

NEWS RELEASE – APRIL 24th 2014, OSLO, NORWAY:

International Conference on Vector-borne Diseases - the first of its kind in Scandinavia!

Vector-borne diseases are spreading across the globe. The Nordic countries are no exception. In Scandinavia, an increasing number of people are falling ill to diseases transmitted by vectors, such as ticks, however find themselves not receiving effective treatment in the public health care system. Last year, the US health authorities (CDC) reported that Lyme disease is ten times more common than a previously anticipated. These numbers are six times higher compared to the number of people contracting HIV/AIDS. In the medical communities, however, a fundamental disagreement exists on whether vector-borne diseases, such as Lyme, poses a great health risk and if it can turn chronic. The discussions revolve particularly around proper diagnostics and what is considered the most effective treatment.

NorVect's mission is to contribute to increasing the knowledge on vector-borne diseases. On May 26th and 27th 2014, the organization is arranging an international conference on the subject in Oslo, Norway. NorVect considers dialogue and knowledge-sharing across medical communities and national borders as key to creating more understanding about these illnesses. With this in mind, the organization wishes to inspire the medical communities to be curious, open-minded and innovative - which is vital in driving new science.

World-renowned researchers and clinicians attending

This conference -the first of its kind in Scandinavia- will feature some of the world's leading scientists and clinicians, who will come together to share their latest research and expertise on the subject. Lyme Borreliosis is the key topic, however much emphasis will be placed on co-infections such as Bartonellosis, Babesiosis, Anaplasmosis and Ehrlichiosis. Furthermore, the link between Lyme disease and other serious neurodegenerative illnesses such as Alzheimer will be presented. NorVect is honored to welcome the following researchers and clinicians:

- Joseph J. Burrascano Jr., MD.
- Richard I. Horowitz, MD.
- Edward B. Breitschwerdt, DVM.
- Alan MacDonald, MD.
- Eva Sapi, Ph.D.
- Christian Perronne, Ph.D., MD.
- Jyotsna Shah, Ph.D., CCLD, MBA.
- Judith Miklossy, Ph.D., MD, DSc.
- Carl-Morten Motzfeld Laane, Ph.D.
- Randi Eikeland, Ph.D., MD.
- Bela Bozsik, MD.
- Armin Schwarzbach, Ph.D, MD.
- Åshild Andreassen, Ph.D.

Read more about the different speakers here: www.norvect.no/conference-2014/speakers/

To host this important event, NorVect has invited the acclaimed American author, journalist and filmmaker *Cathy Rubin* and the renowned French filmmaker *Chantal Perrin*, who both have a strong background in understanding Lyme disease and the health challenges it poses.

Making a difference

NorVect is founded and run solely by patients with the desire to make a difference. The founders, Siw Hansson and Sissel Davidsson, have despite being ill themselves, managed through private loans and fund-raising to organize this crucial event on behalf of the rapidly increasing group of people falling ill to these diseases. The messages that they want to convey to the medical community are the following: *"Share Your knowledge, Develop New Insights and Show Your Compassion"*.

The conference is open to medical professionals, but also to patients or others with special interest in vector-borne diseases.

For more information about NorVect and the conference visit: www.norvect.no

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The Norwegian Lyme Borreliosis Association, The Association for Borrelia-infected Children and the Norwegian ME/CFS Association are also contributors to this conference.

SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE - DEVELOP NEW INSIGHTS - SHOW YOUR COMPASSION