

A Timeline of Comings and Goings Related to the HHS Tick-Borne Disease Working Group

On **November 22, 2017**, the Department of Health and Human Services named 14 people to serve on the Tick-Borne Disease Working Group. One of them was Dr. Gary Wormser, chief architect of the highly controversial 2006 IDSA Lyme guidelines. This appointment set off howls of protest in the Lyme community. LymeDisease.org filed a letter objecting to Wormser's appointment, based on his flagrant financial conflicts of interest. Then we started a petition, which gathered more than 10,000 signatures within four days.

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) subsequently announced that Wormser had "declined the invitation" to serve on the Working Group. Because a replacement had not yet been named, the panel's inaugural meetings on **December 11-12, 2017**, included only 13 members.

After the December meetings, the Working Group put out a call for nominations for federal employees and members of the public to serve on six subject-area subcommittees.

On **January 16, 2018**, HHS identified which Working Group members would act as co-chairs for various subcommittees.



On **January 19, 2018**, HHS named Dr. Robert Smith to fill the Working Group seat that was left vacant after Wormser’s departure. Dr. Smith is an infectious disease doctor from Maine. He became co-chair of the Vaccine and Therapeutics Subcommittee.

On **February 6, 2018**, HHS named 53 members to the various subcommittees.

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On **March 2, 2018**, it was announced that three members of subcommittees had withdrawn, and two replacements were then named.

On **March 8, 2018**, HHS announced that Working Group member Karen Vanderhoof-Forschner had resigned.

On **April 16, 2018**, patient advocate Paula Jackson Jones of Maine was named to replace Vanderhoof-Forschner as co-chair of the Access to Care Services and Support to Patients Subcommittee. (However, she did not replace her on the Working Group.)

On **April 24, 2018**, HHS announced changes on the Access to Care Subcommittee: Dr. Enid Haller resigned and patient activist Sherill Franklin filled her seat.

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On

May 2, 2018, Robert Sabatino of New York was named to fill the vacancy in the Working Group. Sabatino, a retired police officer, founded Lyme Society, Inc., a New York-based advocacy organization.

At the Working Group meeting on **May 10, 2018**, Richard Wolitski, who had been serving as the group’s designated federal officer (DFO), announced his own departure from the position. The DFO’s role is to support and coordinate the Working Group’s activities and ensure compliance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act. He was replaced by James Berger, who took over the job immediately.

TBDWG Members	Affiliation
John N. Aucott, MD (Chair)	Johns Hopkins Lyme Disease Clinical Research Center
Kristen Honey, PhD, PMP (Vice-Chair)	U.S. Department of Health & Human Services;
Wendy Adams, MBA	Research Grant Director, Bay Area Lyme Disease Association
Charles Benjamin (Ben) Beard, PhD	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Commander Scott Cooper, PA, MMS	Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
Dennis M. Dixon, PhD	National Institutes of Health
Richard Horowitz, MD	Medical Director, Hudson Valley Healing Arts Center
Captain Estella Jones, DVM	Food and Drug Administration
Lise E. Nigrovic, MD, MPH	Boston Children’s Hospital
Allan L. Richards, PhD	U.S. Department of Defense
Robert Sabatino	Founder and Executive Director of Lyme Society, Inc.
Vanila M. Singh, MD, MACM	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

TBDWG Members	Affiliation
Patricia V. Smith	President, Lyme Disease Association, Inc.
Robert Smith, MD, MPH	Maine Medical Center Research Institute

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Alternate Federal Representatives	Affiliation
David A. Leiby, PhD (FDA)	Food and Drug Administration
Samuel S. Perdue, PhD (NIH)	National Institutes of Health
Susanna N. Visser, DrPH, MS (CDC)	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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Designated Federal Officers	Affiliation
James J. Berger, MS, MT(ASCP), SBB	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
B. Kaye Hayes, MPA	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

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Subcommittees to the TBDWG	Members
<p>Disease Vectors, Surveillance and Prevention</p>	<p>Jill Auerbach Neeta Connally, PhD, MSPH Katherine Feldman, DVM, MPH Thomas N. Mather, PhD Phyllis Mervine Colonel Robin Nadolny, PhD Adalberto Perez de Leon, DVM, PhD, MS Daniel E. Sonenshine, PhD Jean I. Tsao, PhD Monica M. White Stephen Wikel, PhD</p>
<p>Co-Chairs Pat Smith Ben Beard, MS, PhD</p>	
<p>Treatment</p>	<p>Nicole Baumgarth, DVM, PhD Patricia K. Coyle, MD Sam Donta, MD Brian Fallon, MD, MPH Lorraine Johnson, JD, MPH Elizabeth Maloney, MD Jon Skare, PhD Brian Stevenson, PhD</p>
<p>Co-Chairs: Wendy Adams, MBA Captain Estella Jones, DVM</p>	
<p>Testing and Diagnostics</p>	<p>Charles Y. Chiu, MD, PhD Roberta DeBiasi, MD, MS Noel Gerald, PhD Deborah Hoadley, MD, MPH Maliha Illias, PhD Bobbi Pritt, MD, MSc David Roth, JD Steven Schutzer, MD</p>
<p>Co-Chairs: Lise E. Nigrovic, MD, MPH David Roth, JD</p>	

Subcommittees to the TBDWG**Access to Care Services and
Support to Patients****Co-Chairs:**

Paula Jackson Jones
Commander Scott Cooper, MMSc, PA-C

Members

Ana Frost, PhD
Holiday Goodreau
Paula Jackson Jones
Colonel Nicole Malachowski
Leonard Schuchman, DO, MPH,
FAAFP
Sheila M. Statlender, PhD
Kathleen Steele, LCSW
Sherill Franklin
Robert Sabatino

Vaccine and Therapeutics**Co-Chairs:**

Robert Smith, MD, MPH, FACP, FIDSA
Dennis Dixon, PhD

Felipe C. Cabello, MD
Monica E. Embers, PhD
Maria Gomes-Solecki, PhD
Utpal Pal, PhD
Stanley A. Plotkin, MD
Juan Salazar, MD, MPH, FAAP
Leigh Ann Soltysiak, MS
David H. Walker, MD

**Other Tick-Borne Diseases and
Co-Infections****Co-Chairs:**

Richard Horowitz, MD
Allen Richards, PhD

Megan Dulaney, MS
Marna Ericson, PhD
Christine Green, MD
Charles Lubeicznyk, MPH
Ulrike G. Munderloh, DVM, PhD
Christopher D. Paddock, MD,
MPHTM
Samuel S. Perdue, PhD
Sam R. Telford III, ScD

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Editor's note: Any medical information included is based on a personal experience. For questions or concerns regarding health, please consult a doctor or medical professional.