

2024



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ABOUT ILADS

Lyme disease is a complex disease, which is often difficult to diagnose and treat effectively. Early in the history of Lyme in the US, many patients reported that commonly prescribed antibiotic regimens failed to restore their health, leaving them with significant long-term quality of life impairments. In response to a growing list of patient concerns, a group of insightful physicians and scientists decided to take action to better alleviate patient suffering. These physicians and scientists formed ILADS.

Together with our sister organization, the International Lyme and Associated Diseases Education Foundation (ILADEF), we offer opportunities for physicians to increase their clinical competency to achieve better outcomes for Lyme and complex chronic illness patients.

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ILADS MISSION

ILADS promotes awareness and understanding of complex inflammatory diseases through science, research and education. We strongly support physicians, scientists, researchers and other healthcare professionals dedicated to defining and advancing excellence in the standard of care.

ILADS GOALS

1. Improve understanding of Lyme and other complex inflammatory diseases.
2. Review, develop, and implement academic and clinical scientific research programs that enhance the management of Lyme and other complex inflammatory diseases.
3. Advance and promote the standards of care for Lyme and other complex inflammatory diseases through education.
4. Review, develop and implement programs to support healthcare providers in treating Lyme and other complex inflammatory diseases

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IMPACT



85
courses
available



25,300
educational
grants awarded



578
active
members



20,000
patients used
ILADS provider search

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LYME DISEASE FAQ

WHAT IS LYME DISEASE?

Lyme disease is a bacterial infection caused by a spiral-shaped bacterium (spirochete) called *Borrelia burgdorferi*. There are roughly two dozen species in the *Borrelia burgdorferi sensu lato* complex, not all are human pathogens. In its early stages, Lyme disease commonly results in a rash, joint pain and headaches. Later-stage Lyme disease is characterized by arthritic pain, cognitive difficulties, fatigue and other symptoms that can have an enormous effect on a patient's life.

HOW COMMON IS IT?

The Centers for Disease Control estimates that more than 300,000 new cases of Lyme disease occur each year in the US.

HOW DO YOU GET LYME DISEASE?

Most commonly, Lyme Disease is acquired from the bite of an infected black-legged tick. Ticks can carry other infectious agents besides the bacterium that causes Lyme disease, including *Ehrlichia*, *Anaplasma*, *Babesia*, and possibly *Bartonella*.

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GLOBAL HEALTH ALERT

Did you know that there is a surge in the incidence of complex diseases around the world?

- During 2023, there have been increasing reports of changes in the spread and incidence of **dengue, malaria, Lyme disease, and West Nile virus infection.**
- **Lyme Disease** - the top vector-borne illness in the U.S., affecting over 476,000 individuals yearly.
- **Long COVID** - Affecting nearly 1 in 5 American adults post-COVID-19. [

The International Lyme and Associated Diseases Society (ILADS) is at the forefront of combating these global health challenges. We are a nonprofit, multidisciplinary medical society that champions innovative research and the enhancement of treatment standards.

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INTERVIEW OPTIONS



Sarah Quillen
Executive Director
ILADS + ILADEF

An accomplished executive, Quillen brings a 25+ year career working with nonprofits in the interdisciplinary health and human services community in leadership, fundraising, community relations, and programs. Prior to her work at ILADS, her experience included 10 years with the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization, an association, advocacy organization, and foundation.

Quillen demonstrates decades of service and leadership nationally in the health and human services industry. She has a deep passion for the Lyme and tick-borne disease community, and works tirelessly to expand the ILADS mission, and bring awareness to the countless patients living with chronic inflammatory conditions worldwide.

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Dr. Amy Offutt, MD
Board President

Dr. Offutt is an extensively trained Integrative Medicine physician who treats patients with complex health issues using a wide array of individualized strategies for healing. She cherishes her relationships with her patients and approaches her care by viewing each patient as a whole person. Her goal is to partner with patients to empower them to regain vitality, strength, mental clarity, energy, purpose, and a desire to share their gifts with others.

Dr. Offutt was recently appointed by Governor Greg Abbott to the Pediatric Acute-Onset Neuropsychiatric Syndrome Advisory Council. In addition, she serves on the Board of Directors for ILADS (International Lyme and Associated Diseases Society).

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Dr. Casey Kelley, MD
Former Board Member

Dr. Kelley is an infectious disease expert with a specialty in complex chronic illness and tick-borne disease. Dr. Kelley treats patients globally for tick-borne infections and is a former Director on the board of The International Lyme and Associated Disease Society (ILADS). Dr. Kelley is on faculty at Northwestern's Feinberg School of Medicine. Board Certified in Family Medicine, Dr. Kelley was among the first physicians to become Board Certified in Integrative Medicine.

She has studied the causes, effects, and treatments of disease extensively, and lectures nationally on this and other topics. Dr. Kelley graduated from The Ohio State University College of Medicine and completed her residency in Family Medicine at St. Joseph Hospital in Chicago. She is a ten-year member of the Institute of Functional Medicine (IFM), a Director on the board of The International Lyme and Associated Disease Society (ILADS), and is a Founding Member of the Academy of Integrative Health and Medicine (AIHM).

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Dr. Omar Morales, MD
Former Board Member

Dr. Omar Morales is the founder of Lyme Disease Mexico, a medical practice in Mexico. He developed a special interest in treating tropical diseases with a hematological approach while living in Puerto Vallarta. While dealing with a challenging case of severe Babesia and other co-infections, Dr. Morales was able to utilize his transfusion medicine background and blood bank resources to implement a novel way of treating this particular patient. Red cell exchanges proved to be a successful way of eradicating Babesia.

This led Dr. Morales to continue learning and advancing intricate protocols to address Lyme Disease and other co-infections. Dr. Morales continues to be an active researcher of the renowned Biomedical Center de Occidente as well as contributing to publications (both international and national). He strongly believes that with effective medical research and analysis, eventually the majority of the healthcare community will agree that to undertake as big of a challenge as Lyme Disease, a multidisciplinary and integrative approach is the only way.