Public Tick IPM Working Group
July 13th, 2016
Send additions, omissions or other corrections to cnelson@ipminstitute.org

The Working Group meets via conference call on the second Wednesday of each month at 1:00PM CT (2:00PM EST). The next conference call will take place August 10th.

1. Roll
   - Jill Auerbach, Hudson Valley Lyme Disease Association
   - Tom Green, IPM Institute of North America, Inc.
   - Lynnae Jess, North Central IPM Center
   - Mason Kaufman, US BIOLOGIC
   - Joe Laco, CDC
   - Bob Maurais, Mainely Ticks
   - Chloe Nelson, IPM Institute of North America, Inc.
   - Chris Przybyszewski, US BIOLOGIC
   - Jennifer Reid, BLAST Lyme Program
   - Larry Scrapper, Cherokee Nation

2. Agenda
   - Lyme Innovation Hackathon update
   - IMPT Lyme Forum announcement
   - Legislation update
   - Tick Pest Alert draft
   - Post 2016 Integrated Tick Management Symposium updates
   - Additional updates, comments, announcements, questions.

3. Update from Lyme Innovation Hackathon (Chris Przybyszewski)
   a. Chris Przybyszewski was a mentor for the Lyme Innovation Hackathon on June 17-19, 2016 (http://lymeinnovation.org/).
   b. Bay Area Lyme Foundation collaborated with the Dean center for Tick Borne Illness, Harvard Medical School Dept. of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, MIT Hacking Medicine, U of California, Berkeley and the Veterans Affairs Center for Innovation to host the first ever Lyme disease Hackathon.
   c. This was an opportunity for stakeholders from all backgrounds to come together and try to find solutions to problems of prevention, diagnostics, rehabilitation and treatment. Nearly 100 participants formed sixteen teams to tackle the top ten Lyme disease priorities, as identified by attendees at the American Academy of Advancement of Science conference from November 2015.
   d. The top five teams received $5,000 of seed funding and Lyme Innovation will present awards to the final three teams at the White House Open Data Summit on September 28th.
   e. The five projects for funding focused on:
      - Identification of novel treatment targets for the bacteria that causes Lyme disease utilizing the University of Massachusetts Plant Cell Culture Library.
      - Research of a compound currently in clinical trials for cancer which could block the bacteria from changing its DNA so that the immune system can recognize and respond to the pathogen.
      - A tracking system for patients to record their symptoms and vital signs to assist physicians in better understand how each patient responds to treatment.
      - A patient powered platform to combat the isolation and depression patients experience that taps into the Crisis Text Line, a platform to reduce suicides.
A tracking tool capable of predicting risk of Lyme disease to humans based on research showing that canine infection rates are predictive of human risk.

f. Chris met with all of the groups over each twelve hour day. The Hackathon is a great format because engineers can usually develop a prototype for their project within the 72 hour time constraint.

4. IMPT Lyme Forum announcement (Jill Auerbach)
   b. One of the speakers, Dr. Paul Keim will discuss the progress of LymeSeq, the DNA diagnostic tool that has been validated by TGen.
   c. The total cost is $100. To only attend the forum is $25, to only attend the reception is $75.

5. Legislation Update:
   a. Still pushing for the Lyme and Tick-Borne Disease Prevention, Education, and Research Act (S. 1503) to pass.
   b. “Report language” was inserted into the Senate Appropriations Committee’s FY2017 Labor, HHS & Education Appropriations Bill.
      ▪ This bill has been passed out of committee, but won’t be approved by the full Senate until sometime in the fall when all funding bills are voted on.
      ▪ The report language does not carry the force of law, but is taken very seriously by the agencies because it is coming directly from the lawmakers who approve their budgets and spending.
      ▪ The report language notes the importance of the Epidemiology and Lab Capacity program to help protect the nation from Zika, West Nile, Lyme disease and other bacterial and viral diseases caused by mosquitoes, ticks and other arthropods. CDC is encouraged to allocate maximum funding possible to support evidence-based efforts for arbovirus control, testing and reporting. The language specifically addresses Lyme disease and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever as tick-borne illnesses to focus on.
      ▪ The language also addresses that an improved understanding of Lyme disease is critical. For patients with long-term complications, clear treatment pathways are often missed from inaccurate and incomplete testing. The recommendation is to study the long-term effects of Lyme and evaluate the effectiveness of lab tests that detect Borrelia burgdorferi.

6. Tick Pest Alert Draft (see attached pdf)
   a. Initial draft attached: all feedback and update suggestions are encouraged.
      ▪ Starts with a brief summary of the problem. Then goes through the tick life cycle, an overview of disease transmission, specific information on different species, distribution and potential disease transmission by tick. The second page covers TBD symptoms commonly shared, some recommendations for TBD prevention and removal followed by related resources.
      ▪ Resources will start with a specific alerts page that the other NCIPMC alerts have listed. The ending of the url is currently incomplete and additional related resources will follow after.
   b. Important to incorporate visuals in place of information. Chloe Nelson is working on finding distribution map visuals to replace the list of information on tick species, disease and distribution information.
   c. Update suggestions made on the call are incorporated into the current draft. Please send Chloe additional comments and updates. If anyone has good quality visuals of tick life stages, those would be beneficial to include.
7. **Post 2016 Integrated Tick Management Symposium Survey and Postings**
   a. The pdf versions of the presentations from the Symposium are now available on the event site through the ESA website: [http://entsoc.org/ITMS](http://entsoc.org/ITMS)
   b. Cindy Myers sent an email to all of the event participants to inform that presentations are posted and to distribute an online post-event survey. Survey link: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2016_ITM_Symposium](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2016_ITM_Symposium)
   c. If you attended the event, **please complete the survey**. It only takes a few minutes and there is an opportunity to win a giftcard at the end for extra incentive.
   d. The feedback from the survey will help shape future events to best fit all interests and needs.

8. **Additional updates, comments, announcements, questions.**
   - Chloe Nelson is moving to California in August and will no longer be coordinating the working group after the August 10th call. It’s been a pleasure working with this group and I will make sure to check in on what the group is up to.

The next conference call will take place **August 10th**. Future calls will continue to fall on the second Wednesday of each month.