

**Lyme Disease Advisory Committee (LDAC) Fall Conference Call Meeting
November 15, 2018
Minutes**

Committee members in attendance (via phone/WebEx):

Barbara Barsocchini, California Lyme Disease Association (LymeDisease.org)
Karen Chew, Lyme Disease Support Network
Vicki Kramer, PhD, California Department of Public Health (CDPH)
Robert Lane, PhD, University of California, Berkeley
James Miller, PhD, University of California, Los Angeles
Angie Nakano, Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California, for Chindi Peavey
Chris Parlier, Lyme Disease Support Network, Committee Chair
Raphael Stricker, MD, California Medical Association

Committee members absent:

Lisa Messner, Lyme Disease Support Network
Scott Morrow, MD, MPH, San Mateo County Health Department

Other attendees (via phone/WebEx):

CDPH staff included:

Kerry Padgett, PhD, Supervising Public Health Biologist
Melissa Hardstone Yoshimizu, PhD, Senior Public Health Biologist
Anne Kjemtrup, DVM, MPVM, PhD, Research Scientist
Allyx Nicolici, MPH, CHES®, Health Educator
Mary Beth Danforth, PhD, Biologist
Mary Joyce Pakingan, Assistant Microbiologist
Robert Snyder, MPH, PhD, Epidemiologist

Various members of local vector control agencies and the public joined the meeting.

I. Roll Call and Opening Comments

Meeting brought to order by Chris Parlier, LDAC Chair, at 10:10am.

II. Committee member updates

Dr. Vicki Kramer announced that Claudia Erickson, former LDAC Coordinator, has recently retired. Until another Coordinator is assigned, Dr. Kramer is the point of contact for the LDAC meetings.

Dr. James Miller provided an overview of three articles from the journal *Forum on Immunopathological Diseases and Therapeutics*, Volume 7, Issues 3-4, published in 2016.

Dr. Ray Stricker mentioned two press releases previously sent by email to committee members that address two articles relating to relapsing fever and Lyme disease.

Dr. Robert Lane shared that the Mendocino Complex Fire, which occurred in late July 2018, burned three-quarters of the UC Hopland Research and Extension Center in northern California. Dr. Lane will begin resampling this area to evaluate the impact the intense burn has had on the ecology there (especially lizards and tree squirrels) that support tick populations and related pathogens.

III. CDPH Progress Report

A. Surveillance Update (Melissa Hardstone Yoshimizu, PhD)

Dr. Yoshimizu provided an update of Lyme disease cases and detections of *Borrelia spp.* infected *Ixodes pacificus* ticks in California. From October 2017 to October 2018, 3,371 adult ticks, 435 nymphal ticks, and 19 larval pools were tested for *Borrelia spp.* Current CDPH projects and goals were also described, including the collection and testing of *I. pacificus* nymphs and larvae, enhancing surveillance and testing from low sampled areas, and the continued enhancement of in-house tick testing capabilities.

B. Education Update (Allyx Nicolici, MPH, CHES®)

Ms. Nicolici provided an overview of CDPH's tick-bite prevention education efforts since April 2018, including the continued distribution of thousands of CDPH's tick-related brochures and identification cards, spring and summer social media posts for Facebook and Twitter, and the development of a new, online toolkit and digital media campaign about insect repellent. The new insect repellent toolkit and digital media campaign (titled [Don't Give Bugs a Biting Chance!](#)) was completed and published at the end of August 2018, and incorporated content previously suggested by LDAC members. The committee was receptive of the new repellent materials and provided suggestions about distribution to schools and public health agencies across California.

IV. Phylogeography of *Borrelia Spirochetes* in California *Ixodes* Ticks (Kerry Padgett, PhD)

Dr. Padgett provided an overview of a *Borrelia burgdorferi* sensu lato diversity study in California completed by the CDPH Vector-Borne Disease Section and the UC Berkeley Environmental Science Policy and Management department. The study characterizes *Borrelia* species within positive ticks and investigates spatial patterns of variation for *Borrelia* species

among various regions in California. Evaluation of infected *Ixodes pacificus* ticks indicates that risk of exposure to Lyme disease is almost non-existent in southern California. LDAC committee members addressed this finding and discussed the meaning and implications of the low risk of Lyme disease in southern California.

V. Discussion – Physician Resource Update (Anne Kjemtrup, DVM, MPVM, PhD)

Dr. Kjemtrup provided an overview of the plan to update CDPH’s current [tick-borne disease epidemiology and prevention resource for physicians](#). Reasons for this update were provided, and an overview and sample of the new resource (a tick-borne disease pocketbook for physicians) was shared with the committee. The new resource will include a graphic indicating seasonal risk of exposure to infected *Ixodes pacificus* ticks in California. Committee members responded that the new resource for physicians would be a valuable tool to share with providers across California. Content, formatting, and future distribution of the new resource (including the risk graphic) was discussed, and the committee agreed that the further development of this resource could be discussed at the next LDAC meeting.

VI. Public Comment

- A member of the audience commented on the new tick risk graphic (mentioned above) and suggested some changes to clarify the depiction of year-round risk in California. This person also compared Lyme disease case numbers published by the CDC in 2017 with the numbers reported by Quest Laboratories and health insurance claims in California during the same year.

The next LDAC meeting will be in-person (with a WebEx option for those attending remotely), and will occur in March/April of 2019. The date and specific location of the next meeting will be announced at a later time.

Meeting adjourned at 11:55 am.