

**NATIONAL  
RESEARCH  
FUND FOR  
TICK-BORNE  
DISEASES, INC.**

P.O. Box 643 Wilton CT 06897  
1.800.728.7147  
www.nrftd.org

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Leo J. Shea III, Ph.D., Chair  
Douglas Bunnell, Ph.D.  
Deborah S. Burnaman  
Carolyn R. Buttrick  
Martha S. Schram  
Laura Sibert-Cardoza  
Barbara Walsh

Phyllis Fryzel, Executive Director  
Gregory Torski, Treasurer

**SCIENTIFIC ADVISORS**

Mario T. Philipp, Ph.D.  
Tulane University  
Health Sciences Center

J. Stephen Dumler, M.D.  
The Johns Hopkins Hospital

Sheila A. Lukehart, Ph.D.  
University of Washington

Steven J. Norris, Ph.D.  
University of Texas Medical  
School at Houston

**RESEARCH BOARD**

Catherine F. Morrissey, Chair  
Carl Brenner  
Barbara Goldklang

Contact: Leo J. Shea III, Ph.D.  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
NRFTD  
917-439-3061  
ljs@n-e-t-s.org

**LYME DISEASE ORGANIZATION ANNOUNCES NEW BOARD MEMBERS**

WILTON, CT – September 1, 2006 - The National Research Fund for Tick-Borne Diseases, Inc. (NRFTD), a non-profit organization dedicated to funding research of the highest caliber into tick-borne infections, including Lyme disease, is pleased to announce the induction of Deborah S. Burnaman and Martha S. Schram into its Board of Directors.

Deborah S. Burnaman has been involved with the NRFTD since 1997 and joined the Board of Directors in 2005 where she has concentrated on fundraising, education and event planning. An educator by training, Deborah's passion for teaching led her to engage in education and awareness of Lyme disease and its myriad manifestations. A graduate of Ithaca College, Deborah earned a Masters in Education from Sarah Lawrence where she focused on early childhood development. Of her involvement with the NRFTD she states, "I joined the NRFTD in an effort to help resolve the unanswered medical issues surrounding Lyme and other tick-borne diseases. Lyme disease has affected me and my family and it is my hope that with the efforts of the NRFTD and further scientific research we will create definitive testing, therefore more appropriate and affective treatment. With a definitive test we will find out who has Lyme and who doesn't, and be able to treat the infection accordingly. A complicating factor with Lyme disease is the possibility of co-infections that can prevent the patient from a normal recovery. Again, doctors need accurate testing for multiple additional tick-borne diseases as well as fundamental research to show which treatments will combat (or cure) co-infections. Doctors, patients and insurance companies need definitive tests and they need to know what constitutes effective treatments. Therefore, we must fund the research. It's our responsibility to our communities and to our children."

Martha S. Schram joined the NRFTD because she has personally experienced Lyme disease and she believes scientific research will lead to faster diagnosis of tick-borne infections. With sooner and more accurate diagnosis she hopes all patients can be treated before neurological symptoms develop. Martha is a resident of New Canaan Ct, where she lives with her husband and their two children. During her seventeen years in New Canaan, she has served in many volunteer roles at St Luke's School, West School, the American Cancer Society and New Canaan Cares. Before having a family she worked in the Securities Industry in New York City. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service and an MBA at Fordham University. In June 2006 she graduated from the New York Institute of Integrative Nutrition and plans to practice as a private nutrition counselor. Martha Schram states, "It would be great to put an end to the confusion in the medical community about why a standard 6 week Lyme antibiotic treatment helps only some cases. It is important to find more specific therapies for the other patients. There has to be better answers for chronic Lyme and these co-infections than interminable antibiotics." Martha Schram continues by stressing the importance of time in getting treatment. "From my experience I know the longer the delay in diagnosis and treatment from the time of a tick infection the more pervasive and severe symptoms can become. When one gets to this point and remains ill after a four week course of antibiotics it can get very difficult. The Medical Community is not sure why the patient still has symptoms and has conflicting opinions of how to help. I hope research will find better treatment for patients and put an end to the confusion."



**Deborah Burnaman and Martha Schram (left to right)**

**About the National Research Fund for Tick-Borne Diseases, Inc.**

The NRFTD is a nonprofit organization devoted to funding scientific research in the rapidly expanding field of tick-borne diseases. It is determined to advance scientific understanding of these complicated infections by sponsoring innovative research of the highest quality at premier institutions throughout the world.

The NRFTD was founded in 1999 to address the complex and critical research questions raised by thousands of patients afflicted with emerging tick-borne diseases, including Lyme disease, relapsing fever borrelia, anaplasmosis, babesiosis, bartonella and ehrlichiosis. The need for answers has grown markedly as Lyme disease has spread dramatically throughout the country and as other tick-borne infections have been recognized as public health threats.

For more information about the NRFTD, or to make a tax-deductible donation, visit [www.nrftd.org](http://www.nrftd.org).