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For Immediate Release

**NOBEL PRIZE WINNER DR. LUC MONTAGNIER TO RECEIVE HONOR AT LYME DISEASE GALA  
*Actors, Musicians and Scientists unite to create a Lyme free world at Time for Lyme's 8<sup>th</sup> Fundraiser***

***Proceeds from the Gala will fund critically important research and education***

**Greenwich, CT, March 2009** – Dr. Luc Montagnier, distinguished world renowned virologist, and a Nobel Prize winner for his discovery of HIV, will be honored with the Lauren F. Brooks Hope award at the 2009 Time for Lyme Gala on April 18, 2009 in Greenwich, CT.

"Time for Lyme is honored to have Nobel Laureate Dr. Luc Montagnier attend this year's benefit, The Dream-- Creating a Lyme-Free World," noted Dr. Harriet Kotsoris, neurologist and medical advisor to Time for Lyme. "As many are aware, Dr. Montagnier is credited with the discovery of the Human Immunodeficiency Virus in 1983. His brilliant work on AIDS has had worldwide impact. His work now spans the microbiology world with the study of improved means of identification of infection by the Lyme bacterium, *Borrelia burgdorferii*," added Dr. Kotsoris.

Time For Lyme has the distinct privilege to introduce Dr. Luc Montagnier to the Lyme disease community at the TFL Gala where he will receive the 2009 Lauren F. Brooks Hope Award.

The Lauren F. Brooks Hope Award was initiated in 2007 and commemorates beloved Time For Lyme board member, Lauren F. Brooks. As the Vice President of Education, she helped thousands of individuals by informing them about the potential harm of tick borne diseases. In addition she offered hope to countless families through education and support. To honor Lauren's memory, Time for Lyme, Inc. created a special award, "The Lauren F. Brooks Hope Award". In 2007 the award was presented to Dr. Charles Ray Jones for his outstanding work treating children with Lyme disease.

**About Dr. Montagnier:** Dr. Montagnier has spent most of his scientific career in the study of viruses associated with chronic diseases. Among his achievements is the isolation of the viruses known as HIV 1 and 2. Besides his involvement in the design of new types of protective and therapeutic AIDS vaccines, his current studies are aimed at the diagnosis and treatment of microbial and viral factors associated with cancers, neuro-degenerative and articular diseases. While Dr. Montagnier's work on AIDS is well-known, few people realize his dedication to helping people worldwide to access better prevention, treatment, research and diagnosis for AIDS.

**About Time for Lyme:** Time for Lyme is a research, education and advocacy group that has brought together an inspiring group of scientists and artists at its bi-annual gala fundraiser for Lyme disease research, awareness and an ultimate cure on Saturday, April 18, 2009, 7pm, at the Greenwich Hyatt.

The Dream Gala will feature the Young People's Chorus of New York City™ in a program highlighted by the chorus's signature song, "Give Us Hope," composed by Jim Papoulis, with lyrics by Leo Schaff and Regine Urbach. Click to listen. <http://timeforlyme.org/>. The Gala will also celebrate The Award-Winning Movie "LYMELIFE" directed by Derick Martini and starring Alec Baldwin, Emma Roberts, Rory Culkin, Kieran Culkin, Jill Hennessey, Cynthia Nixon and Timothy Hutton. Actor, Director and Writer Lou Diamond Phillips has also joined the fight against Lyme disease and offered to help raise awareness for the disease.

**About Lyme disease:** Lyme disease is the most common vector-borne disease in the United States, with more than 20,000 new cases officially reported every year. Unofficial counts are much higher. Lyme has been found in all 50 states, and a high percentage of its victims are children.

Children are particularly vulnerable because they are outside a lot, especially in the early summer, when ticks are most plentiful. If they do get infected, kids can experience headaches, fatigue and flu-like symptoms, and if the disease is left untreated, can also develop muscular and joint problems, learning and behavioral problems, depression, nerve damage, memory loss and other cognitive, psychiatric and neurological problems.

Lyme disease is caused by a bacterium carried in certain ticks. Most, but not all, people infected with Lyme will see a bull's-eye rash at the site of the tick bite between three and 30 days after infection. While this rash is a definitive symptom of Lyme, most diagnostic tests for the disease are unreliable and may produce false negatives, according to TFL and the Lyme Disease Association, who together have endowed the Lyme and Tick-Borne Diseases Research Center at Columbia University Medical Center in New York City, the first of its kind dedicated to the study of chronic Lyme disease.

#### **About the Time for Lyme Gala**

April 18, 2009, Time for Lyme will present its bi-annual Gala event – The Dream – Creating a Lyme Free World, at the Hyatt Regency in Greenwich, CT. Proceeds from the Gala will go towards combating the devastating effects of Lyme and other tick borne illnesses. During the course of the evening, we will share Time for Lyme's work in education and advocacy as well as never previously revealed ground-breaking new research. Please call (203) 969-1333 for more information and tickets.

#### **About Time for Lyme**

Time for Lyme is an organization dedicated to eliminating the devastating effects of Lyme disease and other tick-borne illness. Its mission is to prevent the spread of disease, develop definitive diagnostic tools and effective treatments, and to ultimately find a cure for tick-borne illness by supporting research, education, and the acquisition and dissemination of information. In addition, TFL continues to act as an advocate for Lyme disease sufferers and their families through support of legislative reform on the federal, state and local levels.  
[www.timeforlyme.org](http://www.timeforlyme.org).