



**Creating international and interdisciplinary collaboration for health**

## AONM Newsletter July 2014

The last few weeks have seen a fascinating spectrum of seminars and conferences, with new and important information emerging all the time. This newsletter will cover brief reports on a number of those with links to further information, and an outlook on upcoming events held by either AONM or affiliated organisations at the end.

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#### **Lyme disease and co-infections**

- ▶ International Conference on Vector-borne Diseases. Oslo, May 26<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup>
- ▶ Spirochaetal Alzheimer's Association Inaugural Meeting. Kings Cross, June 4<sup>th</sup>
- ▶ LDA: Lyme and tick-borne diseases. University of Surrey, June 5<sup>th</sup>

#### **Cancer**

- ▶ Premiere of "The Promise." Glaziers Hall London, July 4<sup>th</sup>
- ▶ Yes to Life, "The Power of Choice", Glaziers Hall London, July 5<sup>th</sup>

### **The Health Impacts of Organophosphates**

This meeting was called and chaired by Shadow Secretary of State for Health Andy Burnham, MP for Leigh, on May 14, at the House of Commons, on behalf of his constituent, Tom Rigby, a farmer affected by organophosphate (OP) sheep dip. Three questions were posed at the outset: Has sheep dipping caused long term damage to health? Were the products safe? Were the warnings adequate?

Tom Rigby was supported by a number of other affected farmers and their wives, all of whom had harrowing stories of the devastating effect OPs had had on their lives, and, they feared, on their grandchildren. Also present were representatives



*OP sheep dips a cause for concern*

from the National Farmers Union, the Country Land and Business Association, the National Sheep Association, PanUK, the National Office of Animal Health, Bimeda (Dublin), several journalists and others. Lord Tyler attended and several MPs, including Michael Meacher (former Minister of Defra – the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs), who was present for some of the time.

The Countess of Mar opened the meeting, reminiscing on her own illness due to

organophosphate sheep dip and her long battles to have the problem recognised. She urged everyone not to keep harking back to past troubles but to focus on the future and what could be achieved with the knowledge we now have.

Dr Sarah Mackenzie-Ross, Neuropsychologist, has established the Neuropsychological Toxicology Unit, the only unit of its kind in this country (dedicated to studying the impact of toxins on psychological function), and has led a number of research projects including 'Neuropsychological and Psychiatric Functioning in Sheep Farmers Exposed to Ops (2008).' She spoke about her research paper: 'Neurobehavioural Problems following low level exposure to OP pesticides: A Systematic and meta-analytic review (2012)'. (For a full review of this and other research papers, see her website and links: <http://www.sarahmackenzieross.com/>.)

**\* Spotlight on lab markers: Paraoxonase and organophosphates**

Organophosphates exert their effects by blocking a neurotransmitter called acetylcholine, causing hyperactivation of nerve cells. An enzyme in the blood called paraoxonase, or PON1, breaks down the critical component of organophosphates called paraoxon: PON 1 is therefore vital to the detoxification of this ubiquitous pesticide. Dr. Clement Furlong pioneered paraoxonase research at the University of Washington/Seattle Medical School. Significantly, Dr. Furlong found that exposure is governed not just by variability in PON1 levels, but also by the PON1-192 Q/R polymorphism: the PON1-R192 alloform protects better than the PON1-Q192 alloform. Important is also that he found newborns have only a quarter to a third of the level of PON1 of adults, making them extremely sensitive to organophosphate exposure.

(<http://www.gs.washington.edu/outreach/FurlongOPExposures.ppt#311,3>).

PON-1 is also an oxidant-sensitive enzyme that inhibits the atherogenic oxidation of LDL. Low PON-1 activity has been associated with a number of risk factors for coronary heart disease, including diabetes, hypercholesterolaemia and smoking.

***Biolab is unique in conducting a serum paraoxonase assay, both individually and as part of its Antioxidant Profile.*** *Juliet Hayward*

Dr. Ross' lecture was an impressive and detailed resume examining the problems so many have suffered. She answered all three questions asked at the beginning with an irrefutable "No". (The Committee on Toxicology has nevertheless set aside her arguments in a narrative report. Dr Ross has replied to the committee by letter.)

Dr Andrew Povey, Reader in Molecular Epidemiology, University of Manchester, researches the role that chemicals play in causing ill health. He discussed the possibility that the enzyme paraoxinase\* might have some effect on susceptibility to OPs, but concluded that this was not proven.

The Chairman then invited questions from the audience, after which several farmers and wives spoke of their years of illness and rejection, their fears that there had been genetic damage which may be passing on to their grandchildren, and the hope that airing this problem once again might, at last, result in some helpful action by government and medical authorities. This was endorsed by members of the audience and the speakers. *Audrey Adcock*

**Invest in ME: Synergising Research into ME**



**9th International  
ME Conference  
2014**

Invest in ME's annual conference held at Birdcage Walk, Westminster, always provides a wide range of insights into the latest status of biomedical research on ME (<http://www.investinme.org/>). The day began with a scintillating trailer for a new film on ME made in Norway, called "Perversely Dark" (<http://www.syktmorkt.no/#%21in-english/con6>).

Professor Jonathan Edwards (University College London), who has done a great deal of work on B-cell depletion in Rheumatoid Arthritis, discussed the antigen/antibody/B cell/T cell links and the lessons for ME. Professor Angela Vincent (Oxford, UK) specialises in autoimmunity in neurological diseases, and discussed similarities in the illnesses she has been

studying with ME, and the relevance of antibodies in these conditions. Professor Jonas Blomberg (Uppsala, Sweden) discussed the question of autoimmunity in ME, and also touched on the evidence of impaired mitochondrial function and energy metabolism in the condition. The day continued with other fascinating contributions: Professor Simon Carding (Norwich, East Anglia) for example, on the role of intestinal permeability and gut microbiota in the pathophysiology of ME, or Professor Sonya Marshall-Gradisnik (Gold Coast, Australia) on immunological biomarkers in ME. The four-disk DVD set of the entire conference is available for £14:

<http://www.investinme.eu/2014%20Conference%20DVD%20Order.html>, as are recordings of all their past conferences.

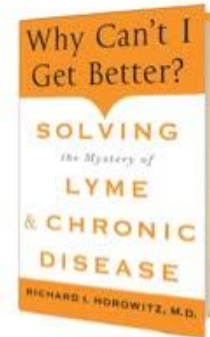
### **International Conference on Vector-borne Diseases**

The world's leading Lyme specialists congregated in Oslo, Norway, for a stellar conference on Lyme and co-infections on May 26<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup>. (Tragically, the Norwegian Borreliosis Center had just been closed down by the Norwegian government, after removing the medical licence of its leading doctor, Dr. Rolf Luneng.) Having such an outstanding line-up at one conference was probably a first: Dr. Joseph J. Burrascano, Dr. Richard I. Horowitz, MD, Dr. Edward B. Breitschwerdt, Dr. Alan MacDonald, Dr. Eva Sapi, Dr. Jyotsna Shah, Dr. Christian Perrone, Dr. Judith Miklossy, Dr. Armin Schwarzbach, and several others. Dr. Horowitz, who has treated over 12,000 Lyme patients, presented his new MSIDS (Multiple Systemic Infectious Disease Syndrome) framework as a guide to treating Lyme – a bid to bridge the gap between medical and alternative approaches. His new book "Why can't I get better?" (which Professor Garth Nicolson told us to watch out for last year, saying Dr. Horowitz was now the world's No. 1 for Lyme Disease, <http://www.cangetbetter.com/>) includes the MSIDS framework with 16 points.

The programme is available here in English, with biographies and abstracts of all the speakers: [http://www.reseauborreliose.fr/rblf/public/Conf\\_etc/Norvege/Program%20Norvect\\_program.pdf](http://www.reseauborreliose.fr/rblf/public/Conf_etc/Norvege/Program%20Norvect_program.pdf)

The conference was filmed, and we have been promised the recording. We will let you know when

## **New York Times Science Best Seller List**



it is available. Dr. Christian Perrone by the way was involved in making an excellent TV5 documentary on Lyme disease that is available for free under the following link, dubbed in English: <http://vimeo.com/95647143>.

*Gilian Crowther*

### **Spirochaetal Alzheimer's Association Inaugural Meeting**

The newly inaugurated Spirochaetal Alzheimer's Association celebrated their first meeting in London with their illustrious patron Dr. Alan MacDonald, who spoke about the links between spirochaetes and Alzheimer's disease at One KX in King's Cross on June 4<sup>th</sup>. He explained how he had begun to ask whether dementia is an infectious disease in some patients 30 years ago. He found that the plaques in Alzheimer's are positive for borreliosis antibodies, and that the empty spaces around these plaques appear to be water channels allowing nutrients (for the spirochetes) in, and waste material out. He has made a firm connection between Alzheimer's plaques and borreliosis biofilms, isolating borrelia from 7 out of 10 autopsy brains of victims of Alzheimer's: "It's a biofilm infection". An article on this has been published just recently, in 2013: "Can infections cause Alzheimer's Disease?" (Epidemiologic Reviews, <http://epirev.oxfordjournals.org/content/35/1/161.short>). His website is [www.alzheimerborreliosis.net](http://www.alzheimerborreliosis.net), and he has many vimeo and YouTube videos with his extraordinary findings of Lyme in all its forms.

*Stephen Cinnamond*

## **Lyme Disease Action: Lyme and tick-borne diseases**

The LDA held their annual conference at Surrey University, Guildford, on July 5<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Tim Brooks, Head of Public Health England's Rare and Imported Pathogens Laboratory, spoke about their plans for the future. Dr. Klaus-Peter Hunfeld from Frankfurt, Germany, discussed the pros and cons of different testing systems, while Professor Richard Birtles explored the natural transmission pathways of tick-borne pathogens in the UK. Other speakers covered the outer membrane of borrelia and a newly discovered tick-borne agent found in Sweden, Neoehrlichia. The LDA always put their full presentations up on their website, <http://www.lymediseaseaction.org.uk/>. They have well-researched leaflets and brochures that can be downloaded free. It will definitely be worth looking up this year's, as well as the very good presentations from last year:

<http://www.lymediseaseaction.org.uk/latest-news/phe-lyme-disease-conference-2013/>.

*Gilian Crowther*

### **Premiere of "The Promise."**

"*The Promise*" is a film that investigates the truth about the harm of the routine breast cancer screening program. It was premiered in the UK on July 4<sup>th</sup>, hosted by "Yes to life." The evening also featured a Q&A session with a panel including the producers as well as Dr Sarah Myhill, a key driver behind it, who also features as an expert in the film itself.

In 1987, the world's first national screening program was set up in the UK for women age 50 and over. Mammography was chosen as the UK's preferred breast screening detection procedure following recommendations in the Forrest Report.

Over the years, however, ever more data has come out casting doubts on the wisdom of this programme.

It emerged that a Swedish medical trial in which mortality in the screening group was higher than in the control group had been ignored by the Forrest Report. The high levels of ionising radiation used in this procedure have a very damaging effect on



healthy tissue, and breast cancer can develop as a direct result of regular mammography screening. An article in the BMJ in March 2011 reported that the exposure to ionising radiation during one mammography procedure is the equivalent to eighty chest X- rays.

Women with DCIS (ductal carcinoma in situ) are in many cases unnecessarily intimidated into chemotherapy, radiotherapy or mastectomy. The film argues that there is no evidence on the extent to which DCIS actually turns into cancer. A pathologist describes it as a pre-invasive cancer that is not a clinical but a radiological condition, yet 4,000 women in the UK are treated aggressively for a cancer they may never have based on a DCIS diagnosis.

The film also argues that the mammography procedure itself can cause spread of any tumours that may be present due to the heavy compression that is required during the examination.

Thermography is a newer, safer and non-invasive investigation procedure using infrared thermal imaging of the human body. Thermography does not involve any radiation. Thermograms can detect physiological changes due to increased blood flow. This makes it possible to pick up changes associated with the cancer far earlier than other investigation procedures. This excellent film is available from the website <http://thepromisefilm.net/>

*Daria Krzeminska*

### **Yes to Life: Breast Cancer, The Power of Choice**

"Breast Cancer, The Power of Choice", a seminar held on July 5<sup>th</sup>, was organised by Yes To Life, <http://yestolife.org.uk/>, the cancer charity providing

information and support to people wanting an integrated treatment approach.

The keynote speaker was Dr Francisco Contreras, from Mexico's Oasis of Hope Hospital, talking about The Contreras Metabolic Integrative Therapy, [http://www.oasisofhope.com/irt\\_cancer\\_protocols.php](http://www.oasisofhope.com/irt_cancer_protocols.php).

The CMIT protocols, individualised for each patient, include elements intended to kill cancer cells directly along with a number of adjuvant measures intended to make this tumour killing more effective, alleviate toxic risk to healthy cells and generally support the whole body. They include Cell Redox Regulation, Oxidative Preconditioning, Immune Stimulation, and Signal Transduction therapies, in addition to nutritional, emotional & spiritual support. They are used either with or without chemotherapy.

Dr Contreras was joined by Dr Siegfried Trefzer from High Tree Medical Clinic, talking on Hyperthermia as an adjuvant treatment, Dr Stefan Geider from Camphill Medical Practice NHS, Aberdeen, on Mistletoe Therapy, Barbara Gallini on the importance of exercise, especially yoga, Ted Poulter discussing the positive impact of physical activity, and inspirational women sharing their personal journeys of recovery.

Yes to Life events are all aimed at raising public awareness of the choices available to those with cancer. These range from conferences and seminars through to film screenings and workshops.

*Diana Peterson*

## Upcoming Events

AONM will be at CAM Expo this year, October 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, at Stand 1017 (<http://www.camexpo.co.uk/>). Please come and visit us, and let us know if you would like a free ticket, as we have a limited contingent to distribute among members.

The London Anti-Ageing Conference is taking place at *Kensington Town Hall Hornton Street, London W8* on 9<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> October, 2014, with international

speakers on a wide variety of inspiring topics (<http://www.antiageingconference.com/>). Members of BANT will receive a discount. Please contact the organiser Maria Somers for further reductions, as she is keen to ensure that everyone who wishes to attend is able to.

Professor Basant Puri is speaking at the British Naturopathic and Osteopathic Association (BNOA), <http://bnoa.org.uk/>, on October 12<sup>th</sup>, on the topic "Lyme Disease: A commonly undiagnosed disease and possible cause of arthritis and joint pain." Dr. Ray Perrin, also closely affiliated with AONM, is speaking in the afternoon, on "CFS/ ME and Neuro-lymphatic Disease: An Osteopathic Approach." Please sign up on <http://bnoa.org.uk/cpd.php>

CAM Conferences are holding a special "Focus on" conference organised by Rio Trading on Lyme Disease, on October 25<sup>th</sup>, with international speakers (Dr. Philipp Kielman, Dr. Albin Beck, and others). Please register on <http://www.camconferencesfocuson.com/>

Gilian Crowther, Senior AONM therapist, is holding an *Introductory Seminar on Cell Symbiosis Therapy* – a mitochondrial approach to therapy – at the Holiday Inn London Regent's Park Carburton Street, London, W1W 5EE on Saturday November 1, from 10.00 - 5.00 pm. Please register on the Eventbrite site <https://cst-introductory-seminar-1stnov2014.eventbrite.co.uk> (the link to this is on the [www.aonm.org/events](http://www.aonm.org/events) page), or call 0786 772 6387.

The fee is £35 for earlybird registration before October 10, and £45 for later. Members of AONM and the NNA receive a discount of £5. For further details on Cell Symbiosis Therapy, please see [www.cst-academy.co.uk](http://www.cst-academy.co.uk), or contact Gilian on [gilian@aonm.org](mailto:gilian@aonm.org).

If you use the ACUMEN tests and would like to deepen your knowledge of them, please call AONM on 0845 505 1296, as we will also be holding a small event on those specialist tests in September.

**Please contact us at any time if you are interested in learning more about our services, or exploring how we could work together: [info@aonm.org](mailto:info@aonm.org)/ 0845 505 1296, or go to [www.aonm.org](http://www.aonm.org)**



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