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GLA.org

# 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

A YEAR OF  
ACTION



427,000  
NEW CASES OF  
LYME DISEASE IN  
THE U.S. EACH YEAR

BASED ON CDC 2017 LYME DISEASE CASE NUMBERS.

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A LETTER FROM  
OUR CEO & CHAIRMAN

DEAR FRIENDS:

The year 2017 was one of exciting progress for Global Lyme Alliance (GLA). Thanks to strong donor support, GLA committed more than \$2 million in Lyme disease research grants — double our previous year’s commitment — investing in studies that we saw had the greatest potential for significant, measurable, marketable advances. GLA-funded grantees are discovering the molecular biology of the Lyme bacterium, identifying new targets for treatment, and exploring drug combinations that successfully attack “persister” cells, which successfully evade conventional antibiotics.

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GLA also made a strong investment in the future of Lyme disease research by awarding its first-ever fellowships to five young postdoctoral scientists focusing on Post-Treatment Lyme Disease Syndrome (PTLDS). The three-year fellowships were made possible by Deborah and Mark Blackman and are a first for any Lyme disease organization.

Research firsts continued when we became the only 501(c)(3) with two in-house Ph.D.s. Now Timothy J. Sellati, Ph.D. who joined us as Chief Scientific Officer in 2017, works with Mayla Hsu, Ph.D. to oversee our highly regarded Scientific Advisory Board, comprised of top Lyme and tick-borne scientists and innovators.

As the Lyme threat grows throughout the U.S., so do GLA’s initiatives. We expanded our outreach to educate physicians, schools and educators, summer camps and the general public. We also held our first fundraising and awareness event in Chicago in 2017, which will now be an annual event.

Despite our dynamic progress, however, the sad fact remains that 427,000 people in the U.S. annually are diagnosed with Lyme. Our work, in other words, remains ongoing. We are working diligently to build partnerships with others in the Lyme community, researchers to bridge the gap between research discoveries and their translation into marketable products, a process which will ensure that discoveries reach the public quickly and in useful form.

What we have been able to accomplish is entirely due to your kind generosity. It will be your ongoing dedication that will allow us to continue to shift knowledge of this insidious disease from uncertainty and misunderstanding to clarity and comprehension as we continue on our path to a cure. Thank you for your support. We are honored to have you with us on this critical journey!

Thank you,



*Scott Santarella*

Scott Santarella  
CEO  
Global Lyme Alliance



*Robert Kobre*

Robert Kobre  
Chairman of the Board  
Global Lyme Alliance

LYME  
DISEASE  
BY THE  
NUMBERS

LYME HAS BEEN  
REPORTED IN ALL  
50 STATES  
AND IN MORE THAN  
80 COUNTRIES



## HOW GLA DRIVES CHANGE

### OUR MISSION

THE MISSION OF GLOBAL LYME ALLIANCE IS TO CONQUER LYME AND OTHER TICK-BORNE DISEASES THROUGH RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND AWARENESS.

### OUR VISION

GLA'S VISION IS TO FIND A CURE FOR THOSE SUFFERING FROM LYME AND OTHER TICK-BORNE DISEASES, AND TO PREVENT FUTURE GENERATIONS FROM SUFFERING THE SAME FATE.

### OUR PROCESS

WE FOCUS ON A THREE-PRONGED APPROACH: ADVANCING CRITICALLY-NEEDED LYME AND TICK-BORNE DISEASE RESEARCH; DELIVERING INNOVATIVE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS; AND RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS BY DELIVERING CONTENT TO LYME PATIENTS, CAREGIVERS, EDUCATORS, RESEARCHERS AND HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS THROUGH DIGITAL INITIATIVES, COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS AND IN-PERSON WORKSHOPS.

# GLA LEADERSHIP

CEO  
Scott Santarella

CHAIRMAN  
Robert Kobre

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Robert Kobre, *Chairman*  
Charles Balducci, *Vice Chair*  
Diane Blanchard, *Vice Chair*  
Staci Grodin, *Vice Chair*  
Debbie Siciliano, *Vice Chair*  
Henry Dosch, *Treasurer*  
Janet Vaccaro, *Secretary*

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Lorrie Nadel	Lew Leone
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Paul Ross	Steve Martin
Ridgway Barker	Dana McAvity
Chris Corrinet	David Nolan
Nancy Del Genio	Peter Norley
Jennifer Frascella	Norma Russo
David Gerstner	Alexander Tisch
Julia Knox-Comeau	

# SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD

Timothy J. Sellati, Ph.D.  
Chief Scientific Officer  
*GLA*  
  
Mayla Hsu, Ph.D.  
Director of Research & Science  
*GLA*  
  
Armin Alaedini, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor of Medicine  
*Columbia University Medical Center*

John Belisle, Ph.D.  
Professor Department of Microbiology, Immunology and Pathology  
*Colorado State University*  
  
Catherine A. Brissette, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor of Biomedical Sciences  
*University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences*  
  
Charles Chiu, M.D., Ph.D.  
Associate Professor of Laboratory Medicine and Medicine  
*University of California, San Francisco*

Allison K. DeLong, M.S.  
Biostatistician, Center for Statistical Studies  
*Brown University*  
  
Richard Goldstein, D.V.M.  
Executive Director and Chief Medical Officer of Diagnostics  
*Zoetis, Inc.*

Linden T. Hu, M.D.  
Vice Dean of Research and Professor of Molecular Biology and Microbiology  
*Tufts University School of Medicine*  
  
Andreas Kogelnik, M.D., Ph.D.  
Founder and Director  
*Open Mind Institute*  
  
Richard T. Marconi, Ph.D.  
Professor, School of Medicine  
*Virginia Commonwealth University*

Adriana Marques, M.D.  
Chief of a Clinical Studies Unit within the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases  
*National Institutes of Health*  
  
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Vice President, Early Clinical Development and Experimental Sciences, Rare Diseases  
*Regeneron Pharmaceuticals Inc.*

Richard S. Ostfeld, Ph.D.  
Senior Scientist and Disease Ecologist  
*Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies*  
  
Utpal Pal, Ph.D.  
Professor, Department of Veterinary Medicine and Director of the Veterinary Medical Sciences Graduate Program  
*University of Maryland*

Mark J. Soloski, Ph.D.  
Professor of Medicine, Pathology, Molecular Biology & Genetics and Molecular Microbiology and Immunology  
*Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine*  
  
Susan Swedo, M.D.  
Chief of the Pediatrics and Developmental Neuroscience Branch  
*National Institute of Mental Health*

R. Mark Wooten, Ph.D.  
Department of Microbiology and Immunology  
*University of Toledo College of Medicine*

## FINANCIAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

Robert Kobre, C.P.A., M.B.A.  
GLA Chairman and Vice Chairman  
*Investment Banking at Credit Suisse*  
  
Scott Santarella  
CEO  
*GLA*  
  
Brian Scanlan  
President  
*Mount Hope Capital*

\*BOD as of Nov. 10, 2018

\*SAB as of Nov. 10, 2018



# 2017: A YEAR OF ACTION

FEB

Awarded a record \$2 million in Lyme disease research grants, doubling the previous year’s commitment.

MAR

GLA announced first-ever tick bite prevention educational partnership program with Ivy Oaks Analytics, targeting summer camps. The program impacts camp staff, campers, and camp families.

“Evening of Art and Education” held in Chicago, marking GLA’s first awareness- raising event in the Midwest.

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APR

Partnered with NYS Public Utilities Safety Directors to discuss the importance of tick safety for outdoor utility workers.

Annual Research Symposium for Lyme and tick-borne disease researchers held to foster brainstorming of new diagnostic and therapeutic measures, communication and collaboration.

MAY

Hosted educational program—“Lyme Disease: Your Child Is at Risk. And So Are You”— at the University of Connecticut. Speakers included Dr. Brian Fallon, Columbia University; Dr. Kirby Stafford, Chief Scientist/State Entomologist, State of Connecticut, and Dr. Denis Bouboulis, leading autoimmune physician.

JUN

Expanded our world-renowned Scientific Advisory Board to include Scott Mellis, M.D., Ph.D., Regeneron Pharmaceuticals and Utpal Pal, Ph.D., Department of Veterinary Medicine, University of Maryland.

JUL

Raised significant awareness with the launch of the “Be Tick AWARE” program aimed at protecting children at summer camp and families’ outdoor activities.

Team GLA completed first Tough Mudder endurance challenge, led by CEO Scott Santarella.

AUG

Hosted first Chicago fundraiser with highly successful “Sublyme Soiree.”

Received a record 32 research grant requests.

SEP

Hired in-house Chief Scientific Officer to lead Research Program, Timothy J. Sellati, Ph.D.

OCT

Partnered with Ionica Sciences and Cornell University to develop new Lyme disease diagnostic test. This represents the first-ever venture philanthropy initiative for a Lyme 501(c)(3).

Held annual NYC Gala honoring Joseph Abboud and Marisol Thomas, with entertainment by Rob Thomas and Chris Daughtry. The event raised \$2 million.

DEC

Awarded first-ever GLA-Deborah and Mark Blackman fellowships to five young postdoctoral scientists whose work focuses on Post-Treatment Lyme Disease Syndrome (PTLDS).

Year-end campaign raised 350% more than previous year’s online fundraising campaign, from \$10.6k to \$50.1k.



# RESEARCH IMPACT

GLA'S LYME DISEASE RESEARCH GRANT FUNDING DRIVES THE MOST SIGNIFICANT SCIENTIFIC ADVANCEMENTS IN THE FIELD. OPERATING AT THE FOREFRONT OF DISCOVERY AND INNOVATION, GLA IS A CATALYST FOR CHANGE ACROSS THE LYME DISEASE WORLD.

## IMPORTANT GLA-FUNDED STUDIES ON LYME DISEASE WERE PUBLISHED IN 2017, INCLUDING:

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**Tracy KE and Baumgarth N. (2017)**

*Borrelia burgdorferi* Manipulates Innate and Adaptive Immunity to Establish Persistence in Rodent Reservoir Hosts *Frontiers in Immunology* (2017) Vol 8, page 116. doi: 10.3389/fimmu.2017.00116

**Feng J, Zhang S, Shi W, Zhang Y. (2017)**

Activity of sulfa drugs and their combinations against stationary phase *B. burgdorferi* in vitro. *Antibiotics* 6:pii:E10. Doi: 10.3390/antibiotics6010010.

**Bouquet J, Melgar M, Swei A, Delwart E, RS, Chiu CY. (2017)**

Metagenomic-based surveillance of Pacific coast tick *Dermacentor occidentalis* identifies two novel bunyaviruses and an emerging human rickettsial pathogen. *Sci Rep.* 7:12234. doi:10.1038/s41598-017-12047-6.

**Jessen Condry DL, Bradley DS, Brissette CA. (2017)**

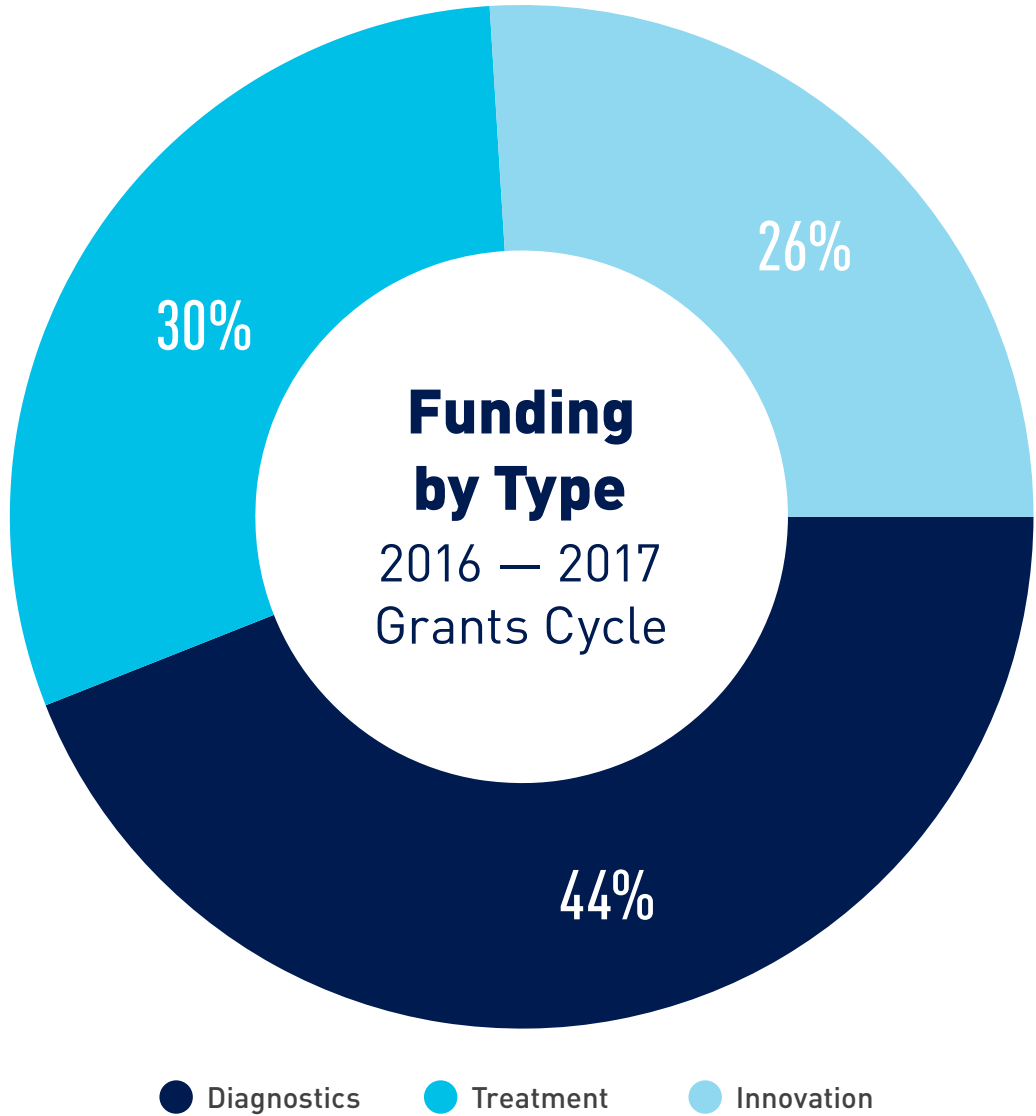
Design of a Lyme disease vaccine as an active learning approach in a novel interdisciplinary graduate-level course. *J Microbiol Biol Edu* DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1128/jmbe.v18i3.1304>.

**Rebman AW, Bechtold KT, Yang T, Mihm EA, Soloski MJ, Novak CB, Aucott JN. (2017)**

The Clinical, Symptom, and Quality-of-Life Characterization of a Well-Defined Group of Patients with Posttreatment Lyme Disease Syndrome. *Front Med (Lausanne)* 4:224. doi: 10.3389/fmed.2017.00224.

**Stone BL, Tourand Y, Brissette CA. (2017)**

Brave new worlds: the expanding universe of Lyme disease. *Vector-borne Zoo Dis* 17:619.



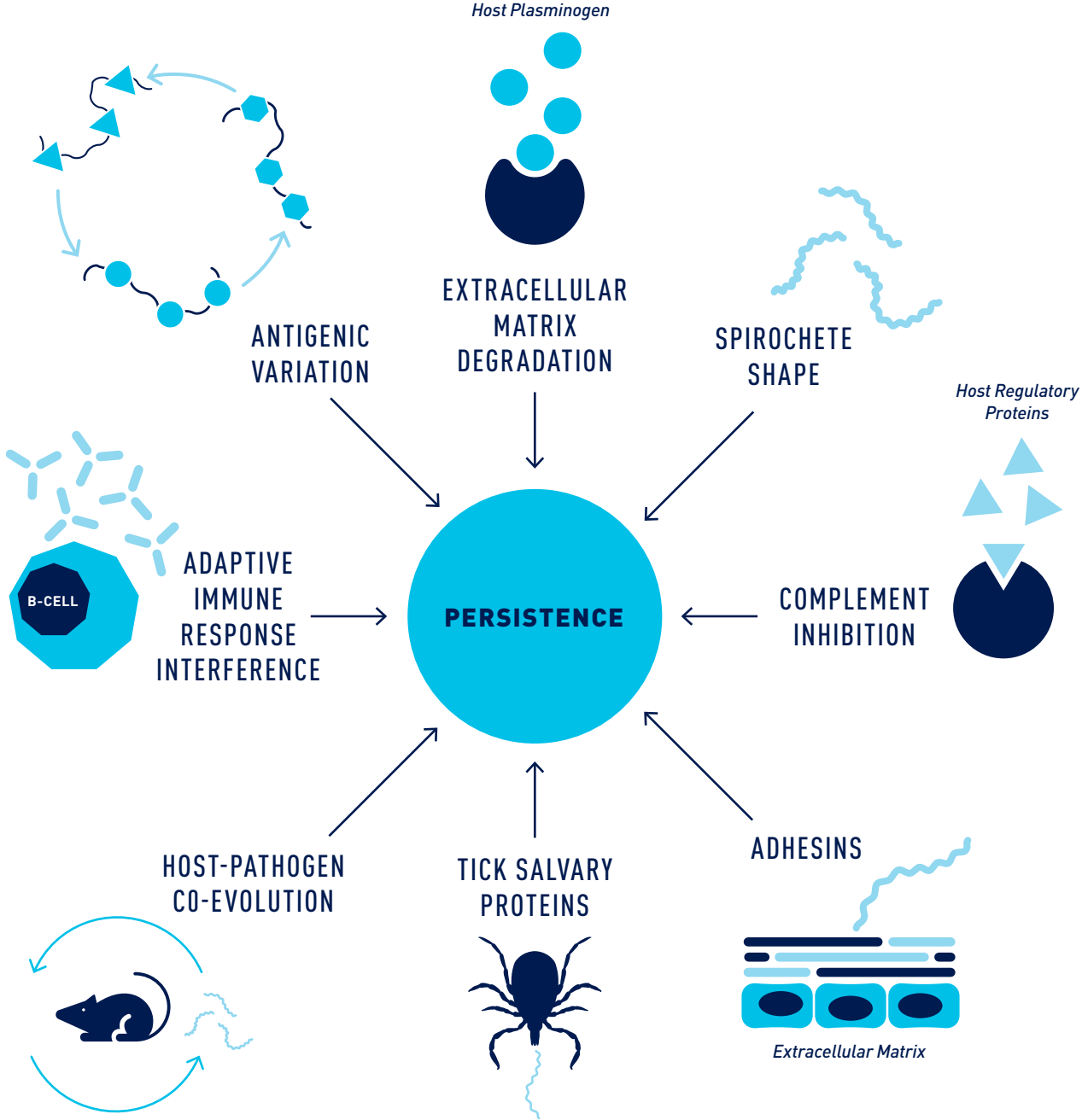
### NOTES FROM THE COMMUNITY

“THANK YOU GLA FOR CONTINUOUSLY WORKING TOWARDS MAKING SUCH A POSITIVE IMPACT ON THE LIVES OF ALL THAT ARE SUFFERING FROM LYME DISEASE. I HAVE PERSONALLY BEEN SICK FOR 2 YEARS AND MY 5 YR OLD SON WAS JUST DIAGNOSED WITH CONGENITAL LYME. WE ARE DESPERATELY HOPING FOR A CURE.”

— MEGAN, GEORGIA

# RESEARCH IMPACT

A KEY FOCUS OF GLA'S RESEARCH INITIATIVE IS TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THE PERSISTENT AND CHRONIC FORM OF THE LYME BACTERIUM. THE DIAGRAM ON THE RIGHT IS FROM DR. NICOLE BAUMGARTH'S PUBLISHED RESEARCH IN *FRONTIERS IN IMMUNOLOGY*, "BORRELIA BURGDORFERI MANIPULATES INNATE AND ADAPTIVE IMMUNITY TO ESTABLISH PERSISTENCE IN RODENT RESERVOIR HOSTS" SHOWS AN OVERVIEW OF FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO PERSISTENCE OF *BORRELIA BURGDORFERI* IN RODENT HOSTS.



Shown are eight bacterial characteristics and mechanisms that *B. burgdorferi* may use to establish persistence in the rodent host: Spirochete shape, antigenic variation and changes in gene expression, plasminogen binding and destruction of the extracellular matrix, interference with the adaptive immune response, host-pathogen co-evolution, tick salivary protein-mediated immunosuppression, adhesins allowing entrance into the vasculature and tissues, and interference with complement via CRASPs, and BBK32.

— *Frontiers in Immunology*, Feb. 20, 2017

# 2017 GRANTEES & PROJECTS

GLA AWARDED 15 LYME RESEARCH GRANTS IN 2017, FOLLOWING A RIGOROUS PEER-REVIEW PROCESS WHICH USES GUIDELINES ESTABLISHED BY THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH. GRANTEES ARE:

**Armin Alaedini, Ph.D.**  
*Columbia University*  
“VisE antibodies against different *Borrelia burgdorferi* strains”

**John Aucott, Ph.D.**  
*Johns Hopkins University*  
“Anti-brain antibodies in post-treatment Lyme disease syndrome”

**Alan Barbour, M.D.**  
*University of California-Irvine*  
“Why don’t wild mice get Lyme disease?”

**Nicole Baumgarth, M.D.**  
*University of California-Davis*  
“Immune cell dysfunction in mouse model of Lyme disease”

**Catherine Brissette, Ph.D.**  
*University of North Dakota*  
“Control of *Borrelia burgdorferi* DNA expression”

**Charles Chiu, M.D., Ph.D.**  
*University of California-San Francisco*  
“Tick chip: identify pathogen cause of STARI”

**Thomas Divers, D.V.M.**  
*Cornell University*  
“Do cattle get Lyme disease?”

**Monica Embers, Ph.D.**  
*Tulane National Primate Research Center*  
“Bb genetic changes with antibiotic treatment, in rats”

**Henry Hampton, Ph.D.**  
*Institute for Systems Biology*  
“Gene transcription in PTLDS patients: postdoc training”

**Chris Janson, M.D.**  
*University of Chicago*  
“Bb persistence in BBB model”

**A.T. Charlie Johnson, Ph.D.**  
*University of Pennsylvania*  
“High tech Bb antibody and antigen detection”

**Kim Lewis, Ph.D.**  
*Northeastern University*  
“Discovery of new antibiotics and combos”

**Benjamin Luft, M.D.**  
*State University of New York-Stony Brook*  
“PET scans neuroborreliosis”

**Janakiram Seshu, Ph.D.**  
*University of Texas-San Antonio*  
“Bb fatty acid metabolism, do statins kill Bb?”

**Ying Zhang, M.D., Ph.D.**  
*Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health*  
“Persister antibodies in PTLDS patients”

WE ALSO PARTNERED WITH IONICA SCIENCES, AN ITHACA, NEW YORK BIOTECHNOLOGY COMPANY, AND CORNELL UNIVERSITY TO ACCELERATE THE DEVELOPMENT OF A HIGHLY SENSITIVE LYME DISEASE DIAGNOSTIC TEST. THIS REPRESENTS THE FIRST-EVER VENTURE PHILANTHROPY INITIATIVE FOR A LYME 501(C)(3).

IN ADDITION, WE AWARDED OUR FIRST-EVER ROUND OF FELLOWSHIPS TO FIVE YOUNG POSTDOCTORAL GRADUATES WHOSE WORK FOCUSES ON POST-TREATMENT LYME DISEASE SYNDROME (PTLDS). THEY ARE (PICTURED BELOW WITH DEBORAH BLACKMAN):

**George Aranjuez, Ph.D.**  
*University of Central Florida*

**Chrysoula Kitsou, Ph.D.**  
*University of Maryland*

**Bijaya Sharma, Ph.D.**  
*Tufts University*

**Ashley Groshong, Ph.D.**  
*University of Connecticut*

**Matthew Muramatsu, Ph.D.**  
*University of Texas-Southwestern*

The three-year fellowships were made possible with the generous support of Deborah and Mark Blackman.



# EDUCATION IMPACT

EDUCATION IS A CRITICAL COMPONENT IN THE FIGHT AGAINST LYME AND OTHER TICK-BORNE ILLNESSES. GLOBAL LYME ALLIANCE EDUCATES CHILDREN, SCHOOLS, PHYSICIANS AND THE COMMUNITY ABOUT TICK-BITE PREVENTION AND LYME DISEASE THROUGH A SCHOOL-BASED CURRICULUM, CME PHYSICIAN TRAINING, SUMMER CAMP AND BE TICK AWARE PROGRAMS, AND IN-PERSON EDUCATIONAL EVENTS.

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## PHYSICIANS

Educating healthcare providers is paramount in helping to diagnose and treat patients in a timely, respectful, and effective manner. To facilitate this, in 2017 GLA made its CME-accredited medical education program, “Pediatric Tick-Borne Disease: Diagnosis and Management,” available free of charge to more than 3,700 healthcare professionals. To date nearly 10,000 professionals have accessed the CME program.

## SCHOOLS

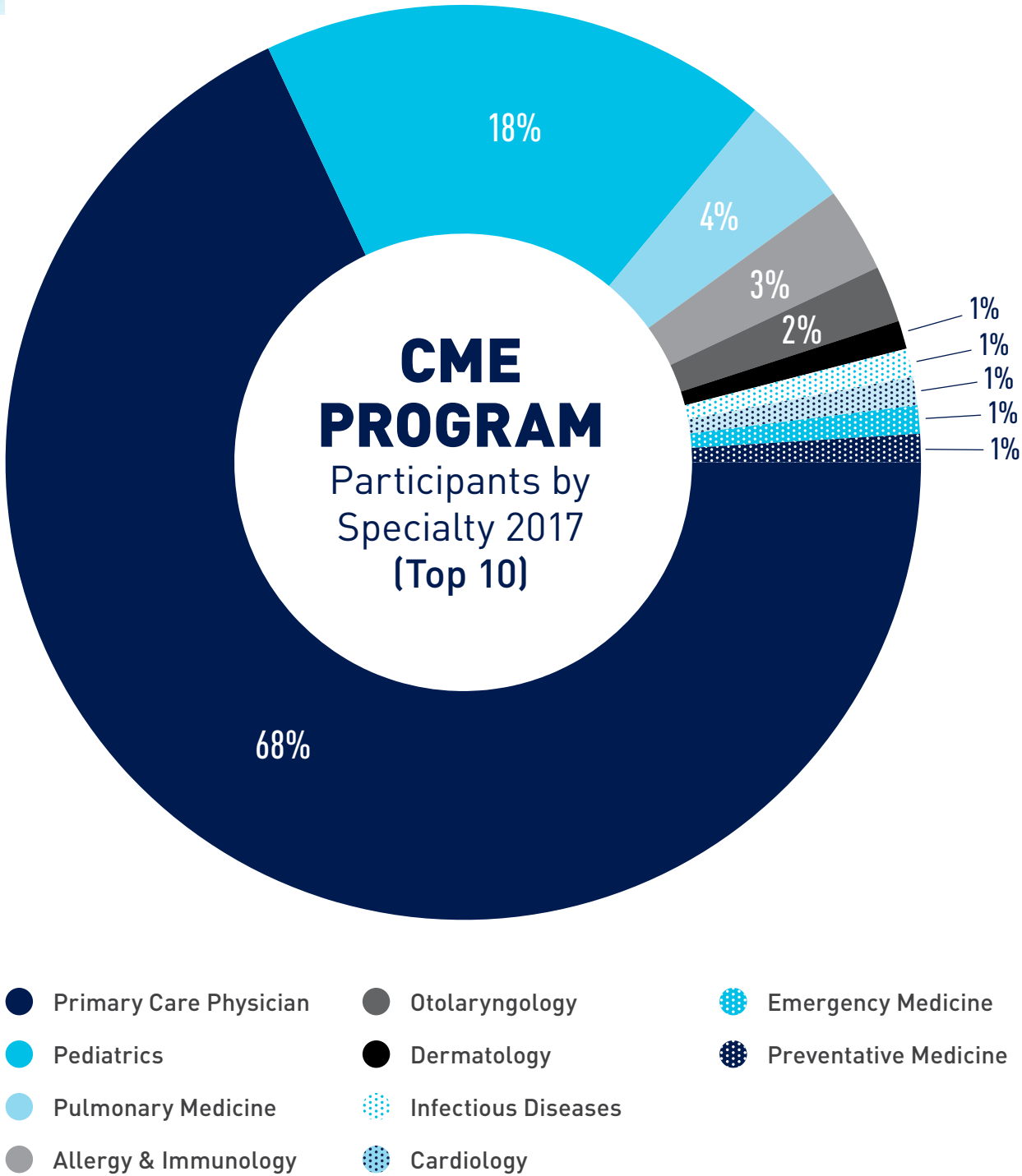
In 2017, thousands of educators across the United States accessed, free of charge, GLA’s online, interactive Lyme and tick-borne disease curriculum for students in grades K-12. The lessons teach students how to identify ticks, avoid tick habitats, what to do if a tick is found, symptoms of Lyme disease and more. The Interactive Curriculum complements GLA’s print curriculum program.

## CAMPS & COMMUNITY: BE TICK AWARE

GLA partnered with Ivy Oaks Analytics to educate summer camp directors, staffers, and campers about the threat posed by ticks. Some 58 camps in seven states known as hotbeds for ticks signed on to receive GLA’s “Be Tick AWARE” prevention kits. Some 100,000 individuals were educated by the program. The 2017 initiative was so successful, in fact, that more than 120 camps signed up moving into 2018. GLA’s “Be Tick AWARE” kits and collateral materials are also available to the public.

## PUBLIC AWARENESS & TALKS

Throughout the year, GLA was proud to address a broad range of audiences at public venues in an effort to raise awareness and prevent Lyme disease. Among those GLA addressed was the New York State Public Utilities Safety Directors. This presentation focused on how to keep outdoor utility workers safe from tick-borne disease.



# COMMUNITY AWARENESS & IMPACT

IN 2017, GLA REACHED A GLOBAL COMMUNITY OF MORE THAN 10 MILLION THROUGH ITS WEBSITE, SOCIAL MEDIA, E-NEWSLETTER AND PSAS (PUBLIC SERVICE ADS). THROUGH INTEGRATED LOCAL AND NATIONAL INITIATIVES, WE WERE ALSO ABLE TO BROADEN OUR OUTREACH AND INCREASE OUR IMPACT.

## WEBSITE

GLA continued to expand the content and functionality of its website. GLA.org provides content and resources focusing on tick bite prevention, disease symptoms and diagnosis, locating Lyme-literate healthcare providers, as well as blogs, personal stories and the latest research findings. In 2017, GLA.org served users from 169 countries and experienced an 182% increase in total website traffic.

## NEWSLETTER

Nearly 50,000 people received GLA's bi-monthly e-newsletter highlighting the latest in Lyme disease research, GLA-funded researchers, updates about GLA, events, education and awareness initiatives, and more.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media plays a key role in communicating both with Lyme patients and the general community. It also serves as an important resource for Lyme patients to gather and share their stories, as well as a growing fundraising stream. In 2017, GLA's social media platforms reached new heights:


- Facebook:** Community reach climbed to **6 million**
- Twitter:** **1.5 million** impressions
- YouTube:** More than **50,000** views
- Instagram:** Following increased by nearly **60%**

## LYME-LITERATE DOCTOR REFERRALS

GLA has helped more than 35,000 families connect with health practitioners who understand how to diagnose and treat Lyme and other complex tick-borne illnesses.

## PSAS

GLA launched a new Lyme disease awareness campaign in June 2017 with three PSAs in Condé Nast and Meredith Parenting Group magazines. The print ads focused on the threat of Lyme to children, the unreliability of the Lyme diagnostic test, and broad spectrum of Lyme disease symptoms. Each month the PSAs reach approximately 1.25 million households across the U.S.




“LYME DISEASE IS IN EVERY STATE WITH A GOLF COURSE. ALWAYS BE TICK AWARE.”

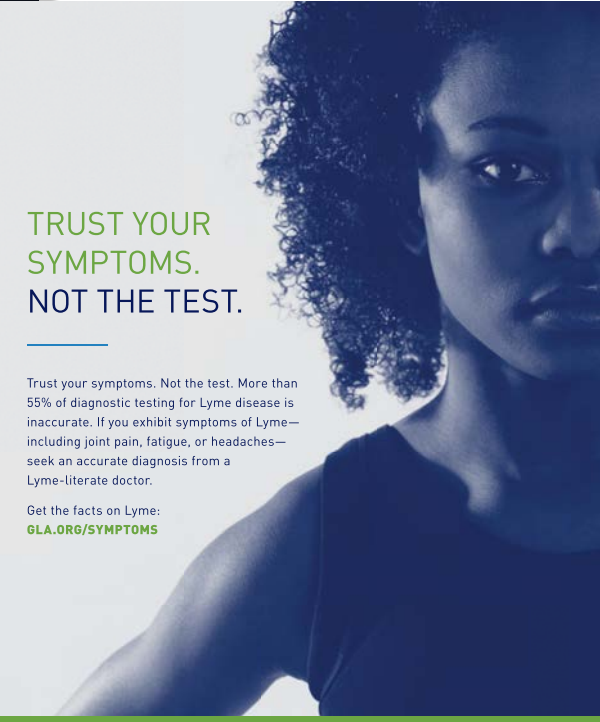
— Jimmy Walker, Winner, 2016 PGA Championship

### BE TICK AWARE.

- A. AVOID** long grass, beach grass, and stone walls. Do you really need to retrieve that ball in the rough?
- W. WEAR** light-colored clothing, including pants, long socks, long sleeved shirts. Makes ticks easier to spot!
- A. APPLY** EPA-approved tick repellent to skin, clothing and even shoes. Cover every spot a tick could land.
- R. REMOVE** clothing when you get home or to the locker room. Put into dryer at HIGH temp for 10-15 minutes.
- E. EXAMINE** yourself for ticks, from the top of your head to between your toes. Check everywhere!

Severe joint pain, unexplained fatigue, constant headaches, lingering flu-like symptoms, and brain fog are just a few of the more than 100 symptoms associated with Lyme disease. [GET THE FACTS. GLA.ORG](#)






### TRUST YOUR SYMPTOMS. NOT THE TEST.

Trust your symptoms. Not the test. More than 55% of diagnostic testing for Lyme disease is inaccurate. If you exhibit symptoms of Lyme—including joint pain, fatigue, or headaches—seek an accurate diagnosis from a Lyme-literate doctor.

Get the facts on Lyme:  
[GLA.ORG/SYMPTOMS](#)

Lyme disease is an infectious disease spread by the bite of infected black-legged (deer) ticks. Lyme has been reported in all 50 states and with more than 330,000 new cases in the U.S. each year, it makes up 90% of all reported cases of vector-borne illness. (CDC)





**#LymeIsReal**

- 16 years of growing symptoms
- Late stage neurological Lyme Borreliosis
- Babesiosis
- Borreliosis
- Parvovirus
- Epstein-Barr
- Hashimoto's Thyroiditis
- Autoimmune Disease

14 years before seizures, a brain scan + brain surgery lead to diagnosis

2 years fighting daily

**#LymeDiseaseAwareness**



IN THE NEWS

LYME DISEASE CAPTURED MANY HEADLINES IN 2017, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME GLA RECEIVED WIDESPREAD COVERAGE IN PROMINENT MEDIA OUTLETS. *ROLLING STONE* FEATURED GLA CEO SCOTT SANTARELLA AND SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER MARK SOLOSKI IN AN ARTICLE TITLED "LYME DISEASE: INSIDE AMERICA'S MYSTERIOUS EPIDEMIC," WHILE *WORTH* PROFILED GLA VICE CHAIR CHARLES BALDUCCI'S PERSONAL JOURNEY WITH LYME CARDITIS.

ARTICLES ALSO APPEARED IN PREVENTION, READER'S DIGEST AND OTHERS, WHILE BROADCAST OUTLETS SUCH AS FOX5 NY, WNET/METROFOCUS, CHEDDAR TV FEATURED GLA.

Our Galas were covered extensively by national and international outlets, including InStyle, ET Online and the DailyMailUK. GLA reached nearly 550 million people in 2017 through its press and media outreach, doubling its reach from 2016. (TrendKite reporting).



CHEDDAR TV WITH ALLY HILFIGER AND GLA CHAIRMAN ROBERT KOBRE

NOTES FROM THE COMMUNITY

“MY HUSBAND JOHN AND I, AND OUR DAUGHTER GABRIELLE LOST OUR BEAUTIFUL SON/BROTHER TO LYME DISEASE IN 2015 AND I AM WRITING HIS STORY. IT IS NOT UNLIKE THE STRUGGLING STORY OF TOO MANY LYME WARRIORS AND THEIR AMAZING FAMILIES AND LOVED ONES. THANK YOU GLA FOR EMERGING AS A SOURCE OF CREDIBILITY, DEDICATION AND DESPERATELY NEEDED HOPE. WE COULDN'T FIND YOU IN OUR DARKEST DAYS. WE HAVE FOUND YOU NOW AND FOREVER STAND IN YOUR LIGHT, ILLUMINATING THE PATH TO WELLNESS FOR OTHERS.”

— ELIZABETH, WASHINGTON

# EVENTS WITH IMPACT

GLOBAL LYME ALLIANCE HOSTED A VARIETY OF SUCCESSFUL EVENTS—FROM LARGE SCALE GALAS TO REGIONAL SPORTING COMPETITIONS. THESE EVENTS PLAYED A CRITICAL ROLE IN BOTH RAISING CRITICAL FUNDS FOR GLA RESEARCH AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS AS WELL AS GENERATING GREATER AWARENESS ABOUT LYME DISEASE.

## GREENWICH GALA APRIL 1, 2017

*Hyatt Regency Greenwich, Greenwich, Connecticut*

Our annual Greenwich Gala raised almost \$800k and was attended by more than 450 guests, including U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal, U.S. Rep. Jim Hines, bestselling novelist Jay McInerney, UFC lightweight fighter Jim Miller, prominent business leaders, esteemed scientists and philanthropists. Honored at the event was Dr. Harriet Kotsoris, who received the Lauren F. Brooks Hope Award for her pioneering 10 years as GLA’s Chief Scientific Officer, and singer-songwriter Marina Morgan who received GLA’s Star Light Award.

Co-chairs for the Gala were Tara Vessels and Robyn Carpenter, both Darien, Connecticut residents, as well as Heather Glass, of Weston, and Amy Tambini, of Westport. The evening’s emcee was Gretchen Carlson.

## NEW YORK GALA OCTOBER 11, 2017

*Cipriani 42nd Street, New York, New York*

The New York City Gala raised nearly \$2 million and was attended by more than 700 people. Honored for raising Lyme disease awareness were Marisol Thomas, philanthropist, animal rights advocate and wife of musician, Rob Thomas; and Joseph Abboud, award-winning menswear designer and author. Rosanna Scotto, co-anchor of “FOX5 Good Day New York” hosted the event. The ceremony was followed by performances by Grammy award-winning artist, Rob Thomas, and Grammy-nominated singer-songwriter, Chris Daughtry.

Co-Chairs for the gala included Tim Baxter, president and CEO, Samsung Electronics America; Nick Lippman, partner, Lippman Entertainment; Jay McInerney, bestselling author; Jarrod Nadel, chief product development director, Tailored Brands, Inc.; Julian Niccolini, partner, The Four Seasons Restaurant; David Nolan, vice chairman, Millennium Management; Larry Scott, owner, Lawrence Scott Events; Rob Thomas and Alex von Bidder, partner, The Four Seasons Restaurant.



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# BRANDED EVENTS

GLOBAL LYME ALLIANCE HOSTED NUMEROUS BRANDED EVENTS IN 2017 WHOSE PURPOSE WAS TWO-PRONGED: TO CREATE AN AMAZING EXPERIENCES FOR OUR SUPPORTERS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS, AND TO RAISE FUNDS TO SUPPORT OUR MISSION. EXAMPLES INCLUDED:

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## Sublyme Soirée

GLA’s inaugural foodie fundraiser in Chicago, led by Lyme warriors Kasey Passen and Alex Moresco, promoted wellness with gluten-and-dairy-free cuisine. More than a dozen chefs participated in the August event, which raised over \$60,000.

## Teed Off at Lyme

The June 2017 golf tournament, spearheaded by Rebecca Tibball, consisted of 18 holes of golf at Shuttle Meadow Country Club, Berlin, Connecticut.. About 160 people attended the event which consisted of a dinner, silent auction and a raffle. Eighty-nine players participated in the tournament, raising \$34,000.

## Wine for Lyme

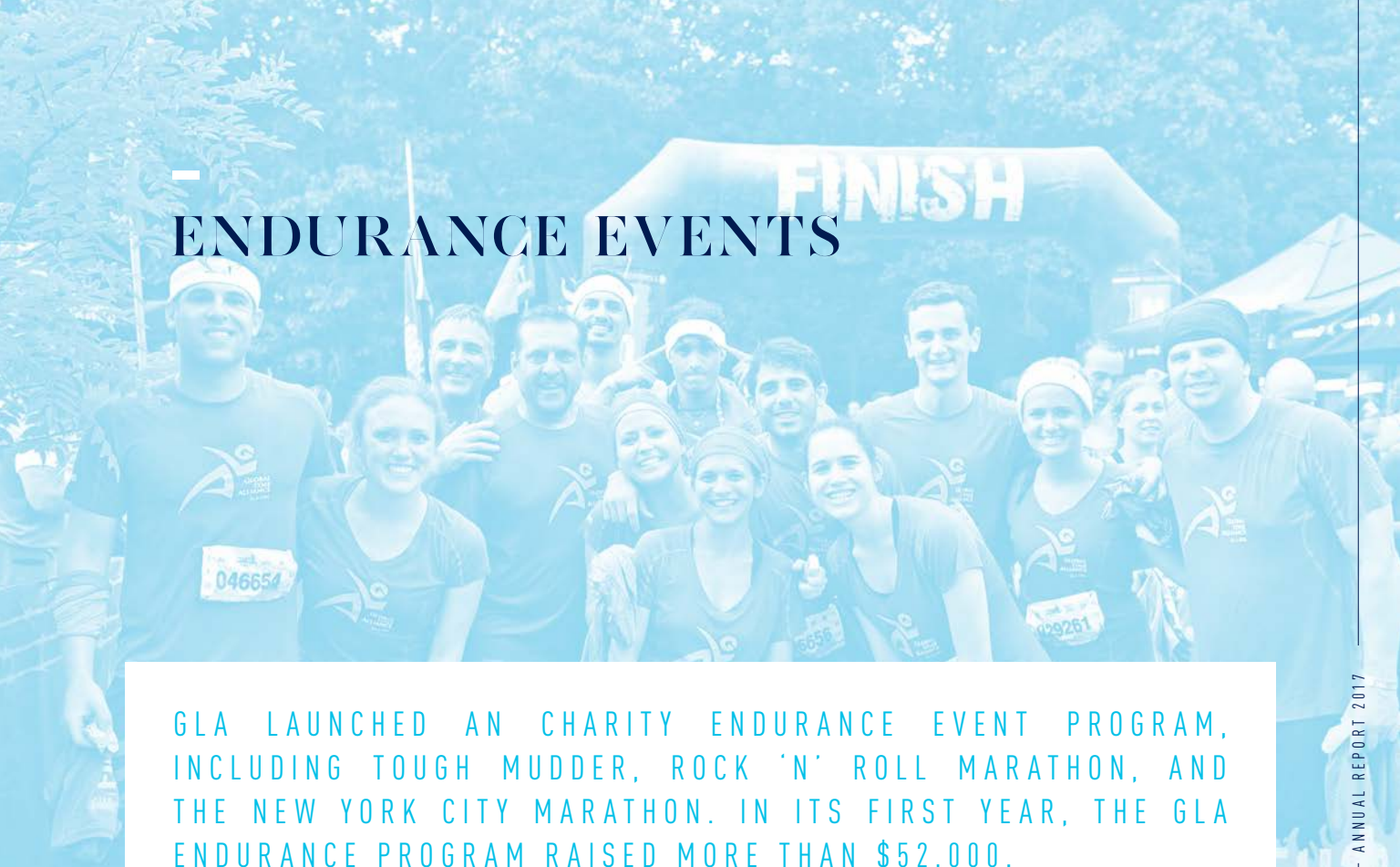
In April, James and Rose Anastasio hosted a wonderful event of wine tasting and dinner at Trump National Golf Club Colts Neck, New Jersey, raising almost \$18,000 for research and education.

## “Bite Back Against Lyme” 5K Run-Walk

The September 5K Run-Walk was organized by Lyme warrior Heidi Buono and brought out some 300 runners, walkers and friends to the Crossings of Colonie Park, Albany, New York. The event drew participants from several states including New Jersey, Connecticut, Vermont and Massachusetts. More than \$14,000 was raised.

## “An Evening of Art and Education”

The Matthew Rachman Gallery in Chicago graciously opened its space in March for a special program in which two highly respected, Lyme-literate doctors, Dr. Casey Kelley and Dr. Chris Janson, discussed what Lyme disease is, what it isn’t, symptoms, and risk, followed by Q&A.



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# ENDURANCE EVENTS

GLA LAUNCHED AN CHARITY ENDURANCE EVENT PROGRAM, INCLUDING TOUGH MUDDER, ROCK ‘N’ ROLL MARATHON, AND THE NEW YORK CITY MARATHON. IN ITS FIRST YEAR, THE GLA ENDURANCE PROGRAM RAISED MORE THAN \$52,000.

GLA kicked off its Tough Mudder program with its own branded team in the July 2017 Long Island race. GLA CEO Scott Santarella served as team captain and was joined by 21 Tough Mudder participants to round

out the team. The Rock ‘n’ Roll Marathon program had runners compete in Philadelphia, Los Angeles and Brooklyn, NY. Team GLA was represented by Jesse Ruben in the 2017 New York City Marathon.

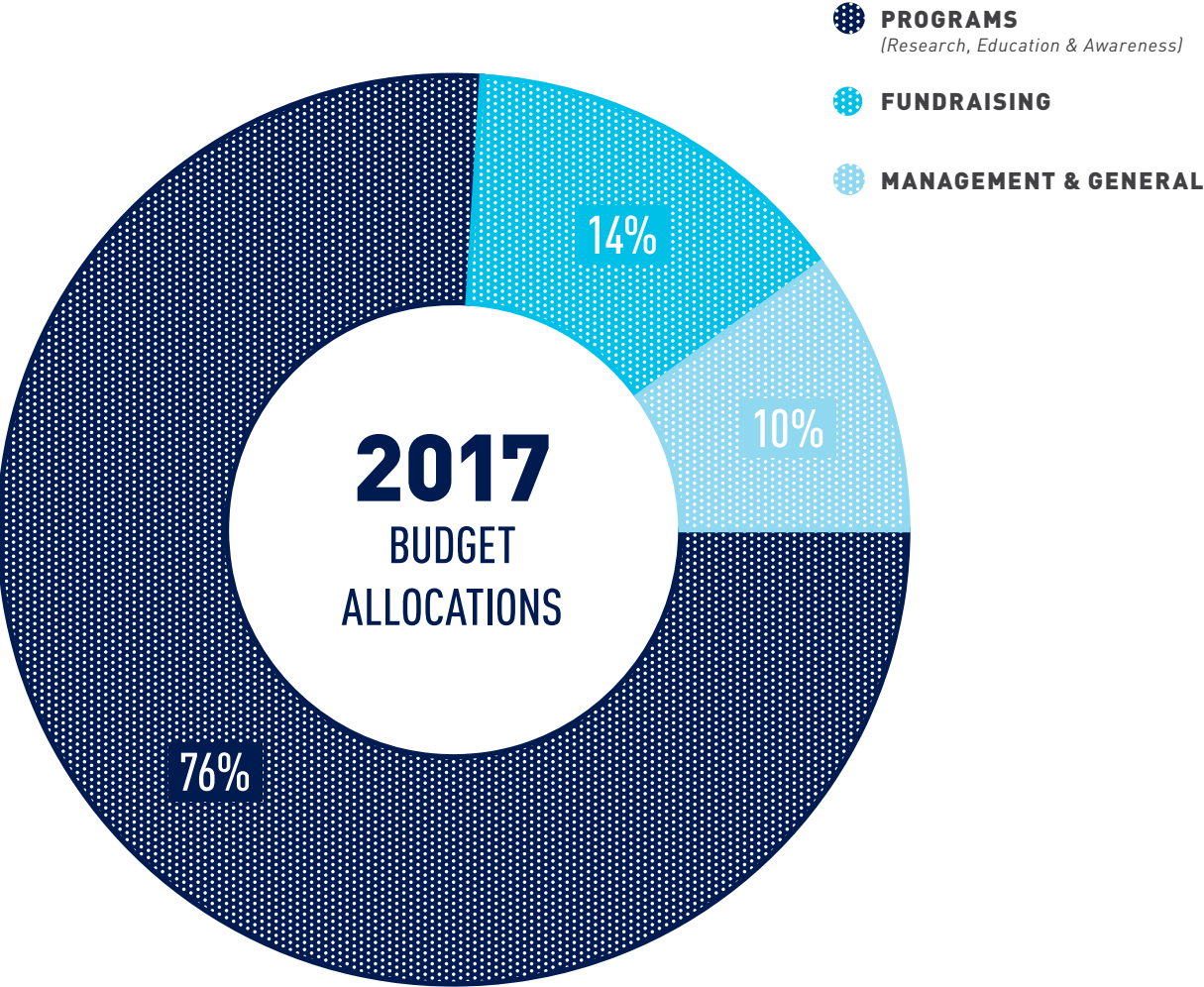
### NOTES FROM THE COMMUNITY

“WHAT I LEARNED ABOUT PARTICIPATING IN A TOUGH MUDDER IS THAT THE MUDDY, TWISTING, HILLY, WET, CHALLENGING, OBSTACLE COURSE TESTS PEOPLE TO THEIR LIMITS. JUST AS HAVING LYME TESTS SUFFERERS TO THEIR LIMITS. AND ALTHOUGH I WOULD BE CHALLENGED FOR ONLY A FEW HOURS. IT WAS A TINY REFLECTION OF THE CHALLENGE LYME PATIENTS MUST DEAL WITH EVERY DAY OF THEIR LIVES.”

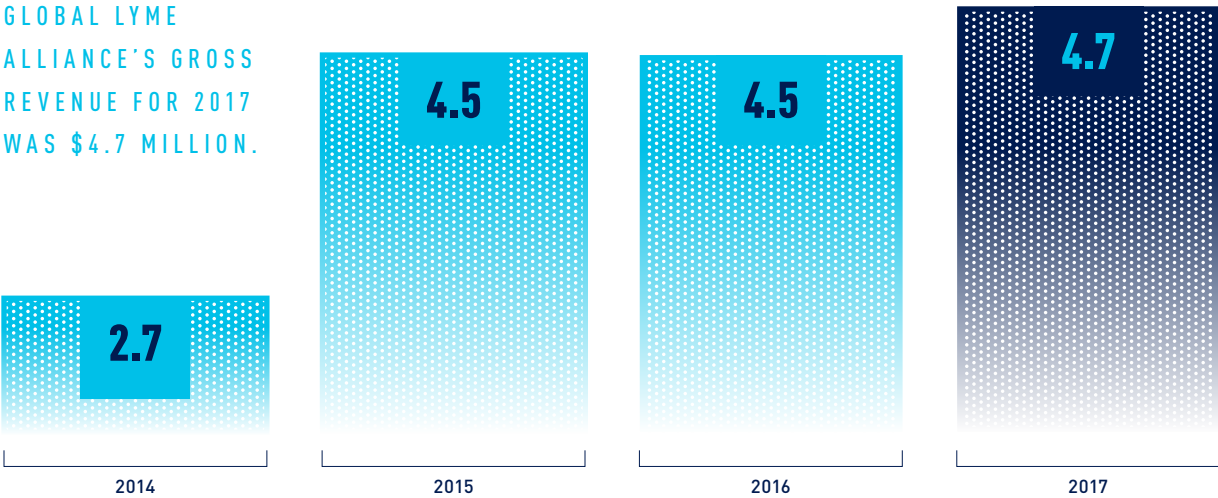
— SCOTT SANTARELLA, GLA CEO AND TEAM GLA CAPTAIN

FINANCIALS

GLA IS DRIVEN BY DONATIONS FROM THE COMMUNITY. WHETHER IT'S \$50 OR \$5,000, EVERY DOLLAR COUNTS. THESE DONATIONS PROPEL OUR MISSION TO CONQUER LYME AND OTHER TICK-BORNE DISEASES.



GLOBAL LYME ALLIANCE'S GROSS REVENUE FOR 2017 WAS \$4.7 MILLION.



NOTES: 2014 LRA (Lyme Research Alliance) and TBDA (Tick-Borne Disease Alliance) operating separately. 2015 and 2016 exclude extraordinary in-kind donations. For complete financial information, including current IRS-990, go to [GLA.org/financials](http://GLA.org/financials)

GLOBAL LYME ALLIANCE INC.

Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets  
Year Ended December 31, 2017

Support and Revenue	
Contributions	\$1,535,565
Special events income (net of \$666,997 of direct expenses)	\$2,447,835
In-Kind contributions	\$65,600
Investment income	\$13,904
Total Support and Revenue	\$4,062,904
Expenses	
Program	\$3,547,830
Management and general	\$466,327
Fundraising	\$666,226
Total Expenses	\$4,680,383
Changes in Net Assets	(\$617,479)
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	\$4,981,028
Net Assets, End of Year	\$4,363,549

TICK-BORNE CO-INFECTIONS SUCH AS  
**BABESIOSIS**  
**ANAPLASMOSIS**  
HAVE MORE THAN DOUBLED  
IN LAST 13 YEARS.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ONGOING SUPPORT. TO MAKE A DONATION,  
VISIT **GLA.ORG/DONATE** OR CALL **203 969 1333**