



Centers for Disease Control  
and Prevention (CDC)  
Atlanta GA 30333

October 8, 2009

Mr. Ken Boorom  
Director  
Blastocystis Research Foundation  
5060 S.W. Philomath Boulevard, #202  
Corvallis, Oregon 97333-1044

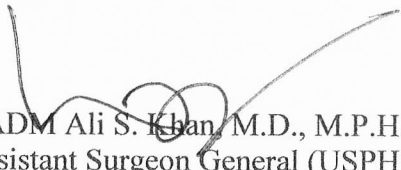
Dear Mr. Boorom:

Thank you for your letters and email to Dr. Lonnie King, former Director of the National Center for Zoonotic, Vector-Borne, and Enteric Diseases (NCZVED) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), concerning *Blastocystis hominis* infection. As the Acting Director of NCZVED, your letter was forwarded to me for response.

CDC continues to follow the growing body of peer-reviewed published studies on both the pathogenicity and treatment options for the organism, *B. hominis*. As experts disagree on whether *B. hominis* is the primary cause of symptoms, finding the organism in stool samples should be followed up with diagnostic procedures to rule out infection with other parasitic organisms, bacteria, or viruses. Despite the controversial clinical significance of this organism, information regarding medications to treat *Blastocystis* is available to health care professionals through the CDC website at [www.dpd.cdc.gov/dpdx/HTML/Blastocystis.htm](http://www.dpd.cdc.gov/dpdx/HTML/Blastocystis.htm).

Our advice to public health laboratories and physicians will continue to evolve as further data and information becomes available that can help guide our messages. I appreciate your updates on behalf of your organization and for your leadership and advocacy efforts.

Sincerely,



RADM Ali S. Khan, M.D., M.P.H.  
Assistant Surgeon General (USPHS)  
Acting Director  
National Center for Zoonotic, Vector-Borne,  
and Enteric Diseases