



Stony Brook Southampton Hospital

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

# Regional Tick-Borne Disease Resource Center

## Dear Friends,

It is with pleasure that we bring you our 2019 Annual Report. We are proud of the accomplishments of the past year and excited to tell you about our plans for the days ahead.

Our "help line" nurse reported that calls to (631) 726-TICK exceeded 750 in number. We held a record forty-five (45) public outreach lectures. Through a partnership with the Suffolk County Department of Health Services, we have expanded the lectures to the west, promoting the services of our Center to new audiences. Calls to the new Suffolk County "311" non-emergency line about tick disease are referred to our advice nurse.

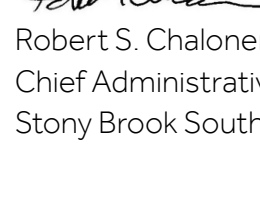
Our most exciting news: After six years of operating in a "virtual environment," we will soon be opening an actual center in Hampton Bays, thanks to the generosity of three leadership benefactors. Our Regional Tick-Borne Disease Resource Center will have a physical location for our call center, and a medical office in which to see patients.

The costs for operating our Resource Center are underwritten solely by generous donors and grants. As a result, we must constantly seek funding sources. Our new offices are possible through the generosity of Mr. Brian Kelly of East

End Tick and Mosquito Control who has been a supporter of the Center since 2014. Mr. Jonathan McCann of Sag Harbor is a major benefactor and supporter of the Resource Center and its new location through his generous yearly and legacy gifts. In the spring of 2019, thanks to the generosity of our friends at The Atlantic Golf Club in Bridgehampton, we were able to hold the first Lyme Invitational golf tournament that raised significant funds to help support the cost of our new Center. The Atlantic Golf Club has been a benefactor to the Resource Center since its inception, through its Hamptons Invitational Charitable Fund.

I want to extend a thank you to all of our generous friends, our medical staff, and our local government officials who continue their enthusiastic support of our programs. We will continue to announce more exciting news in the days ahead.

Sincerely,

  
Robert S. Chaloner

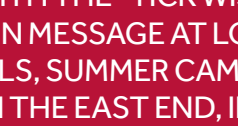
Chief Administrative Officer  
Stony Brook Southampton Hospital

In 2019...

**750+**

**calls were received from people near and far seeking advice from the tick "Help Line" nurse.**

**2,000**



CHILDREN WERE REACHED WITH THE "TICK WISE" EDUCATION AND PREVENTION MESSAGE AT LOCAL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS, SUMMER CAMPS, LIBRARIES AND MUSEUMS ON THE EAST END, IN CONJUNCTION WITH BRIAN KELLY'S EAST END TICK & MOSQUITO CONTROL AND APRIL BOITANO, MS&D.

COLLABORATED WITH THE SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES TO BRING TICK DISEASE EDUCATION AND PREVENTION KITS TO A WIDE RANGE OF CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS AND PUBLIC LIBRARIES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY.

SINCE 2015 OVER

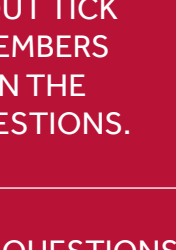
**7,000**

**FREE TICK REMOVAL KITS HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO COMMUNITY MEMBERS, BUSINESSES AND VISITORS.**

**45**

**PUBLIC EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH EVENTS FOR ADULTS WERE HOSTED IN SUFFOLK COUNTY, REACHING THOUSANDS OF RESIDENTS AND VISITORS.**

**LEAD SPONSOR**



OF THE TIMES REVIEW TALKS "GRAPPLING WITH TICKS," A PUBLIC FORUM ON THE NORTH FORK DESIGNED TO INFORM RESIDENTS ABOUT TICK DISEASE AND PREVENTION. EXPERT MEMBERS OF OUR ADVISORY PANEL APPEARED ON THE PROGRAM TO SPEAK AND ANSWER QUESTIONS.

CALLERS TO SUFFOLK COUNTY'S 311 NON-EMERGENCY LINE WHO HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT TICKS AND TICK DISEASE ARE DIRECTED TO OUR TICK-BORNE DISEASE "HELP LINE" NURSE (631-726-TICK) FOR EXPERT ADVICE AND INFORMATION, AS WELL AS TO RESOURCES AT THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES.

## Our Mission

The Regional Tick-Borne Disease Resource Center at Stony Brook Southampton Hospital educates the public, promotes collaboration in the medical community, and facilitates access to diagnosis and treatment of tick-borne diseases. Established in 2014, the Center has become a vital resource for both the public and medical community, providing education and guidance on treating Lyme and other tick-borne diseases. The Center also raises public awareness in the community by holding periodic educational symposia that are designed to educate and inform.

## In 2020...

- Opening in Spring 2020, a new home for the Regional Tick-Borne Disease Resource Center in Hampton Bays!
- Continue to host free public informational events, and further expand our outreach into Western Suffolk County.
- Continue professional education and collaboration opportunities for physicians. A Medical Symposium for Physicians is scheduled for May 2020.
- Continue supporting educational programs for children.
- Continue to collaborate with governmental agencies in Suffolk County, town governments, and businesses to provide education and prevention-awareness to their at-risk employees and residents.
- Continue outreach to the Hispanic community in partnership with Stony Brook Medicine.
- Continue to participate in NIH-funded research studies at Rutgers-New Jersey Medicine, as well as multiple studies on Lyme and tick disease currently being conducted at Stony Brook University.
- Continue to provide input to Suffolk County's Tick Control Advisory Committee regarding medical challenges faced by East End residents who are suffering from Lyme and other tick-borne diseases.

## "Ask the Experts" 6th Annual Public Symposium

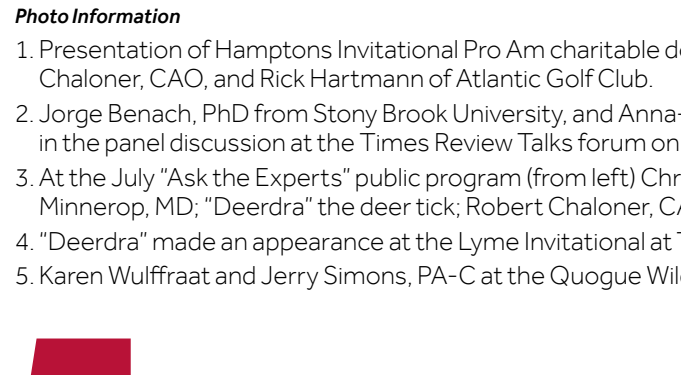
The sixth annual "Ask the Experts" public educational event featuring experts on Lyme and tick disease was held on Saturday morning July 6 at the Southampton Arts Center. As in past years, an at-capacity crowd of over 100 people attended to hear our Scientific and Medical Panel members discuss tick etiology, neurologic Lyme disease, the increasing incidence of Babesiosis, and Lyme disease in children and adolescents. The program wrapped up with "best practices" for the prevention of tick disease, followed by a lively question and answer period.

### Program presenters included:

- Scott R. Campbell PhD, Entomologist and Chief of the Arthropod-Borne Disease Laboratory for the Suffolk County Department of Health Services, "Ticks on Long Island."
- Patricia K. Coyle, MD, SUNY Stony Brook School of Medicine, Vice Chair and Professor of Neurology, "Lyme Disease and the Nervous System."
- Anna-Marie Wellins, DNP – SUNY Stony Brook University, Advanced Graduate Nursing Program, and Stony Brook Southampton Hospital's Meeting House Lane Medical Practice, "Tick-Borne Illness: An Overview."
- Max H. Minnerop, MD – Stony Brook Southampton Hospital, Emergency Medicine, "Babesiosis."
- Christy Beneri, DO – Stony Brook Children's Hospital, "Lyme and Tick Disease in Children."
- Jerry Simons, PA-C, SUNY Stony Brook School of Health Technology and Management, "Prevention Tips."

You can watch the entire two-hour program at:

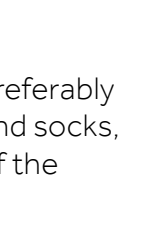
[EastEndTickResource.org](http://EastEndTickResource.org)



### Photo Information

- Presentation of Hamptons Invitational Pro Am charitable donation: Dennis Suskind, Edward Burke, Jr., Robert Chaloner, CAO, and Rick Hartmann of Atlantic Golf Club.
- Jorge Benach, PhD from Stony Brook University, and Anna-Marie Wellins, DNP from Stony Brook Medicine, participate in the panel discussion at the Times Review Talks forum on ticks.
- At the July "Ask the Experts" public program (from left) Christy Beneri, DO; Jerry Simons, PA-C; Patricia Coyle, MD; Max Minnerop, MD; "Deerdra" the deer tick; Robert Chaloner, CAO; Scott Campbell, PhD; and Anna-Marie Wellins, DNP.
- "Deerdra" made an appearance at the Lyme Invitational at The Atlantic Golf Club.
- Karen Wulffraat and Jerry Simons, PA-C at the Quogue Wildlife Center.

## 5 Ways to Avoid Ticks!



### 1 Keep off the grass!

Stay on the asphalt or pavement. Walk in the center of the path, avoid tall grass, or avoid the woods all together.

### 2 Tick checks twice a day.

Do a thorough check at night, and then again the following morning. Check the kids and your pets, too. And check for ticks all year long. Ticks are often alive and well after the first frost.

### 3 Tuck & cover.

Tuck your pants into your socks and spray your skin and clothing with repellent. (Preferably ones with DEET, permethrin or picardin.) Most ticks get access to you on your shoes and socks, so don't forget to spray them too. Spray shoes outdoors with permethrin on the first of the month during tick season (April through August).

### 4 No pets in the bed. Ever!

You love your cats and your dogs. So do ticks. So don't sleep with your pets, don't even invite them up on the couch. They'll forgive you (especially if you give them treats).

### 5 Dry clothes, before you wash them!

When you come in from the outdoors, put your clothes in the dryer on high heat for 15 minutes. Don't wash them first! Ticks survive, and even thrive, in a water bath.

## Medical Advisory Panel

TRAVIS BENCH, MD  
CARDIOLOGY

CHRISTINE COOLIDGE, PHD  
PSYCHOLOGY

ALEXANDRA HALITSKY, MD  
PEDIATRICS

WILLIAM B. KERR, MD  
GENERAL PRACTICE

OLGAL. MCABEE, MD, FAAN  
NEUROLOGY

ERIN E. MCGINLEY, 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

## Scientific Advisory Panel

JORGE L. BENACH, PHD  
STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

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

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

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

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

## Administrator

KAREN C. WULFFRAAT  
ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR

REGIONAL TICK-BORNE DISEASE RESOURCE CENTER, STONY BROOK SOUTHAMPTON HOSPITAL (631) 726-0452

## Thank You to Our Major Supporters

JONATHAN MCCANN  
THE HAMPTONS INVITATIONAL CHARITABLE FUND

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JILL AND SANDY SIRULNICK  
THE ISLAND OUTREACH FOUNDATION

THE ATLANTIC GOLF CLUB – LYME INVITATIONAL

BRIAN KELLY  
EAST END TICK & MOSQUITO CONTROL

ANONYMOUS

## And Our Generous Donors

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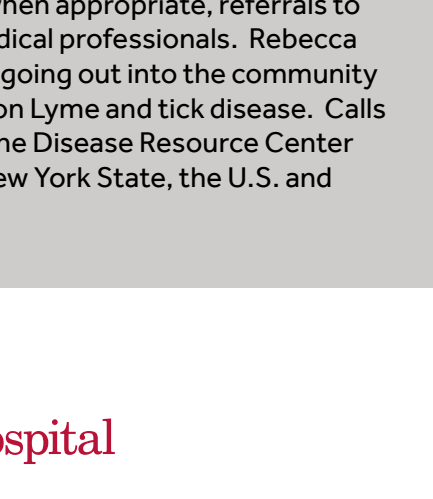
## Contact us with questions

Website  
[EastEndTickResource.org](http://EastEndTickResource.org)

Help Line  
(631) 726-TICK

To make a donation to the Regional Tick-Borne Disease Resource Center

Please call (631) 726-8700, Ext. 5



Our "Help Line" nurse, Rebecca Young, RN, BSN, fielded over 750 calls from the public in 2019. Callers receive expert advice on tick removal, help understanding laboratory results, and when appropriate, referrals to physicians and other medical professionals. Rebecca is also a popular lecturer going out into the community giving educational talks on Lyme and tick disease. Calls to the Regional Tick-Borne Disease Resource Center originate from all over New York State, the U.S. and also internationally.



Stony Brook Southampton Hospital