

LymeMDNews

LYME DISEASE RESEARCH FOUNDATION



Lyme Disease, alive and ticking . . .

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SLICE CONTINUES TO SHOW GREAT PROMISE

LymeMD's landmark SLICE study continues to show great promise as the very first research study in the United States to specifically examine the long-term impact of Lyme disease on patients' future health and immune system function.

SLICE has now recruited 76 patients of the anticipated 100 patients and maintains a retention rate of more than 95% of research subjects. The study is now entering the data-analysis phase, and two publications are currently in preparation.

The SLICE research team has expanded over the last year to include the first Dr. Timothy Krohe Research Fellow, Dr. Manish Kumar. Dr. Kumar received his PhD from the University of Maryland where he worked on the molecular biology of *Borrelia burgdorferi*, the bacteria which causes Lyme disease.

In addition, Dr. Kate Kortte, a research neuropsychologist at Johns Hopkins has joined the team. Dr.

Kortte was recruited for her expertise in measuring patient outcomes such as fatigue and cognitive dysfunction that are common in patients with Lyme disease.



The SLICE study represents a wealth of information for future research and is attracting collaborators from our home institution and well as from around the United States. The SLICE study's research potential was highlighted in the spring 2011 edition of the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health magazine in the article entitled the Science of the

Sexes."Why hasn't infectious disease research reflected fundamental differences in women and men?" [http://magazine.jhsph.edu/2011/spring/features/science_of_the_sexes/page_1]. Hopefully, as more and more researchers recognize the importance of the long-term impact of Lyme disease on health and human immune system function, the SLICE bio-depository of patients' samples will be used more and more in the search for answers.

A PRODUCTIVE SUMMER FOR LYMEMD

Lyme MD is in high gear furthering fulfilling our education mission with both public education and training of health professionals.

Our ongoing community outreach programs, coordinated by Carol and Bob Siegmeister, continue to reach out through participation in health fairs and events for the public. Les Cohen and Ricki Baker have recently completed our redesigned web site that consistently attracts thousands of visitors and provides both clinical and research updates at www.LymeMD.org

Make sure to check out our "What's New" section of the website, which features a new Lyme rash module that teaches how to identify the erythema migrans rash which is so important in the early diagnosis of Lyme disease.

This summer, two excellent student interns worked with us at Lyme MD - Victoria Yedlin and Brett Jacobson. Brett's work was instrumental in the initial phases of analysis of the SLICE data. Victoria focused on collaborating on educational products, and she has been instrumental in our new collaboration with the Maryland Department of Health. She has created educational information that can be distributed to healthcare providers to help them identify and properly diagnose early Lyme disease. Victoria and Brett are both enrolled at the University

of Maryland where Victoria is studying public health and Brett mechanical engineering.

We are proud of a prior LymeMD summer intern, Ari Seifter, who entered the University of Maryland Medical School this year and has continued to collaborate on projects that have been recently submitted for publication.

And finally, we bid a fond farewell and thank you to our SLICE Study coordinator, Alison Rebman, who will be continuing her education after her groundbreaking work on LymeMD's SLICE study over the last three years. Alison leaves an impressive legacy of publications with three articles published and four more in preparation or review. She is entering the PhD program in applied anthropology at the University of Maryland. We are to welcome Alison's replace, Lauren Crowder, who just graduated with her MPH from the University of Pittsburgh. Lauren brings outstanding energy and organization to the SLICE study, perfect to continue our outstanding track record of patient recruitment and retention.



Lauren Crowder works with our summer student, Victoria Yedlin, on a research manuscript.



The Institute of Medicine of the National Academy's workshop report, *the Critical Needs and Gaps in Understanding Lyme and Other Tick-Borne Diseases*, has been published.

To read the report, please use this link: <http://www.iom.edu/Reports/2011/Critical-Needs-and-Gaps-in-Understanding-Prevention-Amelioration-and-Resolution-of-Lyme-and-Other-Tick-Borne-Diseases.aspx>



INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE
OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

As Lonnie King, the Chair of the Committee, commented, "It was obvious to participants at the workshop that a significant impasse has developed in the world of Lyme disease. People are suffering, and there is a need to reframe and refocus the research to generate new ways to reduce disease burden. As one researcher noted, it is about creating a better path forward and not maintaining the status quo."

We are very proud of our important contributions to the workshop. LymeMD-sponsored research on atypical manifestations of early Lyme disease were cited by four nationally recognized speakers including Dr. Gary Wormser and Dr. Matthew Liang and represented the **only** published literature on this subject that was made available for the committee to review. In addition, Dr. Aucott was invited to present the clinical researcher's perspective on the gaps in knowledge in Lyme disease understanding. (Dr. Aucott and Dr. Liang's talk available for viewing at www.LymeMD.org under the Media tab).

Scientific research is the key to unlocking new knowledge, and the application of this knowledge is the essential key that will reduce the burden of illness. Members of the summation panel including Dr. Aucott emphasized the critical need for creating a [national coordinated research plan](#) for advancing research into Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses. LymeMD is in the forefront as an example of the integrated approach to clinical research that is so urgently needed.

WHO WE ARE

The Lyme Disease Research Foundation of Maryland is a 501(C)3 public non-profit established in 2007 to address the lack of clinical research into the scientific understanding of Lyme disease and its varied illness manifestation.

Our mission is to bridge science and patient care in order to advance our understanding of Lyme disease and its impact on human health.

No longer just impacting Lyme disease in Maryland, but now across the country, we have changed our new name to [The Lyme Disease Research Foundation](#), reflecting our growing national presence in Lyme disease research and education.

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We welcome all contributions.
 They can be made safely via our website.



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