



Spring, 2018

HHS Tick-Borne Disease Working Group

In December 2017, Center Director, John Aucott, MD, was appointed Chair of the newly formed Health and Human Services Tick-Borne Disease Working Group in Washington DC. The charge of the Working Group is to provide expertise and review all efforts within the Department of Health and Human Services related to all tick-borne diseases, to help ensure interagency coordination and minimize overlap, and to examine research priorities.

The Working Group will develop a report to the Secretary of HHS and Congress on recommendations for the federal response to tick-borne disease prevention, treatment and research, as well as how to address gaps in these areas. The Working Group has a promising opportunity to educate, raise awareness, reframe the crisis, and promote solutions.

A February 2018 NBC TV segment, "[Hope in the Lyme Wars](#)", features the Center's cutting-edge lab as well as Dr. Aucott's leadership role as Chair of the HHS Tick-Borne Disease Working Group.

RESEARCH



The Center's published research from the SLICE studies continues to expand the knowledge of Lyme disease and provide key foundational evidence to help bridge science investigation to improved patient care.

Post-Treatment Lyme Disease Syndrome is Real and Debilitating:

Without reliable diagnostic biomarkers it has been difficult to diagnose Post-Treatment Lyme Disease Syndrome (PTLDS), a subset of chronic Lyme disease patients who

suffer from ongoing symptoms following standard of care antibiotic therapy. Our [study](#), published in *Frontiers of Medicine* in December 2017, shows PTLDS patients are highly symptomatic, with statistically and clinically significant quality of life impairment.

PTLDS is a real and identifiable illness that needs better diagnostics and treatments. Research at the Center is focused on identifying biologic causes and disease processes that are driving PTLDS illness.

Lyme Disease Impairs Sleep:



Our [study](#), published in *SLEEP* by Oxford University Press in February 2018, finds poor sleep quality associated with pain and fatigue is prevalent among patients with early Lyme disease as well as those who develop Post-Treatment Lyme Disease Syndrome. It is important for doctors to recognize that impaired sleep from Lyme disease could be an additional important clinical clue for proper diagnosis and care.



Our Center's mission is to understand and urgently address the varied manifestations of Lyme disease and translate our pioneering research into improved patient care and outcomes.

EDUCATIONAL VIDEOS

Johns Hopkins Rheumatology has produced a series of educational videos on Lyme disease covering the following topics: [Disease Overview](#), [Signs & Symptoms](#), [Diagnosis](#), [Treatment](#), and [Prognosis](#).

As you enjoy the outdoors this spring and summer please keep your family safe from ticks by following preventative measures. For tips on prevention, our [Preventing Tick Bites and Lyme Disease](#) video is a helpful resource.



SECOND ANNUAL LYME DISEASE TOPICS AT JOHNS HOPKINS

[A Lyme Disease Educational CME Course](#)

**For Health Care Practitioners
June 8, 2018, from 1-5:30pm**

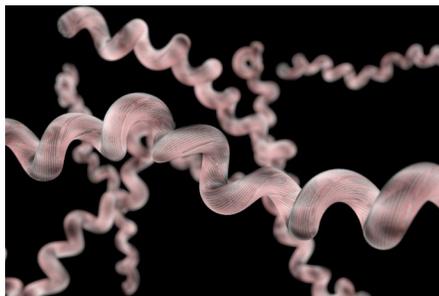
After a successful first offering in June 2017, we are delivering this course again, to health care providers only, on June 8, 2018, at [Tilghman Auditorium](#) in the [Turner Building](#) at Johns Hopkins Medicine. Our CME course provides education on the spectrum of illness associated with Lyme disease and Post-Treatment Lyme Disease.

The course will teach health care practitioners how to:

- Identify the many different appearances of the *erythema migrans* rash of Lyme disease
- Describe the limitations and strengths of current criteria and tests used for the diagnosis of the different stages of Lyme disease
- Compare and contrast the symptoms, signs, and natural history of untreated Lyme disease to those of Post-Treatment Lyme Disease Syndrome
- Identify the challenges to the diagnosis and treatment of Post-Treatment Lyme Disease Syndrome

If you are a health care provider, we encourage you to attend this educational course.

You may register for the course [here](#).



SUPPORT THE CENTER

Philanthropic support makes a difference.

Donations are used to progress the pioneering research performed at the Center. Your gift helps us advance critical knowledge and clinical tools to improve health outcomes for Lyme disease patients. Thank you for supporting our research program. [GIVE NOW](#)

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