

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: My Lyme Journey
Date: Friday, December 02, 2016 11:16:37 AM

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From:
Sent: Friday, December 02, 2016 11:10 AM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: My Lyme Journey

I am twenty years old , and I began to show symptoms of Lyme disease twelve years ago . I'm not sure when I was bitten, but my symptoms first manifested as Cardiomyopathy and Arrhythmia (cardiac symptoms). My doctors could not understand the cause of my condition. As time went on I began to show a multitude of other symptoms like -- migraines, dizziness, night sweats and foot pain. I saw several doctors during this period of time, but my blood-work continued to come back normal leaving my doctors to believe that I was a hypochondriac. Four years had passed and my health became increasingly worse. I began to experience -- persistent fatigue, visual problems, derealization, problems recalling words, inability to navigate, tinnitus, joint ache, muscle twitching , depression, anxiety , difficulty learning new things, body tremors, severe migraines and testicular pain -- to name a few . My symptoms did not appear overnight , but instead they slowly sprung up by a monthly basis . During this time I was seeing almost every specialist from A-Z to a cardiologists to a psychiatrist. A few of my neurologist suspected Lyme disease, but because I had never left Texas and traveled to the northeast , the majority of them disregarded the idea. I have had blood work done to check for Lyme antibodies (western-blot) but at this point (ten years after my initial onset of symptoms) my immune system had become too compromised to produce all five antibodies necessary for a positive result. Although I had one Lyme specific band come back positive (23 IgG) my doctor still failed to diagnose me.

It was not until I found a Lyme literate medical doctor that I was properly diagnosed and treated . I am slowly improving , but because my diagnosis was so delayed I will likely never completely recover.

I decided to write this message in great detail because the current guidelines for diagnosing and treating Lyme need to be reevaluated. There are many, many others like me who were forgotten , neglected and are needlessly suffering due to ignorance in the medical community. It is my duty to relay this message to you , and it is yours to take it into consideration . Thank you for your time.