

## **PE1662/U**

Deibid Francey submission of 13 February 2020

I am writing in support of petition "PE01662: Improve Treatment for Patients with Lyme Disease and Associated Tick-borne Diseases".

I have been extremely unwell for the past 5 years following a physical collapse at a time where I had documented bites.

I developed a long list of symptoms post collapse, with crushing fatigue, pain, tremor persisting on a daily basis, leaving me debilitated and unable to work. I live in Glasgow and have a history of bite exposure in both the UK and in China, where I have travelled through dense forestry.

As I showed little sign of recovering several months post collapse, I began to investigate, taking into consideration my symptoms, history and exposure to bites.

Over the past 5 years, I have learned a lot regarding Lyme disease and co-infections.

When presented with my symptoms, some doctors mentioned Lyme disease as a possibility, yet as my NHS Lyme test was negative – Lyme was ruled out as a possibility.

While the NHS Lyme test is not a poor test – Lyme disease patients may test negative despite being very unwell, for several well documented reasons.

With this information in mind, I chose to test privately with an overseas laboratory who specialise in tick-borne infections.

I have tested positive for *Borrelia burgdorferi* via 2 methods of blood test, whilst tests also indicated infection with *Babesia microti* and several other co-infections.

**Despite presenting a history of exposure in various forestry, documented illness following bites and an alarming amount of Lyme related symptoms along with several positive private test results – I was refused treatment from Glasgow's Infectious Diseases department whilst also being refused ANY testing for tick-borne disease.**

It is well documented in peer reviewed research that patients may carry several other infections (co-infections) which can be transmitted along with *Borrelia burgdorferi*. Shockingly, during the past 5 years, the vast majority of doctors of who's appointments I've attended possess very little to zero knowledge regarding Lyme disease and co-infections. **here appears to be a huge lack of awareness, no testing and consequently no treatment, leaving many, many patients debilitated and left without hope.**

**I hope, for the sake of everybody suffering from these horrific diseases, that appropriate testing and treatment can be approved as a matter of urgency.**