintain a registry of persons with tick-borne diseases in North Carolina.

Encourage the public health sector to identify and characterize the newly emerging tick-borne infections in the southeast.

Work with the public health sector to require all tick-borne infections be reported at both county and state levels.

Staffing and Volunteers

TIC-NC remains a volunteer organization. We continue to need volunteers for special projects and to serve on the board.

Membership

We have approximately 200 members. Interested citizens join after contacting us for information at events where we have a booth, after finding our brochure in one of the many locations across the state where they are placed periodically, and through personal or web contact. We need to increase our numbers. Everyone can help by getting friends and neighbors to join.

Funding and expenditures

We are dependent entirely on donations at this point. Many of you have given generously. We have not had sufficient resources yet to mount a fund-raising effort or apply for grants. We hope to do so in the future and welcome people to help who have experience. Printing our brochure is one of our major expenses.

- Prepared a standard of care document and collected over 200 names on a petition supporting patients' right to choose type of treatment for Lyme disease. Presented petition to the NC Medical Board. Document is on website.
- Met several times with the state medical epidemiologist, Dr. Jeffrey Engel, about tick problems in NC. Continued working with him regarding a range of issues including Lyme disease in NC.
- Had a board member appointed to the NC State Vector-borne Disease Task Force.
- Attended the 3 days of hearings on Dr. Joseph Jemsek by the Medical Board.

2007

- Wrote letter to State Health Director, Dr. Leah Devlin, outlining an appropriate state response to the tick problem.
- Contacted UNC Memorial Hospital about Lyme disease information on their website that contained errors. UNC removed the information.
- Produced a Tick Check & Removal Sheet for the NC Botanical Gardens.
- Held an all day board meeting at the Rigmooor House to assess and strengthen our functioning.
- Attended a 2-day workshop on strengthening non-profits sponsored by BCBS of NC.
- Had a second booth at Shakori Hills Spring Music Festival with NCLDF help.
- Had a booth at the Chatham Health and Safety Preparedness Fair.
- Had a booth on a regular basis at the Pittsboro Farmers Market.
- Got BCBS to publish an article about ticks in their employee newsletter.
- Successfully supported the passing of a recurring appropriation of several hundred thousand dollars by the NC General Assembly for tick education, prevention, and testing. State Pest Management had been trying to get funding for 25 years without success.
- Gave a talk to Duke University Medical Center Occupational Medicine physicians.
- Met with the Chatham County Health Director.
- Attended the Southeastern Vector-borne Disease Conference at Duke University.

On-going activities

- Answer tick-related calls and emails from the public.
- Continue updating and distributing educational brochure.
- Participate in media—television appearances, writing letters to the editor, regular articles, and op-ed articles.
- Attend and/or speak at local area meetings, public and private, related to ticks.
- Website updates. Our website has had over 50,000 hits.

We will continue to work hard to improve the health and safety of our citizens with regard to ticks and tick-borne infections. We welcome your help and ideas. Please use the enclosed stamped and addressed envelope to update your contact information and case registry if applicable, and to make a donation if you wish. Thank you for your interest, commitment, and financial support.

Your TIC-NC Board

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