

Blastocystis Research Foundation

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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 recent fundraising materials, along with a copy of the study from Denmark's Staaten Serum Institute which confirms our studies in the US. Mainly, Blastocystis infection is being diagnosed as 'IBS' and patients develop life altering symptoms following the infection, such as severe joint pain, skin rash, and others. It also confirms our finding that there are no reliable treatments.

Our research suggests that the higher rates of gastrointestinal and "auto-immune" illness seen in Gulf War Veterans is associated with chronic infection with this protozoal disease, rather than vaccines and insect repellent as claimed by researchers. In individuals with specific cytokine polymorphisms, Blastocystis may change its behavior and produce higher quantities of protease which is both neurologically and immunologically reactive. Extrapolating from the findings in veterans, about 30% of the population over 40 will experience some degree of illness following infection, and about 10% of that population would qualify for disability under Department of Defense guidelines.

I appreciate that your office may be very busy with a variety of projects. As such, I'd like to suggest you considering funding BRF to address Blastocystis infection in the United States. Our board has over 100 years of infectious disease experience (see reverse). I currently have more Blastocystis publications than any other active US researcher. We also have developed collaborative relationships with researchers in 11 countries, and are effectively integrating physicians, private companies, and academic institutions into a response. With diagnostics now released, we are focusing on developing treatments and vaccines.

A donation envelope is enclosed. If the CDC is unable to officially fund this effort, perhaps it would be possible to "pass the hat" at your office to obtain funding. I would be happy to provide a presentation to your office, or send additional fundraising materials.

Best Regards,



Ken Boorum
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