



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Regional Tick-Borne Disease Resource Center

Dear Friends,

We are proud of the many accomplishments of the Regional Tick-Borne Disease Resource Center in 2023. We opened our long-awaited tick-borne disease clinic at the Atrium in Hampton Bays. With the collaboration of Stony Brook Children's Hospital and Stony Brook Medicine, our medical providers saw both adults and children with appointments booked steadily through the end of the year. Patients came from all over Suffolk and Nassau Counties, and also from New York City. The many messages of appreciation that we received from residents and visitors, as well as great publicity, served as a positive reinforcement of the Resource Center's mission when it was established in 2014.

Our "help line" received 929 calls, a record number. Nurse Rebecca Young was named the "Health Care Hero" for Suffolk County's 2nd Legislative District for her compassionate and knowledgeable work answering over 5,000 calls from residents and visitors during the past eight years. We continued to travel all over the county

presenting 29 public outreach educational events. And, we launched an innovative educational research project in collaboration with the University of Rhode Island, the Suffolk County Department of Health Services, and the Town of Southampton.

As always we extend a huge thank you to all of our generous friends, especially the Island Outreach Foundation, donor Brian Kelly, our medical staff, and local government officials who continue to enthusiastically support our efforts. Our 10th year of operation in 2024 promises to be our best one yet!

Sincerely,



Fredric I. Weinbaum, MD
Interim Chief Administrative Officer
Chief Medical Officer, Chief Operating Officer
Stony Brook Southampton Hospital



Stony Brook Southampton Hospital

In 2023...

Our fourth annual year-end December fundraiser raised over
\$32,220 including a generous match
from the Island Outreach
Foundation.

A record
929
phone calls
were made
to our tick
"help line."



We opened the
Northeast's first
and only **tick-borne
disease clinic** at the
Hampton Atrium in Hampton Bays.

29

public outreach
educational
events were held
in Suffolk County.

Demand for our **tick removal kits** remained very
high throughout the summer months. More than
were mailed all over the USA **thanks to exposure on a national news network.**

1,500 kits

The 2nd Annual
Lyme and tick
disease panel
discussion for
the public was
held in May at the

**South
Fork
Natural
History
Museum**



**Tick Kits and
Handbooks**
were provided for at-risk
employees of the Towns of
Southampton, East Hampton, Shelter
Island, Brookhaven and Riverhead.

We participated
in **Stony Brook
Children's Pfizer
Lyme disease
vaccine** trial for
kids ages 5 to 17.



Eye-catching signs were placed throughout the Town of Southampton's
extensive network of trails and parks **with QR codes** linking hikers to "just in
time" information on **how to stay safe from tick bites**. This innovative
research project is a collaboration between the Resource Center, the Town, the
Suffolk County Department of Health Services, and the University of Rhode Island.

The new Regional Tick-Borne Disease Resource Center is here for you!



- The only dedicated tick clinic in the Northeast
- Team of infectious disease specialists on site
- Expert tick removal, diagnosis and treatment
- Convenient lab services/blood drawing
- Counseling on tick bite prevention, tick identification, free tick removal kits and Tick-Borne Disease Reference Handbooks
- Potential opportunity to participate in research studies
- Acceptance of most insurances, self-pay available

By appointment only
Adults: (631) 725-2112
Children: (631) 444-KIDS (5437)
Convenient location in Hampton Bays



1.



2.



3.



4.

Photos (Left to Right)

1 Adult Clinic Staff: Karen Wulffraat, Administrative Director; Rebecca Young, RN; Sandeep Gandhi, MD; Anna-Marie Wellins, DNP **2** Tick Clinic in Hampton Bays **3** Pediatric Clinic Staff: Andrew Handel, MD; Dahlia Eid, MD; Christy Beneri, DO; Sharon Nachman, MD **4** Health Care Hero 2nd Legislative District: Rebecca Young, RN (center), Karen Wulffraat (left), Legislator Bridget Fleming (right) **5** Placement of "Tick Habitat – Warning!" signs at South Fork History Museum (SOFO) in Bridgehampton **6** South Fork Natural History Museum (SOFO), Bridgehampton: Paula Montagna, RD; Luis Marcos, MD; Rebecca Young, RN; Jerry Simons, PA-C; Karen Wulffraat; Frank Quevedo, SOFO Executive Director; Jane Held **7** Placement of "Tick Habitat – Warning!" signs in Town of Southampton Parks and Trails. Pictured: Long Pond Greenbelt



5.



6.



7.

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 2023 our popular tick disease "Help Line" received a record 929 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. Over the last 9 years we have brought hundreds of educational lectures to libraries, civic organizations, local town governments, garden clubs, and schools throughout Suffolk County. Hosting full-day medical symposia 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

SANDEEP GANDHI, MD
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FAMILY MEDICINE

REBECCA YOUNG, RN, BSN
INFECTION CONTROL

ANNA-MARIE WELLINS, DNP
FAMILY MEDICINE

FREDRIC I. WEINBAUM, MD, COO
CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER

Need Help?

Help Line:
(631) 726-TICK

Website:
EastEndTickResource.org

Hampton Bays Clinic
Appointments:
Adults: (631) 725-2112
Children: (631) 444-KIDS (5437)

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

Scientific Advisory Panel

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OF MEDICINE

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