The Charles E. Holman Morgellons Disease Foundation Announces A New Study That Strengthens Association Between Tickborne Infections And Morgellons Disease

International Team Led By IGeneX Laboratories Supports Link Between Borrelia Spirochetes And Mysterious Skin Disease

AUSTIN, Texas (PRWEB) November 20, 2018 -- Morgellons disease is frequently associated with Borrelia burgdorferi (Bb), the agent of Lyme disease, as well as tickborne relapsing fever Borrelia (RFB) according to a study published in the prestigious journal Clinical Cosmetic and Investigational Dermatology (https://bit.ly/2SVRT8h). The report entitled “Detection of Tickborne Infection in Morgellons Disease Patients by Serological and Molecular Techniques” was written by microbiologist Marianne Middelveen from Atkins Veterinary Services in Calgary, Canada, together with laboratory director Jyotsna Shah and technologist Iris Du Cruz of IGeneX Laboratories in Palo Alto, CA, and nurse practitioner Melissa Fesler and internist Raphael Stricker from Union Square Medical Associates in San Francisco, CA.

Morgellons disease is a bizarre skin condition previously linked to tickborne disease. It features lesions containing black, white or multicolored filaments. Many physicians mistakenly believe the filaments are implanted textile fibers and that the condition is a form of delusional mental illness. “Erroneous beliefs of medical professionals have impeded diagnosis and treatment in this group of patients," explains Middelveen.

Borrelia organisms including Bb and RFB comprise a family of corkscrew-shaped bacteria called spirochetes. In this corroborative study, 90% of the Morgellons patients tested positive for Borrelia spirochetes. Among these patients with skin disease, 23% were positive for Bb alone, 50% for RFB alone, and 17% for both. “This is a huge percentage compared to the general population," says Fesler. In addition, infection with another tickborne pathogen, Bartonella henselae, was detected in 20% of the Morgellons study subjects and strengthens the evidence linking the skin condition to tickborne illness. “This study is another nail in the coffin for the delusionists," adds Stricker.

Many clinicians are unaware of the full spectrum of Borrelia spirochetes that are associated with Morgellons disease. “Testing for a diverse group of organisms is an ongoing challenge," says Du Cruz. To further complicate diagnostic hurdles, Lyme disease testing as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) lacks sensitivity and there are currently no tests for RFB that are approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in the United States. “The genetic complexity of Borrelia infection highlights the need for better testing," says Shah. “We hope that new tests for Borrelia will lead to better treatment for Morgellons patients.”

About the Charles E. Holman Morgellons Disease Foundation:
The Charles E. Holman Morgellons Disease Foundation, based in Austin, TX, is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization committed to advocacy and philanthropy in the battle against Morgellons disease. Director, Cindy Casey-Holman, RN, leads the foundation, named for her husband, Charles E. Holman, a pioneer in the fight against Morgellons disease. Currently there is no public funding and very limited private funding to support research for this disease, and the CEHMDF is the recognized authority and primary funding source for Morgellons disease medical/scientific research. Donations are tax deductible in the US. To learn more about Morgellons disease go to: http://www.MorgellonsDisease.org.
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