

# Physicians' Think Tank on the Link Between Lyme Disease and Autism

January 23-24, 2007 marked the first-ever Physicians' Think Tank on Lyme Disease and Autism Spectrum Disorder sponsored by the LIA Foundation.

The goal was to discuss the link between Lyme disease/Borrelia and autism and come up with testing and treatment alternatives. Physicians were invited from all over the country to attend. The idea was to bring together a diverse group with many methodologies.

In general, the think tank event was considered a success. A consensus among attendees was that Borrelia/Lyme needs to be considered as a potential cause or inciting factor in autism. More research needs to be done. Several physicians committed to holding an informal research study to determine the percentage of children with autism who are infected with Borrelia. In addition, the agreement is that more physicians and researchers need to be consider this connection

and test for Borrelia in their practices. Multiple infections should also be considered in this scenario as well. A conference is planned for June 23-24, 2007 in Irvine, California for parents, patients, and practitioners. This conference will include a "physicians' roundtable," in which more information can be shared with a larger group of physicians, who can then implement treatment strategies.

The LIA Foundation is a grass-roots organization run by volunteers. It was created by Tami Duncan and Kathy Blanco (both of whom have Lyme disease) in September 2006; each founder also has at least one child with Autism Spectrum Disorder and chronic Borrelia. Kathy Blanco's entire family is infected with this disease. Every program that the LIA Foundation presents falls into one of three categories: awareness, education, and research. Currently, the LIA Foundation is raising money for its research

program, which will fund a study run by lead investigator Anthony R. Torres of Utah State. The study's originators hope to determine the average percentage of autistic children who are infected with Borrelia, a number some doctors are estimating to be as high as 90%. If you would like to donate to or learn more about the LIA Foundation, please visit [www.liafoundation.org](http://www.liafoundation.org). LIA Foundation is a 501c3 Public Benefit Charity.

## A Note from LIA Co-Founder and President Tami Duncan

As we have entered into this journey of autism, we have learned some lessons along the way. Technically, LIA Foundation stands for Lyme-Induced Autism. However, with recent think-tank discussions, we feel it is more accurate to discuss this as chronic Borrelia, an inciting factor in autism. Lyme disease is almost always thought to be transmitted by a tick bite, but it is rare that an autistic child falls into that category. Most autistic children have no history of a tick-bite; anecdotal evidence suggests that the children are becoming infected congenitally. Therefore, we are steering away from the term "Lyme" and referring more to this disease as "Borrelia-Related Complex," due to the multiple infections that also are present. We plan to do more study in this area. We appreciate the support we are receiving from both the autism and the Lyme disease communities. Please know that we are determined to find the answers that will begin to heal these children.



Tami Duncan

Tami is the mother of two beautiful children, Jenna and Michael. Michael is diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder and has an active Borrelia infection. Tami is diagnosed with Chronic Lyme Disease and feels confident that it was passed to Michael *in-utero*. Tami founded LIA Foundation in September 2006 with co-founder Kathy Blanco after being frustrated with the limited treatments available for her son. Tami is also host of the online radio show *The Lyme and Autism Connection* on Autism One Radio. She is also a coordinator for a California-based parent support group, Talk About Curing Autism. Prior to starting the foundation, Tami was an account executive and marketing director for West Coast Fund Raising. Her husband, Troy, is commonly referred to as "the glue that holds us all together."

## The Lyme-Autism Connection Conference June 23rd and 24th, 2007 - Irvine, California

- ◆ Testing and Treatment Options
- ◆ Co-Infections
- ◆ How mold and pesticides affect Lyme and Autism
- ◆ Lyme and Autism - Stories of Recovery
- ◆ Opportunistic Infections...Mercury, Viral and Heavy Metal Issues
- ◆ Alternative treatments - chinese herbal medicine, homeopathy, salt/c
- ◆ Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy for the treatment of Lyme and Autism
- ◆ Dietary Interventions...healing the gut.
- ◆ The law...how to get the services your child needs.
- ◆ And much much more...

Physicians! Join us to learn testing and treatment techniques for these children!

*Topics are subject to change based on speaker availability*



A 501c3 public benefit charity focusing on the link between Borrelia, multiple-infections and Autism Spectrum Disorder.

### Early Bird Registration

- \$150 for the 2-day event!
- Register by May 30th for this low price.

Special negotiated hotel rate of \$119/night\*

For more information please log on to:

[www.liafoundation.org](http://www.liafoundation.org) or call: 1-877-650-4046

*\*subject to availability*

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