



PATIENT ALLIANCE FOR NEUROENDOCRINEIMMUNE DISORDERS ORGANIZATION FOR
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P.A.N.D.O.R.A. and Lanford Foundation applaud “Under Our Skin” for making Oscar Short List

CORAL GABLES, Fla.---P.A.N.D.O.R.A. and the Lanford Foundation-Lifelyme™ today applauded the announcement by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences that “Under Our Skin” was selected as one of the 15 finalists competing for “Best Documentary Feature” in the 82nd Academy Awards®.

Winner of several film festival awards, and hailed by critics from the *New York Times* to *Vanity Fair*, “Under Our Skin” follows the lives of several patients and exposes the hidden epidemic of Lyme disease, an infectious disease caused by the bacterium *Borrelia burgdorferi* that is transmitted to humans by bites from infected ticks. If left untreated, the infection can spread to joints, the heart, and the nervous system. Untreated or unsuccessfully treated Lyme disease leads to chronic and persistent disabling pain and frightening disabilities that affect hundreds of thousands of people in the U.S. Often these individuals are misdiagnosed or have their infections dismissed by physicians as being psychosomatic illness.

“We are thrilled for filmmaker Andy Wilson and the patients, who were courageous enough to share their stories in “Under Our Skin,”” said Marla Silverman, founder of the patient advocacy organization, P.A.N.D.O.R.A.Inc. (Patient Alliance for Neuroendocrineimmune Disorders Organization for Research & Advocacy). “For patients, this film is a victory hopefully towards better understanding and support from friends, family members and their medical professionals.”

“Because of “Under Our Skin” and Andy Wilson’s courage to bring this important issue to the big screen, patients suffering with chronic Lyme disease and told it’s all in our heads will finally get the recognition that they deserve,” said Sandi Lanford, founder and president of the Lanford Foundation-Lifelyme based in Tallahassee, Florida.

Last September, **the Lanford Foundation - Lifylme**, hosted the film in Tallahassee with over 200 attendees on opening night, followed by a Q&A period. Several guest participated in this session: Mandy Hughes, a Lyme patient whose story was featured in the film, Kerry Clark, PhD, professor/epidemiologist at UNF, and Carol Fisch, microbiologist and Board member of the Lifylme foundation. “My phone was ringing off the hook for about a month after the showing of “Under Our Skin!”” Lanford recalled.

The Lanford Foundation- Lifylme™, Inc., has also recently announced its major partnership with P.A.N.D.O.R.A. Inc. The two organizations are planning to establish a New Jersey-based NeuroEndocrineImmune (NEI) Center™, the first research center to incorporate scientific and clinical research, quality in patient care, and social services, all in one state-of-the art facility

“Under Our Skin” made the cut among 89 qualifying documentaries during the preliminary round of voting by the Documentary Branch Screening Academy Committee. Academy members will now select five nominees from among the 15 titles on the shortlist. Academy Awards nominations will be announced on Tuesday, February 2, 2010.

PHOTO CAPTION:

Lanford Foundation-Lifylme, Inc. directors Josephine Cavallero and Danette Whelan shown here with “Under Our Skin” producer Andy Wilson at a recent gala in New York hosted by Turn The Corner Foundation.



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