
Speakers

Tim Brooks

UK Research on ticks and Lyme disease

Dr Tim Brooks is one of the leaders of the Clinical Surveillance Research Theme within the Health Protection Research Unit in Emerging and Zoonotic Diseases (HPRU EZI). He is head of Public Health England's Rare and Imported Pathogens Laboratory (RIPL). Following his medical training he worked briefly in the National Health Service as a trainee surgeon before joining the British Army. Returning to hospital medicine he became a pathologist and microbiologist.

HPRU EZI at Liverpool was established in 2014 with funding from the National Institute for Health Research and is initially targeting the following current and emerging threats: hantavirus, hepatitis E, CNS infection, and arthropod-borne diseases (Lyme, Chikungunya and Crimean-Congo Haemorrhagic Fever). There are 5 research themes. The Clinical Surveillance theme is focusing on hantavirus and Lyme disease and the Vector Biology Theme on mosquito- and tick-borne viral threats to the UK, and tick-borne borreliosis.

Anja Garritsen

Different concepts in Lyme Disease diagnosis What can we use now and what do we need for the future

Dr. Anja Garritsen is the CEO of Innatoss Laboratories. She has a PhD in Molecular Pharmacology and worked for 18 years as scientist, director and executive director at Organon Biosciences (later Schering Plough and Merck) in the Netherlands. She specialized in target and lead discovery, in the field of immune therapeutics and cancer.

In 2011 Dr Garritsen founded Innatoss Laboratories, a research-intensive SME that focusses on diagnostics for Q fever and Lyme disease. Innatoss wants to develop game-changing diagnostics for these 'neglected' diseases. The products will help to diagnose these diseases in an early stage, facilitating effective treatment. The company's first product, Q-detect™, a cellular immunity based diagnostic test for Q-fever was registered in the Netherlands in 2014. Innatoss is involved in development of cellular immunity based diagnostics.

Sandra Pearson

Global update

Dr Sandra Pearson is an NHS consultant psychiatrist and has been LDA's Medical Director since 2011. Lyme disease is part of her professional and academic CPD (Continuing Professional Development). She attends international conferences on behalf of LDA and this provide considerable networking opportunities and the chance to hear direct from both clinicians and researchers about their plans and progress.

Sandra's husband contracted Lyme disease and their struggle to obtain treatment for him has informed her views on the other side of the patient-clinician relationship. She is devoted to her two cats, as is evident from her Twitter account @PearsLDA.

Jinyu Shan ***Borrelia bacteriophages for diagnosis and treatment of Lyme Disease and relapsing fever***

Dr Jinyu Shan earned his Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Microbiology from Shandong University(山东) and Nankai (南开) University in China. After a year's working experience at the University of Hong Kong, he came to the UK in 2003 and studied for his PhD under the supervision of Professor Nick Mann at University of Warwick.

Since 2008, Jinyu has been working as a Post-Doctoral Researcher/Project manager at Professor Martha Clokie's laboratory, University of Leicester. He is an expert in pre-clinical development of bacteriophages (viruses infecting bacteria) targeting human pathogens, including Clostridium difficile (hospital superbug), Burkholderia pseudomallie (the causative agent of melioidosis) and Borrelia strains (the causative agent of Lyme disease). Jinyu drives the invention of a bacteriophage-based Lyme diagnostics, which is currently under development for a commercial prototype.

Jinyu's wife Ying Jia is also a microbiologist with a PhD in molecular microbiology. Jinyu and Ying worked in the same research group. They have two children, and their favourite time is swimming together.

Ian Wright ***Pets, Pet owners and Lyme Disease***

Ian owns and runs a veterinary practice in Lancashire. He has a Master's degree in Veterinary Parasitology and is an editorial board member for the Companion Animal journal. He is also head of the European Scientific Counsel of Companion Animal Parasites (ESCCAP UK & Ireland) and guideline director for ESCCAP Europe.

Ian is regularly published in peer reviewed journals and peer reviews for journals such as JSAP, Companion animal and Veterinary Parasitology. He continues to carry out research in practice including work on intestinal nematodes and tick borne diseases. Originally from Somerset, he is married to Rebecca, who is also a vet, and they have young sons, Nathan and Adam.