

# Blastocystis Research Foundation

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April 13, 2009

Lonnie J. King, DVM  
Director, NCZVED  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
1600 Clifton Road NE, MS D-76  
Atlanta GA 30329-4018

Dear Dr. King,

Our group periodically contacts the CDC to update your organization on the status of Blastocystis infection in the United States.

I've enclosed a copy of our review (Boorom, et al., 2008) which describes the emergence of epidemic blastocystosis in the US during the last 10 years, along with information about the gastrointestinal, dermatological, and psychiatric symptoms.

Additionally, a copy of our Oregon study on patients with chronic gastrointestinal illness is enclosed (Morris et al., 2008). That study identifies the genotype of Blastocystis which is spreading in the US.

A photo-micrograph from our latest diagnostic, a fluorescein isothiocyanate (FITC)-labeled antibody stain for Blastocystis is attached. We are working with researchers in Europe and the Middle East to evaluate it for sensitivity and specificity, and to research disseminated blastocystosis in immuno-competent individuals.

I've enclosed a newspaper article in which a respondent identifies an association between blastocystosis and something your office calls "Morgellons" disease. Our FITC-labeled stain can be made available to your Morgellons scientists upon request.

BRF will be starting work on treatments and vaccines for blastocystosis in 2009 and 2010. Assistance is always welcome.

Best Regards,

Ken Boorom  
Director, Blastocystis Research Foundation

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