

Randy S. Wymore, Ph.D.

Research Director, Center for the Investigation of Morgellons Disease
Associate Professor of Pharmacology & Physiology
Oklahoma State University- Center for Health Sciences
Tulsa, OK
2011 Morgellons Conference

**“Morgellons Disease Research; Shotgun DNA Analysis, PCR,
Microscopy & Spectroscopy”**

Randy S. Wymore#, Emily VanDegrift# and Rhonda L. Casey*
Departments of Pharmacology & Physiology# and Pediatric Medicine*

The causative agent of Morgellons Disease is unknown. Speculation of the cause runs the spectrum of usual pathogens (bacteria, viruses, fungi, single- and multi-cellular parasites, etc.) and includes suggestions of normally non-pathogenic organisms as well as environmental contamination. Some individuals with Morgellons have been helped by a variety of antibiotic, anti-fungal and anthelmintic (antihelminthic) therapies, while others have had a minimal favorable response. Our past and current research has focused on an attempt to identify the cause of Morgellons Disease as a step toward a comprehensive treatment of the symptoms or cure of the disease. Research directions from the past year will be described. A preliminary report will be made on an initial attempt at “shotgun cloning/sequencing”, along with the most recent fiber analyses and a summary of ongoing and planned experiments.

Emily VanDegrift, MS

Kate Weinbrecht, B.S.

Randy S. Wymore, Ph.D.

OSU-CHS Center for the Investigation of Morgellons Disease

Department of Pharmacology and Physiology

Department of Forensic Science

Abstract: 2011 Morgellons Medical Conference

“Advancements and Uses of DNA Analysis”

DNA testing for human identification purposes has been performed since the 1980s. Since then, our understanding of DNA and its usefulness along with technological advancements in this area of science have skyrocketed. Today people are requesting to have their genomes sequenced to indicate if they are predisposed to certain diseases and cancer. The knowledge and capabilities of DNA testing has expanded to include not only nuclear DNA but mitochondrial DNA as well. These expansions have broadened the types of tissues that can be tested for DNA from solely fresh blood to dried blood, semen, hair, finger/toe nails, skin cells and bone. DNA typing is also being performed on plants, bacteria and fungi to aid in biosecurity.

The original method of DNA typing by running large quantities of DNA through an agarose gel, staining with ethidium bromide, and estimating the size of DNA fragments based on the location of fluorescent bands in the gel has been replaced with genetic analyzers that require less than a micro liter of DNA. These genetic analyzers are capable of processing 16 samples at once in less than thirty minutes. Genetic analysis computer software is used to determine the size of DNA fragments present in a sample which helps to eliminate human error.

DNA testing can now be performed on virtually any living organism that contains DNA. Databases of organisms that have been sequenced exist and are growing rapidly. Scientists are bridging the gap between DNA testing and medical treatments and the potential is promising. Our goal is to use these advancements in DNA technology to further the research of Morgellons Disease and experiments are currently ongoing.

Amelia M. Withington, MD

Department of Psychiatry
Crozer-Chester Medical Center
Chester, PA

“Morgellons Disease: A Case Study”

My presentation will be a case study of a patient who has been affected by Morgellons disease for a number of years. She worked as a health care administrator in a hospital for most of her career, but became unable to perform her duties and is now applying for disability. She has meticulously tracked her symptoms and has an amazing range of microscopic photographs of what has been expressed from her skin. She has agreed that her case can be presented, with her anonymity protected. It is our hope that, in presenting her case, others might bring together ideas about the origin and nature of the materials expressed, and that it might stimulate further research and directions of inquiry. Periodic updates are planned for future conferences. In addition, she has a twin sister affected with Morgellons, and more information on both of their symptoms is likely to be presented at future conferences.

Carsten Nicolaus, MD, Ph.D.

Borreliose Centrum Augsburg
Morellstrasse 33 86159 Augsburg Germany
Tel. 0049 821 455 4710 Fax 0049 821 455 4715
service@borreiosecentrum.de

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Morgellons Disease is a skin disease, which seems to be similar to a multisystem disease. Its origin is currently not yet discovered, however over the past 2 years it became increasingly recognized as a parasite-like infection. Before that patients were mostly diagnosed with delusional parasitosis.

Most registered Morgellons patients are known to be in the US. The number of Morgellons patients is steadily increasing in Europe as well. Currently, 14 other countries apart from the USA have reported cases of Morgellons disease. There is no exact epidemiological data present in Germany to this date. Unofficial sources state that there are approximately 600 Morgellons patients registered with support groups. The estimated number of unreported cases is likely to be much higher.

The presentation will give an overview of how the disease is diagnosed and treated in our treatment centre in Germany. Besides the classical treatment options, we also have good treatment success with alternative treatments. These alternative treatment measures will be presented. This includes our experience and therapy options, which have not yet been scientifically proven.

Ginger Savely, FNP, DNP

TBD Medical Associates
1701 K Street NW Suite 801
Washington, DC
Email: LymeDC@gmail.com
Fax: 800-692-4880
Website: www.gingersavely.com

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"Seeing is Believing"

The unique characteristic of Morgellons disease is the fibers underneath the skin and protruding from it. Most practitioners don't take the time to look for these fibers and are quick to label patients as delusional. Magnification, practice and patience are necessary in order to see the characteristic fibers. Unfortunately, even the practitioners who do examine the skin don't really know what they are looking for. In this session you will be guided through the process of examining the skin of a Morgellons patient using the EyeClops magnifier. Examination of a volunteer patient will enable the audience to participate in the process of identifying Morgellons fibers.
