

conference on

LYME DISEASE

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS



■ A TICK-ING TIME BOMB Making Lyme disease a priority in Canada

MAY 26-28, 2020

DEERHURST RESORT, HUNTSVILLE, ONTARIO



WWW.OFAH.ORG/CONFERENCE

Tick-borne illnesses such as Lyme disease have the potential to affect all Canadians. This is a very important issue to the outdoors community, so the OFAH is taking on an even greater leadership role in helping to enhance awareness and coordinate advocacy efforts with an ultimate goal of achieving better prevention, testing, diagnosis, and treatment of Lyme disease to all Canadians.

Our 2020 annual conference is intended to bring together the many groups and individuals concerned about Lyme disease to discuss emerging science and ongoing issues, and reaffirm a collective path forward.

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

The OFAH invites the submission of **300-word** abstracts of oral and poster presentations. Abstracts will be peer-reviewed and selected for presentation based on content and relevance to the conference theme and topics. Please note that at least one author of an accepted abstract submission must register and pay the applicable fee to attend the conference to make their presentation. A reduced registration fee is provided to speakers and poster presenters.

Abstract submission is not limited to researchers and academics. We confront Lyme disease (and other tick-related illnesses) on many fronts and important information and knowledge can be gained from these experiences. Advocates, Lyme disease patients, students, government employees, outdoor enthusiasts, and members of the public are invited to submit abstracts and be part of the conversation.

ABSTRACT PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION

All abstracts are to be prepared and formatted using the Microsoft Word template.

Abstracts are to be submitted by e-mail to **abstracts@ofah.org** and the deadline for submissions is **November 11, 2019**. Submitting authors will be notified of the review committee's decision regarding their abstract within 2-3 weeks.

INFORMATION CONTACT

If you have any questions about preparation and submission of abstracts please email **abstracts@ofah.org**.



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ORAL PRESENTATION SUBMISSIONS

Abstract submissions should address one of the following topics. Novel suggestions outside of these topics will also be considered.

ORAL PRESENTATION TOPICS

- The biology of blacklegged ticks (*Ixodes scapularis*) and Lyme disease-causing bacterium (*Borrelia burgdorferi*)
- The history of Lyme disease (focus on Canada, but can include broader North American and/or global context)
- The physiological and human health impact of Lyme disease
- Lyme disease surveillance in wildlife, pets, and humans
- The range expansion of ticks and strategies to prevent it
- Non-Lyme tick-borne diseases
- Tick bite management and how to reduce risk
- The importance of communication and awareness around Lyme disease
- Impact of the risk of Lyme disease on human behaviour
- New avenues for Lyme disease prevention (prophylaxis, vaccines, etc.)
- Existing legislation and guidelines related to Lyme disease
- Testing, the importance of early diagnosis, and the challenges of misdiagnosis
- Treatment regimes and access to treatment
- Chronic Lyme disease and post-treatment Lyme disease syndrome

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POSTER PRESENTATION SUBMISSIONS

The conference will feature a poster session where students, research scientists, organizations, municipalities, businesses, and other individuals or groups can profile their programs, products, case studies, or research related to ticks, Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses. The poster session is meant to capture novel aspects of Lyme disease not included in the oral presentations so a wide scope of submissions is desired.

Submissions from students are particularly welcome as they will be judged and prizes awarded for the best student posters.

Posters will be on display throughout the conference to maximize the opportunity for conference participants to benefit from their work. The actual Poster Session will be on Wednesday, May 27 and presenters are expected to be at their posters to present their work, discuss the content, and answer questions from conference participants. Conference participants will also be encouraged to explore the posters during scheduled breaks.

- Potential Poster Presentation Topics
- Climate change and its relation to tick expansion
- Impacts of Lyme disease on wildlife
- Improved monitoring and testing practices
- Insecticides, their availability and use
- Lyme disease advocacy and support groups
- Lyme disease and pets
- Non-chemical insect repellants
- Other tick species and tick-borne diseases affecting humans and/or wildlife
- Personal experiences with ticks and/or Lyme disease
- Products and services related to ticks and Lyme disease
- Research on aspects of the blacklegged tick life cycle such as habitat, host communities, and predation
- Specific communication and education campaigns on Lyme disease
- Wildlife management strategies to address Lyme disease