



Impact Report 2025

Momentum

Global Lyme Alliance: Leading the Fight Against Lyme Disease

MISSION

Cure Lyme and other tick-borne diseases through innovative research, awareness, and empowering the patient voice.

VISION

A world free of Lyme and other tick-borne diseases.



FROM OUR CHAIRMAN & FROM OUR CHIEF SCIENTIFIC OFFICER



Every year, more than half a million people are bitten by ticks carrying Lyme and other tick-borne diseases, often without even knowing it. While some recover with early treatment, far too many face a long, painful journey marked by misdiagnosis, chronic symptoms, and limited treatment options. As someone who has personally battled these diseases, I know just how devastating that journey can be.

At Global Lyme Alliance (GLA), we are committed to changing that reality. Through groundbreaking research, compassionate patient support, and powerful awareness campaigns, we are driving progress toward accurate diagnostics, effective treatments, and ultimately, a cure. Since our founding, GLA has invested more than **\$25 million** into this mission.

In 2025, we continue to push boundaries—funding innovative research that brings us closer to solutions patients urgently need. You'll read more about these advancements in the pages that follow.

But our impact goes beyond the lab. This past year, we expanded educational outreach, amplified patient voices, and grew our community. From our peer mentorship program and ambassador network to community events and national campaigns, we're reaching more people than ever before, ensuring that no one has to face Lyme disease alone.

There is still much work ahead, but thanks to your support, we are making measurable, meaningful progress. Together, we're changing lives, and building hope.

With gratitude,

Paul Ross
- Chairman, Global Lyme Alliance



As we look ahead, I am both honored and excited by the opportunity to lead GLA's research efforts during this pivotal time. My connection to GLA runs deep, having been a grantee earlier in my career and serving on the Scientific Advisory Board for over five years, I have witnessed firsthand the organization's unwavering commitment to transforming the landscape of Lyme disease research.

GLA remains steadfast in its mission to push the boundaries of scientific discovery while keeping patients at the center of everything we do. Our research strategy is guided by a commitment to innovation, collaboration, and real-world impact. We are achieving this by strategically funding cutting-edge studies, supporting emerging scientists, fostering cross-disciplinary partnerships, and building essential research infrastructure such as biorepositories. From advancing diagnostics and treatments to exploring the underlying mechanisms of chronic illness, GLA is driving scientific breakthroughs that bring us closer to improved patient outcomes.

With the support of our dedicated community, we will continue to drive impactful research, delivering solutions and renewed hope to those affected by Lyme and other tick-borne diseases. Now more than ever, this progress relies on the generosity of donors and partners who share our vision. Sustained investment in this research is essential to advancing diagnostics, improving treatments, and ultimately, finding a cure.

With gratitude,

Armin Alaedini, Ph.D.
- Chief Scientific Officer, Global Lyme Alliance

ADVANCING THE FRONTIERS OF LYME DISEASE RESEARCH

At Global Lyme Alliance, research isn't just part of our mission; it is at our core. In 2025, GLA continues to fund high-impact studies addressing the most urgent challenges in Lyme disease, including diagnostics, treatment, co-infections, and chronic symptoms. Every grant is rigorously reviewed and globally scoped to ensure maximum impact on patient care.

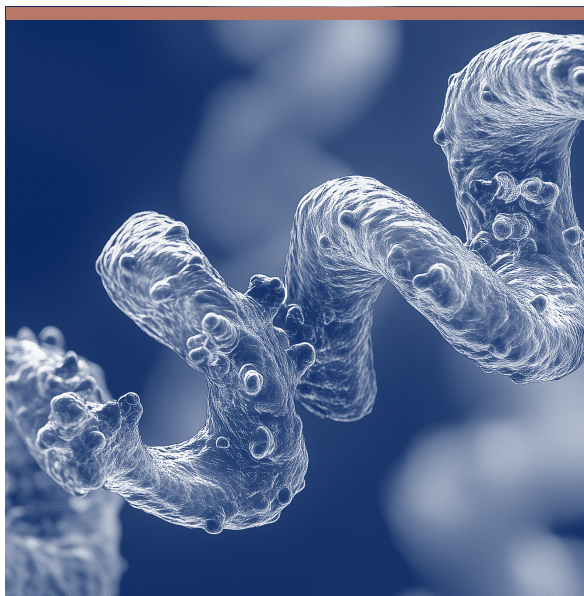
NEWLY FUNDED RESEARCH

THE EUROPEAN LYME BIOREPOSITORY

Led by Dr. Volker Fingerle (German National Reference Center for *Borrelia*) and Dr. Andreas Weiser (Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich), this initiative will create the first unified European Lyme disease biobank. Blood samples from over 10 countries will support the development of improved diagnostics and testing standards.

POTS AND LYME DISEASE

Dr. Brit Adler (Johns Hopkins University) is investigating the link between Lyme disease and postural orthostatic tachycardia syndrome (POTS), aiming to identify risk factors, physiological changes, and pathways for more effective diagnosis and treatment of chronic symptoms.



ONGOING FUNDED RESEARCH

PEDI-LYME NET

Led by Dr. Lise Nigrovic (Boston Children's Hospital/Harvard Medical School), this network of eight pediatric ERs houses the world's only Pediatric Lyme Disease Biobank. With 6,000+ biosamples collected since 2015, Pedi Lyme Net has supported 21 studies and 11 research collaborations, advancing pediatric diagnostics and care.

PATIENT GENETICS

Dr. Klemen Strle (Tufts University) is studying genetic and immune variations in patients to better understand persistent symptoms and identify potential biomarkers for personalized treatment.

EPIGENETICS

Dr. Tanja Petnicki-Ocwieja (Tufts University) is exploring how Lyme bacteria may cause long-term immune system changes by altering epigenetic programming in bone marrow cells—opening doors to new treatment strategies.

PERSISTENCE AND TREATMENT RESISTANCE

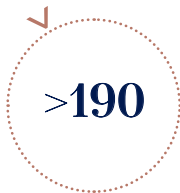
Drs. Jenny Hyde (Texas A&M) and Melissa Caimano (University of Connecticut) are examining whether lingering Lyme bacteria or bacterial remnants contribute to chronic symptoms—and which antibiotics most effectively eliminate them.

BARTONELLOSIS

Dr. Monica Embers (Tulane University) and Dr. Annette Moter (Charité–Berlin University Medicine) are studying how *Bartonella* survives in and outside of cells.

DRIVING INNOVATION IN DIAGNOSIS & TREATMENT

GLA'S SUPPORT IS ACCELERATING THE PATH FROM
DISCOVERY TO PATIENT IMPACT:



GLA-FUNDED
PUBLICATIONS



GRANTS AWARDED
FOR LYME-RELATED
RESEARCH

TREATMENTS

In 2024, GLA-backed research marked a major milestone with the launch of a Phase I human clinical trial of **hygromycin A (FP-100)**, a novel, narrow-spectrum antibiotic rediscovered through GLA-funded work. Originally identified in 1953, **hygromycin A has shown exceptional efficacy against *Borrelia burgdorferi***—the bacterium that causes Lyme disease—while preserving healthy gut bacteria. In partnership with Flightpath Biosciences, GLA is supporting this groundbreaking therapy through its early trials, moving a promising lab discovery one step closer to becoming a targeted treatment.

Dr. Choukri Ben Mamoun, a GLA-funded investigator at Yale treated demonstrated in preclinical studies that a combination of **tafenoquine** and **atovaquone** may effectively treat *babesiosis*, a common tick-borne infection. In 2025, GLA is now providing scientific advisory support to a pharmaceutical company to advance tafenoquine into human clinical trials.

DIAGNOSTICS

At Northwestern University, Dr. Brandon Jutras used GLA seed funding to explore a novel Lyme disease test targeting a unique bacterial biomarker. As a result of GLA's support of the initial idea, his work gained national recognition and earned additional funding through the LymeX Diagnostics Prize to advance the test toward clinical application.

Dr. Ben Mamoun's team also developed the **first sensitive assay** for detecting active *Babesia duncani* infections—an advancement with broad applications for early diagnosis, animal screening, and blood safety.

COLLABORATING FOR GREATER IMPACT

GLA continues to deepen its collaboration with the medical and scientific communities to accelerate discovery, some highlights include:

- Finalized our **Research Strategic Plan** and joined the **Health Research Alliance**, a network of 100+ leading biomedical funders.
- Hosted our **Annual Research Symposium**, bringing together grantees, advisors, and international experts to exchange ideas and foster innovation.
- Celebrated a landmark achievement as **Dr. Linden Hu** (former GLA grantee and current Scientific Advisory Board member) received a **\$20 million NIH grant** to lead one of the largest studies ever on chronic Lyme disease symptoms.
- Led a strategic roundtable with an international biotechnology and diagnostics company, focusing on advancing early biomarkers and understanding emerging tick-borne diseases.

EMPOWERING PATIENTS. RAISING AWARENESS. BUILDING COMMUNITY.



AT GLOBAL LYME ALLIANCE (GLA), WE BELIEVE NO ONE SHOULD FACE LYME DISEASE ALONE. OUR RECENT WORK HAS FOCUSED ON EMPOWERING PATIENTS, SUPPORTING HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS, AND AMPLIFYING THE VOICES OF THOSE AFFECTED—ALL WHILE RAISING NATIONAL AWARENESS AND GROWING OUR GLOBAL IMPACT

PROVIDING COMPASSIONATE SUPPORT AND TRUSTED RESOURCES

GLA remains committed to delivering direct, meaningful support to patients while educating the medical community and expanding awareness of Lyme and other tick-borne diseases.

- **Our CME-accredited programs** help ensure clinicians are better equipped to diagnose and treat tick-borne illnesses.
- Through our **Find a Lyme Specialist program**, we've connected **more than 12,000 individuals** with qualified healthcare providers since 2022.
- **Over 1,050 patients** have received one-on-one support from a dedicated team of **180+ trained peer mentors**, offering guidance and compassion through every step of their Lyme journey.
- These programs have reached patients across the **United States** and in **16 countries worldwide**.

AMBASSADORS LEADING THE WAY

GLA's **Ambassador Program** is a powerful extension of our mission—raising awareness, sharing lived experiences, and organizing community events across the country and beyond.

With **Ambassadors in 38 states and 5 countries**, this passionate network is helping to drive education, reduce stigma, and build a sense of connection among those impacted by Lyme.



Lyme disease nearly stole my vision. Now, I'm dedicated to guiding others through their own journeys. GLA's commitment to research, awareness, and patient support is inspiring. This cause has become my soul's mission.

– **Dianna Brescia** GLA Ambassador



EMPOWERING THE PATIENT VOICE

PROVIDING COMPASSIONATE SUPPORT AND TRUSTED RESOURCES

GLA continues to expand its platforms to inform, inspire, and amplify the patient voice like never before.

- GLA.org remains a leading online resource, **attracting millions of visitors annually** for research, education, and support.
- Our social media presence across **Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn, TikTok, and YouTube** continues to grow—fostering awareness and connection within the Lyme community.
- In April 2025, we launched **The Lyme Wire**, a weekly email newsletter featuring research updates, patient stories, and advocacy news. Averaging over **17,000 opens per issue**, it's become a vital tool for engaging our community.



LYME+ PODCAST - A DYNAMIC NEW VOICE

In October 2024, GLA launched the **Lyme+ podcast**, hosted by **GLA Board Member Kenzie Vath** and **Ambassador Dan Wagner**. This biweekly show delivers bold, honest conversations about life with Lyme and other tick-borne diseases. Covering topics from diagnosis and treatment to personal journeys and expert interviews, **Lyme+** is becoming a trusted voice for information and awareness—streaming across all major platforms.



EVENTS WITH IMPACT

From coast to coast, GLA's presence is growing thanks to major events and grassroots efforts led by Ambassadors and volunteers.

- On **October 9, 2024**, GLA hosted its **9th Annual Gala** in New York City, where **Dr. Jeffrey Morrison, Founder of The Morrison Center**, received the prestigious **Kelly Hero Award**. The evening also honored **Peter Thomas Roth** for his **Lyme advocacy**. The event raised vital funds and earned 215 million media impressions, including *People*, *Page Six*, and *Us Weekly*.
- On **June 9, 2025**, we welcomed supporters to Greenwich Country Club in CT for another successful **Annual Golf and Pickleball Tournament**, raising **\$250,000** in critical funds and awareness.



Meanwhile, **Ambassadors and volunteers organized events nationwide**—including educational panels, art fundraisers, and community gatherings—expanding GLA's reach and impact at the grassroots level.



CAMPAIGNS WITH IMPACT

GLA's national **PSA campaign** featuring **Christopher Meloni** reached millions of households across television and digital platforms, shining a powerful spotlight on the reality of Lyme disease.

Meloni has become a passionate advocate in the battle to defeat Lyme disease. In 2024, he took the battle to **Washington DC**—leading a delegation of likeminded leaders to engage Capitol Hill legislators and policymakers inspiring much-needed conversations regarding research funding and legislative action.

JOIN US

WE'RE IN THIS FIGHT TOGETHER.

The community of Global Lyme Alliance is inspired by the progress our funded researchers are making every day. We are humbled by their efforts to defeat Lyme disease and its co-infections.

At the same time, we are proud to be working side by side with Lyme survivors who, every day, are fighting their own battles against this disease while helping fellow patients as mentors and community ambassadors.

None of us can defeat Lyme disease alone. GLA needs your hope, your strength and your financial support.

VOLUNTEER. ADVOCATE. GIVE.

We can beat Lyme disease and its co-infections...
TOGETHER!

Cuts in federal funding for Lyme research makes your support of Global Lyme Alliance more critical than ever. Take the next step and make a major impact at this crucial time. Use the QR code below to fight for a Lyme-free world.



TO FURTHER SUPPORT VISIT GLA.ORG/DONATE



GLOBAL LYME ALLIANCE

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