



**CANADIAN LYME DISEASE**  
RESEARCH NETWORK

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# **DECEMBER 2022**

**Canadian Lyme Disease Research Network**

**221 Portsmouth Avenue**

**Kingston, Ontario K7M 1V5**

**[www.clydrn.ca](http://www.clydrn.ca)**

# PILLAR UPDATES

## Pillar 1

### DIAGNOSTICS

*The Pillar 1 proposal was presented to the Patient & Community Advisory Committee, Network Leads, and Executive Committee on separate occasions. The Pillar 1 proposal was unanimously approved by all parties. Pillar 1 was awarded seed funding to carry out the project. Pillar 1 members, with the help of the consultant, are currently working on obtaining ethical clearance from the BC and ON provincial labs' research ethics boards; expecting to commence the study in the spring 2023.*

## Pillar 2

### PREVENTION AND RISK REDUCTION

*Photoshoot was completed in the summer 2022 in Lunenburg, NS to create a stockpile of photos to be used for Lyme disease education, awareness, and prevention. Process for accessing and sharing the photos is under development. The Canadian Lyme Sentinel Network (CaLSeN) under the Surveillance Working Group doubled the number of surveillance sites in 2022: 35 sentinel regions; 198 sites; 1854 ticks collected; 877 Ixodes ticks collected. The veterinary surveillance program continued in 2022 (16 clinics: 4 sentinel regions in Ontario; collected ticks from dogs and cats). Retrospective case-control study manuscript completed and in press. The prospective case-control study launched at both recruitment sites (31 Lyme disease participants and 86 healthy control participants completed study to date). The Intervention Working Group hired a post-doctoral fellow for the project. The Modelling Working Group research project is ongoing.*

*Improve prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of LD in Canada*

## Pillar 3

### CLINICAL SCIENCE AND HEALTH SERVICE RESEARCH

#### **COHORT Study:**

*35 Lyme disease participants and 12 healthy control participants have been enrolled (consented); 31 Lyme disease participants and 12 healthy control participants completed their Baseline visit; 29 Lyme disease participants and 3 healthy control participants completed 1-month follow-up visit; 23 Lyme disease participants and 0 healthy control participants completed 3-month follow-up visit, 8 Lyme disease participants and 0 healthy control participants completed 6-month, 9-month, and 12-month follow-up visits; 7 Lyme disease participants and 0 healthy control participants dropped out or lost to follow-up.*

#### **CLYME (Biobank) Study:**

*63 Lyme disease participants and 13 healthy control participants have been enrolled (consented); 56 Lyme disease participants and 13 healthy control participants completed Baseline visit; 48 Lyme disease participants and 4 healthy control participants completed 1-month follow-up visit; 14 Lyme disease participants and 0 healthy control participants dropped out or lost to follow-up.*

## Pillar 4

### PATIENT AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, TRAINING AND KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION

*Conducted 43 virtual interviews with national healthcare practitioners: data collection completed; analysis underway. Data collection completed and data analysis in progress for the barriers to preventative behaviours study from the 22 focus group sessions carried out across BC, MB, ON, QC, and NS with 96 participants. The Pan-Canadian survey study completed its questionnaire and obtained ethical clearance for the study; data collection scheduled for November-December 2022. Collaboration with Jade Savage and eTick platform to embed a new bilingual tool (TickTOOL/ PraTIQUE) that will allow users to self-access their knowledge and risk profiles and receive adaptive recommendations to improve their behaviours. Brokered Dialogue study commenced Phase 1 (in-depth interviews) of the project: 20 interviews have been completed with patients and family members. Phase 2 (interactive filmed interviews) planned to launch in January-February 2023. The doctoral project on Indigenous experiences and perspectives on Lyme disease continues.*



# COMMITTEE UPDATES

## PGC

### PROJECT GRANTS COMMITTEE

*PGC held its first meeting in July 2022. The committee is planning to meet again in early 2023.*

*The committee's new mandate is to find ways to help translate priorities identified from our patients, family caregivers, and community stakeholders through engagement and collaboration into fundable research grants. The committee is still looking for new members to join: if interested in joining, please reach out to **Dr. Rob Colautti** ([robert.colautti@queensu.ca](mailto:robert.colautti@queensu.ca)) and **Dr. Clara Juando-Prats** ([clara.juando@utoronto.ca](mailto:clara.juando@utoronto.ca)).*

*Improve prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of LD in Canada*

## TAC

### TRAINEE ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

*The first two webinars for the academic year occurred: Dr. Katie Clow presented on October 17, 2022, on the topic "Lyme disease from the veterinary perspective" and Dr. Muhammad Morshed presented on December 14, 2022, on the topic "Laboratory diagnosis of Lyme disease and other TBD". If anyone is interested in joining TAC, please reach out to **Dr. Katie Clow** ([kclow@uoguelph.ca](mailto:kclow@uoguelph.ca)) and **Natasha Bowser** ([natasha.nofal@umontreal.ca](mailto:natasha.nofal@umontreal.ca)).*

## CEC

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

*Community member orientation session occurred in June 2022. A community outreach event occurred on August 27, 2022, at the Discovery Centre, Halifax, Nova Scotia. Alongside the showing of the Traveling Tick Exhibit: Ticks—Little Bugs, Big Problems, a Network research staff was present at the Discovery Centre to connect with museum patrons visiting the exhibit and share information about the Network. Still looking for additional Network members to join this committee to help roll out activities. If interested in joining this committee, please reach out to the **Dr. Lisa Dias** ([lisa.dias@unityhealth.to](mailto:lisa.dias@unityhealth.to)).*

## PCAC

### PATIENT AND COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

*46 active members; 11 members involved in decision-making and/or leadership roles within the Network. Last PCAC meeting occurred on October 20, 2022. Nancy Garvey and Tamara Rader continue leading the roll-out of the GRIPP2-SF checklist tool with a few pilot projects and are also leading other patient engagement initiatives.*



# Miss out on the AGM?

Thank you for tuning into our virtual 2022 AGM. We had ~60 individuals join us for each presentation. To access the 2022 AGM video, please go to [www.clydrn.ca](http://www.clydrn.ca) and click "Login" at the top. Enter your email (username) and password and then follow this path to view the video and presentation slides: *News-Members Annual General Meeting*.

## RESEARCH ARTICLES, BOOKS & INTERVIEWS

### BORRELIA BURGENDORFERI

**Article:** Bourgeois, B., Koloski, C., Foley-Eby, A., Zinck, C. B., Hurry, G., Boulanger, N., & Voordouw, M. J. (2022, 2022/11/01/). Clobetasol increases the abundance of *Borrelia burgdorferi* in the skin 70 times more in male mice compared to female mice. *Ticks and Tick-borne Diseases*, 13(6), 102058. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ttbdis.2022.102058>

**Article:** Zinck, C. B., Thampy, P. R., Rego, R. O. M., Brisson, D., Ogden, N. H., & Voordouw, M. (2022). *Borrelia burgdorferi* strain and host sex influence pathogen prevalence and abundance in the tissues of a laboratory rodent host. *Molecular Ecology*, n/a(n/a). <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1111/mec.16694>

### ONE HEALTH

**Article:** Bouchard C, Dumas A, Baron G, Bowser N, Leighton PA, Lindsay LR, Milord F, Ogden NH, Aenishaenslin C. Integrated human behavior and tick risk maps to prioritize Lyme disease interventions using a 'One Health' approach. *Ticks and Tick-borne Diseases*. 2022 Nov 19:102083. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ttbdis.2022.102083>.

**Article:** Pelletier J, Guillot C, Rocheleau JP, Bouchard C, Baron G, Bédard C, Dibernardo A, Lindsay LR, Leighton PA, Aenishaenslin C. The added value of One Health surveillance: data from questing ticks can provide an early signal for anaplasmosis outbreaks in animals and humans. *Canadian Journal of Public Health*. 2022 Dec 5:1-8. <https://doi.org/10.17269/s41997-022-00723-8>

### Publications

Have you recently published (journal article, book chapter, lead author/editor of a book, technical reports, policy briefs or policy guidelines)? Have you recently had one of your presentations or interviews with a journalist video-recorded? Please share your news and links with the CLyDRN Network Management Office so we can share with our members in future newsletters to help raise awareness and celebrate the impact of our members' work.

### CLyDRN Members Portal

If you have not yet created a user account on the CLyDRN website, please go to [www.clydrn.ca](http://www.clydrn.ca) and click on "Register" at the top. Once you register, CLyDRN Network Management Office will get an email to accept your membership. Once this occurs, you can click on "Login" and enter your email (username) and password to access the members portal. If you have a user account and have forgotten your password, simply click on "Login" and click on "Forget Your Password".



# Do you have a story to share about Lyme disease? Let's Talk!

Researchers at St. Michael's Hospital and the Canadian Lyme Disease Research Network are conducting a study.

## We are looking to speak with:

- Persons with lived experience of Lyme disease
- Family or caregivers of people living with Lyme disease
- Healthcare practitioners
- Lyme disease researchers
- Policy and decision makers



**Participate in a 1-hour interview over the phone or zoom and share your experiences of and perspectives on, diagnosis, treatment and management of Lyme disease in Canada.**

Participants will receive a \$50 gift card. For more information or to participate, please contact Lisa Dias at [lisa.dias@unityhealth.to](mailto:lisa.dias@unityhealth.to) or 416-360-4000 ext. 49312

Study Title: Understanding Stakeholder Perspectives on Lyme Disease in Canada, REB: #22-049  
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CANADIAN LYME DISEASE  
RESEARCH NETWORK



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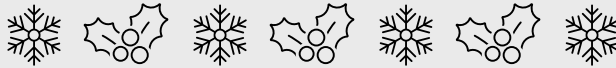


ST. MICHAEL'S  
UNITY HEALTH TORONTO



## HAPPY HOLIDAYS...

*Wishing you and your families all the best over the holiday season. We hope everyone is staying healthy and safe. The CLyDRN Network Management Office will be closed on December 19<sup>th</sup> and will re-open on January 3<sup>rd</sup>. Thank you for your continual support.*



## CLyDRN NETWORK MANAGEMENT OFFICE

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