



Jefferson County
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

Public Health Facility, 531 Meade Street, Watertown, New York 13601

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Dr. Stephen Rich, Watertown Native, Partners with Jefferson County Public Health Service to Offer Training to Medical Providers on Lyme Disease

Watertown, NY, November 19, 2013 ~ Jefferson County Public Health Service will host a medical provider education event on Wednesday evening featuring locally born and nationally known expert, Dr. Stephen Rich. Dr. Rich will be the featured speaker for the event which will also include Unit Director and Research Scientist of the Bureau of Communicable Disease Control from the New York State Department of Health, P. Bryon Backenson. There will also be a firsthand experience account from an individual diagnosed with Lyme disease.

Lyme disease has become an increasing concern in the area. So far this year, there have been 80 probable or confirmed cases of Lyme disease in Jefferson County. Numerous people report tick bites to physicians making provider education an important part of Lyme disease prevention.

The educational event on November 20th will showcase the ecology of the Lyme (and other tick-borne) disease, discussion of the clinical aspects of the disease and treatment, and provide an overview of tick testing services. Additionally, there will be information on medical provider reporting and surveillance from the New York State Department of Health.

Dr. Stephen Rich is a graduate from IHC and St. Lawrence University. He is a professor of Microbiology and the Director of the Laboratory of Medical Zoology at the University of Massachusetts. Dr. Rich's family lives in the Watertown area and he has graciously agreed to provide this wonderful opportunity to the medical community.

The event is open to all medical practitioners in Jefferson County by registering at 786-3730.

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