

**Lyme Disease Advisory Committee (LDAC) Fall Meeting  
November 7, 2017  
Minutes**

**Committee members in attendance**

Barbara Barsocchini, California Lyme Disease Association (LymeDisease.org)  
Karen Chew, Lyme Disease Support Network  
Vicki Kramer, PhD, California Department of Public Health (CDPH)  
Robert Lane, PhD, University of California, Berkeley  
Lisa Messner, Lyme Disease Support Network  
James Miller, PhD, University of California, Los Angeles  
Chindi Peavey, PhD, Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California (MVCAC)  
Raphael Stricker, MD, California Medical Association

**Committee members absent**

Scott Morrow, MD, MPH, San Mateo County Health Department  
Chris Parlier, Lyme Disease Support Network, Committee Chair

**Other attendees:**

Melissa Yoshimizu, PhD, Senior Public Health Biologist, CDPH  
Anne Kjemtrup, DVM, MPVM, PhD, Epidemiologist, CDPH  
Greg Hacker, MS, Associate Public Health Biologist, CDPH  
Kerry Padgett, PhD, Senior Public Health Biologist, CDPH  
Nikki Johnson, CHES, Health Educator, CDPH  
Various members from local vector control agencies and the public joined the meeting.

**I. Roll call and opening comments**

The meeting, held via conference call, was brought to order by Dr. Kramer, acting LDAC Chair, at 10:00am.

**II. Committee member updates**

**Dr. James Miller** reviewed several studies and publications pertaining to chronic Lyme disease. Dr. Miller also discussed the current status of Lyme disease vaccination research and Lyme disease diagnostic testing.

**Dr. Ray Stricker** provided an update regarding the Federal 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act which established a federal Lyme disease working group. Dr. Stricker mentioned recent research in China where 237 different bacteria were identified in ticks, and a study from Columbia University where 26 viruses were detected in ticks.

**Barbara Barsocchini** reported that the Lyme Disease Association received a National Science Foundation grant to explore the “MyLyme Data” patient registry. Details can be found on [lymedisease.org](http://lymedisease.org).

**Dr. Robert Lane** reported on his recently published multi-authored paper entitled “Metagenomic-based surveillance of Pacific Coast tick (*Dermacentor occidentalis*) identifies two novel bunyaviruses and an emerging human rickettsial pathogen” (Scientific Reports | 7: 12234 | DOI:10.1038/s41598-017-12047-6).

### **III. CDPH Progress Report**

#### **A. Education Update (Nikki Johnson, CHES)**

Ms. Johnson provided an update on VBDS’ tick bite prevention education outreach from March 2017 to November 2017. CDPH has updated their [website](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/) (https://www.cdph.ca.gov/). The links for the Lyme disease pages were provided and the new search functions for the website explained. Social media outreach on tick-bite prevention will begin in the next few weeks. Ms. Johnson discussed the metrics of CDPH tick-related YouTube videos. Metrics show an increase in viewership for all videos except the “Western Blacklegged Tick Surveillance and Identification” video. Thousands of public education materials have been shipped to vector control agencies, local health departments, national parks, individuals, and organizations. The Tick ID Card continues to be the most requested and well-received tick prevention material from VBDS. A presentation by Dr. Padgett and two co-authored papers from VBDS staff were mentioned. There are new materials available on the website including a poster and fact sheet on insect repellent use. The revised “Lyme Disease in California” brochure is also posted. Ms. Johnson reminded the committee that public education materials are available free of charge.

The committee and the audience discussed the trends of YouTube video viewership and the need for active distribution of public education materials in northern California.

#### **B. Surveillance Update (Melissa Yoshimizu, PhD)**

Dr. Yoshimizu mentioned that there were 95 confirmed and 46 probable cases of Lyme disease reported in California in 2016. One third of the cases each year (2007-2016) reported travel-related exposure to areas outside of California that are endemic for Lyme disease. Highest disease incidence (based on county of residence, not exposure) continues to be in the north coastal counties and in northern California Sierra Nevada counties with western-facing slopes.

From October 2016 to September 2017, 2,064 adult ticks and 603 nymphal ticks were tested by the VBDS laboratory. Fourteen adult and 32 nymphs tested positive for *Borrelia burgdorferi* and 19 adults and 8 nymphs were positive for *Borrelia miyamotoi*. These numbers are consistent with previous years.

Current VBDS projects focus on collecting and testing *Ixodes pacificus* nymphs and larvae, enhancing surveillance and testing from low sampled areas, enhancing in-house tick testing capabilities, and investigating cases of certain tick-borne diseases.

#### **IV. Updating the Interactive Tick Map for a More User-Friendly Experience (Greg Hacker, MS)**

Mr. Hacker provided an overview of the “Lyme Disease and Surveillance in California” interactive map posted on the CDPH website. Issues regarding the ease of use were reviewed. CDPH is planning to make the map more user-friendly, and will be updating the map to a Story Maps platform. The hantavirus interactive map, which has already been updated using this approach, was reviewed as an example.

The committee members discussed possible map layouts including a desire to easily identify and click on a county to get local information. Committee members favored the Story Map option.

#### **V. Public and Other Comments**

- A member of the public commented that some Lyme disease cases are not being reported and asked for clarification on the reporting process. Dr. Kjemtrup responded and reviewed how cases are reported in California.
- Dr. James Miller commented that we still have a lot to discover about tick-borne diseases and that physician awareness regarding the scope of diseases needs to be increased.
- Dr. Robert Lane commented that the VBDS Annual Report is a useful tool and thanked staff for their work. Dr. Kramer informed the committee that the report is posted on the CDPH website and that hard copies of the report could be requested by contacting VBDS.

#### **VI. Closing Comments**

Dr. Kramer announced that the next LDAC meeting will be held in-person in Sacramento on April 11, 2018.

**Meeting adjourned at 11:35am**