

FALL NEWSLETTER 2005



Tick-borne Infections Council of North Carolina, Inc

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to our new members! It is vital to our young organization to keep increasing our membership. There is no charge (although donations are encouraged) so please get your friends and neighbors to join. If you would like brochures and case registry or membership forms by mail let us know. A membership form is at the bottom of this newsletter for you to use as well.

The good news about the fall season is that we can soon go into our woods again and enjoy walks although some risk of tick bites remains when the temperature is in the high 30s or more. In the south, there is probably little time when the outdoors is absolutely safe, so always check yourself regardless of the time of year. The winter will give us time to gear up for a public education campaign in the spring.

OUR NEWSLETTERS

We plan to send email newsletters from time to time when we have information of interest. We will keep our readership informed about volunteer opportunities. Please let us know if you have any information that you would like included in future newsletters. Also, let us know if you have any questions or topics you would like covered.

TICK IDENTIFICATION

If you find a tick and would like to know what kind it is, you can send it to the state entomologist. Tape it to a cardboard or put it in a plastic bag. If you wish to kill it first, place it in the freezer overnight. Dr. Engber can identify the tick but cannot test it for any diseases it may be carrying. Be *sure* to include your name, address and telephone number.

Dr. Barry Engber
Public Health Pest Management
1631 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1631
919-733-6407

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We need help with:

- A membership drive
- Collecting more Registry Forms
- Fund-raising
- Publicity
- Developing educational materials

AUTHOR SEEKS ACCOUNTS FROM PEOPLE WITH CHRONIC LYME DISEASE

Adrian Schlesinger, adrianschlesinger@yahoo.com, has chronic Lyme and is writing a book about it. She is interested in collecting stories from people all over the country. If you would like to contribute yours she asks that you contact her by email or phone at 401-440-2818.

SENATE & HOUSE LYME BILLS

\$100 MILLION FOR LYME RESEARCH & EDUCATION

ILADS ANNOUNCES SUPPORT FOR BILLS- press release November 17, 2005

Bethesda, MD November 9, 2005 — The International Lyme and Associated Diseases Society (ILADS) announces its strong support for two new companion bills introduced in Washington July 25 and 26: Senate bill S-1479 introduced by Senator Christopher Dodd (CT) for himself and Senator Rick Santorum (PA), and House bill HR-3427 introduced by Congressman Christopher Smith (NJ) for himself and Congresswoman Sue Kelly (NY). The “Lyme and Tick-Borne Disease Prevention, Education, and Research Act of 2005,” authorizes an additional \$100 million for Lyme disease research, education and prevention over five years and provides goals that address the issues surrounding Lyme disease. About 220 thousand Americans develop Lyme each year, making it the most prevalent vector-borne disease in the US today. According to the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), only 10% of cases that meet its criteria are reported.

The companion bills provide a much needed and higher level of resources dedicated to Lyme disease. They also contain numerous measures to ensure that resources are expended effectively to provide the most benefit to people with Lyme and other tick-borne diseases (See <http://thomas.loc.gov/> for text).

The bills direct the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services to promote development of a sensitive and accurate diagnostic test; improved surveillance and prevention; and clinical outcomes research to determine the long-term course of illness and effectiveness of different treatments. The legislation establishes a Tick-Borne Diseases Advisory Committee to ensure interagency coordination and communication among federal agencies, medical professionals, and patients/patient advocates.

The legislation provides \$100 million over 5 years for research and education, a significant commitment in the fight against tick-borne diseases. Additionally, the bills require examination of existing testing methods and research into new diagnostic tests for Lyme disease. According to Raphael Stricker, MD, ILADS President, “ILADS fully supports the passage of the companion Lyme bills HR-3427 and S-1479 and urges the general medical community to support them. These bills address the pressing needs of the medical community to improve our understanding of the relatively common, increasingly widespread, and potentially devastating complications of Lyme disease.”

The companion bills also call for examination of the feasibility of a reporting system for collecting data on physician-diagnosed cases that do not meet the Centers for Disease

Control & Prevention (CDC) surveillance criteria for Lyme disease, which are very narrow and miss many cases. The lack of comprehensive surveillance leads to lower numbers, which in turn leads to a lack of government focus on the disease.

A Tick-Borne Diseases Advisory Committee will be created within the Department of Health & Human Services. Scientists, physicians, patients, and advocacy groups will be a part of the committee. The composition of the committee will be balanced and present all aspects of the Lyme disease spectrum from acute to chronic.

ILADS is asking those interested in chronic Lyme and other tick-borne diseases to call their congressman today and express support. Go to www.ilads.org for information on ILADS.

ILADS is a professional medical society whose membership includes hundreds of physicians and health care providers well versed in the management of Lyme disease, many of whom are well-recognized and widely published experts in the field of tick-borne diseases.

LOWER COST DRUGS?

We have learned that Costco (Durham—220-2742) may have better prices for generic drugs than some other places. One does not have to be a member to use their pharmacy for prescription drugs. (You will have to show a driver's license or other identification at the door.) One can check prices at their web site and then assure that you get the same price at the store.

ATTENDANCE AT PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS

Our president has attended:

- Lyme Disease Association Annual meeting, October 28, 2005, Philadelphia
- International Lyme and Associated Diseases Society (ILADS) Annual Meeting, October 29-30, 2005, Philadelphia
- North Carolina Mosquito and Vector Control Association Annual Meeting, November 8-9, 2005, Atlantic Beach, NC

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

Board

Marcia E. Herman-Giddens, PA, DrPH, President	Pittsboro
Gretchen Witzgall, Vice-president	Apex
Amy Brown, Treasurer	Chapel Hill
Faye G. Orr, Secretary	Pittsboro
Trish Clark, MD, Director	Pittsboro
Geri Brower, Director	Asheboro

FORMS

REGISTRY FORM

You have all probably seen and/or filled out our Registry Form for person with tick-borne infections. If you need more please email Marcia at meherman@mindspring.com. Info@tic-nc.org works too but the former email address is more direct.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please get your family members, friends and neighbors to join.



**Tick-borne Infections Council of North Carolina, Inc
MEMBERSHIP FORM**

Please join us to help us lessen the impact of tick-borne infections in NC and to assist us with our registry of persons affected by tick-borne infections.

Date _____

There is no charge to become a member. Donations are encouraged.

NAME _____

May print name publicly List as anonymous

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Cost to join: *none*

Donation levels:

\$5-15 Individual _____ \$50 Sustaining _____
\$25 Family _____ \$100 TIC-NC Circle _____ Other \$ _____

We need your help! Are you interested in volunteering to help us with?

Data collection _____ Publicity _____ Fundraising _____
Data entry _____ Developing educational materials _____
Other _____

If donating, please make check out to TIC-NC, Inc and mail to:

Tick-borne Infections Council of NC, Inc
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Carrboro, NC 27510
919.542.2529 info@tic-nc.org www.tic-nc.org