

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Regional Tick-Borne Disease Resource Center

Dear Friends,

For the past ten years it has been our privilege to be at the forefront of the fight against tick-borne disease, presenting hundreds of educational outreach programs for residents and visitors, and also delivering the best in evidence-based medical care. Our many symposia for physicians and medical professionals have been widely attended and remain popular for communicating the latest research in tick-borne disease, attracting world-renowned scientists and educators who have lectured to our local medical community.

Our tick-borne disease clinic at the Atrium in Hampton Bays continues to be busy, even throughout the winter months. Our physicians have seen over 300 patients since we opened in August of 2023, with some patients having traveled great distances, including from other states, to see us. The patient navigator on our popular “help line” spoke to 843 callers in 2024. In August we published the 3rd edition of our *Tick-Borne Disease Reference Handbook for Long Island and the Northeast*.

This newly updated volume features four new chapters and five new authors. There are now over 35,000 copies of the handbook in circulation all over the United States.

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. We are anticipating another great year in 2025.

Sincerely,



Emily Mastaler, MA, MBA
Chief Administrative Officer
Stony Brook Southampton Hospital



Stony Brook Southampton Hospital

In 2024 we celebrated

10 YEARS !

of helping our communities
on Long Island and beyond...

WE'VE PRESENTED

30

EDUCATIONAL
SYMPOSIA
FOR PHYSICIANS

We've received

7,240

phone calls to our
tick "help line"

232 

Educational events for
the public have been held
all over Suffolk County

We've given away

 15,000 tick removal kits

FREE AS A PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

OVER



35,000

COPIES OF THE *TICK-BORNE
DISEASE HANDBOOK* ARE IN
CIRCULATION ALL OVER THE U.S.

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



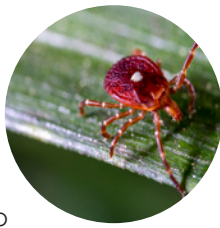
In 2025 we need your help more than ever!

Contributions to the Tick-Borne Disease Resource Center were down by 50% in 2024. **Gifts and grants now cover less than half of our operating expenses.** Big or small, every gift is important. **Please donate so we can continue our important work.**▶



2 new viruses

Spread by the now predominant lone star tick, **Bourbon virus disease** and **Heartland virus disease** are emerging in Suffolk County. These two RNA viruses are still rare, with symptoms that are often similar to those of other tick-borne illnesses. Because both are viruses and not bacterial diseases, antibiotics are not an effective treatment. Immediate and complete removal of attached ticks is critical to help prevent these and other tick-borne diseases.



2 new ticks

The **Gulf Coast tick**, normally found in the Southeast, has now been found in the Northeastern U.S. Although no established populations have been discovered on Long Island, individual ticks of this species can be found in our environment. This tick can cause a rickettsiosis which is a form of spotted fever.

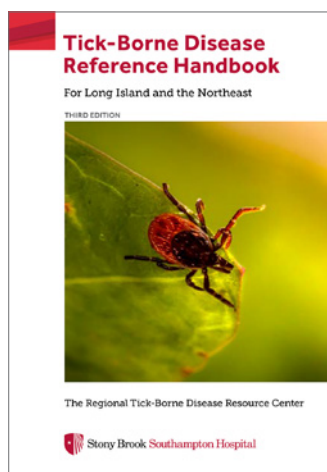
Indigenous to Eastern Asia, the **Asian longhorned tick** is now an invasive species in the U.S. It is found in a variety of habitats and, interestingly, the female of this species can reproduce without mating.

Although this tick appears to be less attracted to human skin, its role in the transmission of pathogens to animals or humans is still unknown. Research is ongoing.



1 very handy handbook

We published the 3rd edition of our ***Tick-Borne Disease Reference Handbook for Long Island and the Northeast*** in August. This newly expanded book contains four new chapters and five new authors, along with updated information about ticks, diseases and viruses. Free copies are available upon request.



Fourth Annual Medical Symposium

Neurologic Lyme Disease: What Physicians Need to Know



Photos

- 1 Jorge Benach, PhD; Scott Campbell, PhD; Gregson Pigott, MD; Patricia Coyle, MD; Fredric Weinbaum, MD; Paul Arnaboldi, PhD; Brian Walitt, MD; Erin McGintee, MD; Erol Fikrig, MD
- 2 Erin McGintee, MD, Raymond Dattwyler, MD, Fredric Weinbaum, MD
- 3 Symposium Attendees

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 the past 25 years the number of medically important tick species on Long Island increased from 4 to 6, and the number of tick-borne diseases transmitted by ticks increased to 10, plus 2 new viral diseases, and 1 unusual food allergy. In 2024 our popular tick disease "Help Line" received 843 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.



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

By appointment only:

Adults: (631) 725-2112

Children: (631) 444-KIDS (5437)

Convenient location in Hampton Bays

Contact us with questions, or to donate.

Website:

EastEndTickResource.org

Help Line:

(631) 726-TICK (8425)

Medical Advisory Panel

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THANK YOU FOR A GENEROUS GIFT FROM THE ESTATE OF LONG-TIME SUPPORTER: THOMAS P. SHEA

A SPECIAL THANKS TO DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS: DRs. MARY & EDWARD PERGIOVANNI