

# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

## Regional Tick-Borne Disease Resource Center



## Dear Friends,

When we established our Tick-Borne Disease Resource Center in 2014, the education of physicians and medical professionals was identified as integral to our mission. Over the past 9 years we have sponsored 26 medical symposiums. And, after a two-year delay due to the pandemic, we held our Third Annual Medical Symposium for Physicians on May 19th. This day-long event featured prestigious researchers and university-level educators from all over the Northeast. We are very grateful to the Island Outreach Foundation for underwriting this important event. Without their support it would not have been possible.

Our educational efforts for the public continue and have evolved from strictly in-person events to a hybrid model of in-person and virtual. We have also been invited to participate in an increased number of health and wellness fairs held throughout the East End. Our partnerships with the Entomology Department of the Suffolk County Department of Health Services, and with the educational

arm of the South Fork Natural History Museum (SOFO) in Bridgehampton, will continue with spring and summer events planned for the public in 2023. Our tick removal kits and our tick disease handbook are as popular as ever.

We hope you will find this Annual Report for 2022 interesting and informative. As always, we extend a huge thanks to all of our generous friends, especially the Island Outreach Foundation, our medical staff, and our local government officials who continue to enthusiastically support our efforts. We will keep you advised as we roll out new programs and updates in the days ahead.

Sincerely,

Robert S. Chaloner

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert S. Chaloner".

Chief Administrative Officer  
Stony Brook Southampton Hospital



Stony Brook **Southampton Hospital**

# In 2022...

Our third annual year-end December fundraiser raised over **\$16,000** including a generous match from the Island Outreach Foundation.

Lyme and tick disease panel discussion for the public was held in May at **South Fork Natural History Museum**  
A 2nd annual SOFO event is planned for May 2023.

**5** Medical  Symposia for Physicians

Requests for tick removal kits exploded again in June and July.



**1,800 kits** were mailed all over the tri-state region.

**600** phone calls were made to our tick "help line."

Over **70** participants "Zoomed in" to our educational lecture on the **lone star tick meat allergy** (Alpha-gal) in June!



We published the second edition of our award-winning **Tick Disease Handbook.**



Through a collaboration with **Mashashimuet Park** in Sag Harbor, **East End Tick & Mosquito Control**, and the **Suffolk County Department of Health Services**, tick awareness signs and kiosks with tick safety supplies were placed at park entrances to inform the public.

# 2022 Medical Symposium

The Third Annual Medical Symposium for Physicians and medical professionals sponsored by our Resource Center was held on the campus of Stony Brook Southampton College on May 19th. Major researchers and teachers in the field of tick disease traveled from throughout the Northeast to Southampton to attend this day-long conference, along with 130 attendees. Topics included: patient evaluation in the emergency department, babesiosis, Powassan virus disease, STARI, the Alpha-gal meat allergy, transmission blocking vaccines, and laboratory diagnosis of Lyme disease and babesiosis.

**Presenters:** Max Minnerop, MD, Stony Brook Southampton Hospital Emergency; Jorge Benach, PhD, Stony Brook Medicine; Sam Telford, SD, Tufts University; Adriana Marques, MD, National Institutes of Health; Erin McGintee, MD, ENT and Allergy Associates; Maria Gomes-Solecki, DVM, UTenn; Raymond Dattwyler, MD, New York Medical College

**Open Discussion Facilitators:** Erol Fikrig, MD, Yale University; Scott Campbell, PhD, Suffolk County Department of Health Services; Steven Schutzer, MD, Rutgers-NJ Medical School; Justin Radolf, MD, UConn Health

## Photos (Left to Right)

1. Justin Radolf, MD; Gregson Pigott, MD; Erol Fikrig, MD; Maria Gomes-Solecki, DVM; Sam Telford, SD; Ray Dattwyler, MD; Jorge Benach, PhD; Scott Campbell, PhD; Legislator Bridget Fleming; Adrianna Marques, MD.

2. Jorge Benach, PhD, Stony Brook Medicine; Fredric Weinbaum, MD, Chief Medical Officer, Stony Brook Southampton Hospital

3. Robert Chaloner, Chief Administrative Officer, Stony Brook Southampton Hospital; Patrick Barry, Island Outreach Foundation; Karen Wulffraat, Administrative Director, Tick-Borne Disease Resource Center

4. Maria Gomes-Solecki, DVM; Erol Fikrig, MD; Sam Telford, SD; Ray Dattwyler, MD; Jorge Benach, PhD; Scott Campbell, PhD

5. Suffolk County Legislator Bridget Fleming; Gregson Pigott, MD, Commissioner, Suffolk County Department of Health Services; NY State Assemblyman Fred Thiele

6. Sam Telford, SD, Tufts University



1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.

## Our Award Winning Handbook 2nd edition

Winner of a Healthcare Ad Award for an outstanding publication!

Our comprehensive guide to ticks and the diseases they can transmit to humans was authored by the members of our Scientific and Medical Advisory Panels. You'll find clear and concise information about tick species, pathogens, and the types of infections and diseases that may be transmitted. Chapters on prevention and treating outdoor landscapes are also included. This book is made possible by a generous grant from the Island Outreach Foundation.

To get your Tick-Borne Disease Reference Handbook: email [Karen.Wulffraat@stonybrookmedicine.edu](mailto:Karen.Wulffraat@stonybrookmedicine.edu) or call (631) 726-TICK (8425). Please provide name and mailing address.



# Our Mission

Since 2014, the Regional Tick-Borne Disease Resource Center has educated the public and the medical community about the many tick-borne diseases prevalent on Long Island and in the Northeast. In 2022 our popular tick disease "Help Line" received 600 calls from residents and visitors seeking information about ticks and the pathogens they carry, help with referrals to medical providers, information about testing, and tips for prevention. We have brought as many as 45 educational lectures a year to libraries, civic organizations, local town governments, garden clubs, and schools throughout Suffolk County. Hosting full-day medical symposiums for physicians and inviting experts from prestigious medical research institutions to lecture on tick disease furthers our mission to promote collaboration among the local medical community, and helps to strengthen our ability to combat the epidemic of tick-borne disease.



## Medical Advisory Panel

**TRAVIS BENCH, MD**  
CARDIOLOGY

**CHRISTINE COOLIDGE, PHD**  
PSYCHOLOGY

**ALEXANDRA HALITSKY, MD**  
PEDIATRICS

**WILLIAM B. KERR, MD**  
GENERAL PRACTICE

**OLGA L. MCABEE, MD, FAAN**  
NEUROLOGY

**ERIN E. MCGINTEE, MD**  
ALLERGY & IMMUNOLOGY

**LUIS MARCOS, MD, MPH**  
INFECTIOUS DISEASE

**MAX MINNEROP, MD**  
EMERGENCY MEDICINE

**DHAVAL C. PATEL, MD**  
CARDIOLOGY

**JOSEPH B. QUINN, MD**  
PEDIATRICS

**HEIDI ROPPELT, MD**  
RHEUMATOLOGY

**GERALD T. SIMONS, PA-C**  
FAMILY MEDICINE

**REBECCA YOUNG, RN, BSN**  
INFECTION CONTROL

**ANNA-MARIE WELLINS, DNP**  
FAMILY MEDICINE

**FREDRIC I. WEINBAUM, MD, COO**  
CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER

Contact us with questions:

Help Line:  
**(631) 726-TICK**

Website:  
**EastEndTickResource.org**

To make a donation to the Regional Tick-Borne Disease Resource Center please call **(631) 726-8700, Ext. 5**

## Scientific Advisory Panel

**JORGE L. BENACH, PHD**  
STONY BROOK SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

**SCOTT R. CAMPBELL, PHD**  
SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

**PATRICIA K. COYLE, MD**  
STONY BROOK SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

**BENJAMIN J. LUFT, MD**  
STONY BROOK SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

**STEVEN E. SCHUTZER, MD**  
RUTGERS-NEW JERSEY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

## Administrator

**KAREN C. WULFFRAAT**  
ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR  
REGIONAL TICK-BORNE DISEASE RESOURCE CENTER,  
STONY BROOK SOUTHAMPTON HOSPITAL (631) 726-0452



## And Our Generous Donors

MR. & MRS. JOHN ADDARIO  
JEROLD ANIS  
ANONYMOUS (3)  
ATLANTIC GOLF CLUB  
JANET BALDASARE  
DIANE BALSAM  
ANTHONY BARON  
PATRICK BARRY  
GIOVANNA BETTENCOURT  
WENDY BIDERMAN, PHD  
LORING BOLGER  
MICHAEL BORNSTEIN  
BRIDGEHAMPTON ASSOCIATION

MR. & MRS. JOHN BROWN  
MARGARET BURKE  
PAUL D. CLEARY, PHD  
ISABELLE CLEMENT  
ANN DEGREGORIO GARDNER  
MARY ANN EDDY, RN  
KATHLEEN ENGEL  
KAREN FELDMAN  
WILLIAM FULLER  
JOAN GOSSNER  
EILEEN GRUBB  
MARYANN HAMILTON  
MR. & MRS. ALLEN HUGGINS

ISLAND OUTREACH FOUNDATION  
NANCY KARLEBACH  
BRIAN KELLY, EAST END TICK & MOSQUITO CONTROL  
QUENTIN J. KENNEDY  
ARDON KESSLER  
MARK KROPF, MD  
PATRICIA LARIVIERE-HOM  
SUSAN LERNER  
DIANE LEWIS  
LONG ISLAND MASTER GARDNERS  
JOSEPH LUKAS

BARBARA MARKS  
KAREN MARX  
RYANN MCCABE  
MR. & MRS. THOMAS MOHRMAN  
NORTH FORK WOMEN  
RICHARD NATOLE  
GERRIE NUSSDORF, PHD  
SANDRA O'CONNOR  
ALISON PAALZ  
JEFFREY PIERMONT  
LILLIAN PINCUS  
WILLIAM RAGUSA

RIVERHEAD BUILDING SUPPLY  
SUSAN RUOCCO  
THOMAS SHEA  
RONALD SICKMEN  
JERRY SPEYER & KATHERINE FARLEY  
JESSICA STAFFORD  
MR. & MRS. BRIAN TURNBAUGH  
PATRICIA WEINBERG  
IRIS WEINSTEIN  
ERICA WEST  
LEWIS WUNDERLICH

A SPECIAL THANKS TO DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS: DRs. MARY AND EDWARD PERGIOVANNI