Lupus, a chronic autoimmune disease, is a women’s health issue, a public health issue, a minority health issue, an economic issue, and a research issue.

- Systemic lupus erythematosus, commonly referred to as lupus or SLE, is a chronic autoimmune disease in which the immune system mistakenly attacks the body’s own tissues and vital organs.

- Symptoms are unpredictable and can range from extreme fatigue, severe joint and muscle pain to organ failure and even death.

- Lupus is often overlooked and misdiagnosed, and no one knows exactly how many people have the disease. It is estimated that up to 1.5 million Americans have lupus.

- Lupus disproportionately affects African American, Hispanic, Native American and Asian women; it is 2 to 3 times more prevalent and symptoms tend to be more severe among these groups than in Caucasians.

- 90% of people diagnosed with lupus are women, typically during childbearing years, ages 15-44. It is a leading cause of heart disease, kidney disease and stroke among young women.

- No two cases of lupus are the same. Symptoms come and go, and lupus mimics other diseases. There is no single laboratory test that can definitively identify lupus. Yet, early detection and treatment can be critical to an optimal health outcome, often lessening the progression and severity of the disease.

- The cause of lupus is unknown; there is no cure. Existing treatment options are few, often with dangerous and toxic side effects.

The economic burden of medical costs, job reduction or loss, and work disability is experienced across the spectrum of the lupus community and at even higher levels among populations disproportionately affected by the disease. One-third of people with lupus are on work disability. By 15 years after diagnosis, 51% have stopped working.

RESEARCH OFFERS THE BEST SOURCE OF HOPE
Just one drug specifically for lupus has ever been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and more treatment options are urgently needed. Innovative research is the only pathway to discover better ways to diagnose, prevent, control and ultimately cure this devastating disease.
The Lupus Research Alliance was created by the merger of three leaders in lupus research, the Alliance for Lupus Research, the Lupus Research Institute and the S.L.E. Lupus Foundation, united in the quest to free the world of this autoimmune disease through the power of scientific research.

- We are the world’s largest and most powerful private funder of innovative lupus research and serve as the primary catalyst setting the agenda to drive new scientific discoveries into prevention, treatment and cure of the disease. Collectively, the three legacy organizations have devoted more than 75 years to the cause and are responsible for funding over $200 million to support lupus research programs.

- Our scientific advisory board is comprised of 13 of the world’s leading research scientists who guide and implement a broad research agenda focused on the dynamics of innovation and spanning the continuum of scientific discovery across fundamental, translational and clinical research.

- We partner with organizations representing the scientific and medical communities, as well as government agencies including, the National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS), the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD), and several national advocacy groups in addition to many pharmaceutical and biotech companies working in lupus.

- We set stringent research standards, including holding to a rigorous peer review and setting objective benchmarks, to guide the selection of the research projects we fund.

- As a result of our bold research approach, our organization has produced pivotal breakthroughs in the genetics, immunology and organ involvement of lupus autoimmunity.

- Because the Board of Directors covers all administrative and operating costs of the Lupus Research Alliance, 100% of all donations go directly to support innovative research programs.

- The leadership of the Lupus Research Alliance consists of Kenneth M. Farber as CEO & President.