

# LUPUS RESEARCH ALLIANCE

*Breaking through.*

## Lupus Fact Sheet

[lupusresearch.org](http://lupusresearch.org)

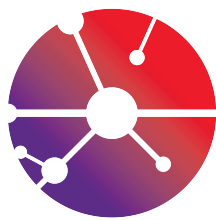
**Lupus, a chronic autoimmune disease, is a women's health issue, a public health issue, a minority health issue, an economic issue, and a research issue.**

- 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 or misdiagnosed, and the actual number of people with the disease remains unknown. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention notes that a conservative estimate suggests a prevalence of 161,000 with definite SLE and 322,000 with definite or probable SLE.
- 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. Lupus most often starts 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, many have 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 safer 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.



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## About Lupus Research Alliance

[lupusresearch.org](http://lupusresearch.org)

The **Lupus Research Alliance** is transforming the lives of people affected by lupus through the power of science to drive new treatments, prevent disease progression, and find a cure.

- We are the world's **largest and most powerful** private funder of innovative lupus research. The Lupus Research Alliance has committed **over \$200 million** for lupus research programs with nearly **500 grants**.
- The Lupus Research Alliance is the **only lupus group in the world conducting clinical trials**. The Lupus Research Alliance launched the **Lupus Clinical Investigators Network** called LuCIN to speed development of new treatments, and five exciting lupus studies are underway. LuCIN is comprised of 58 of the most prestigious North American-based academic research centers.
- Our **Scientific Advisory Board** is comprised of 12 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)**, and the **U.S. Department of Defense (DOD)**, as well as several national advocacy groups in addition to many pharmaceutical and biotech companies working in lupus.
- As a result of our **bold** research approach, our organization has produced **pivotal breakthroughs** in the genetics, immunology and organ involvement of lupus autoimmunity that are improving treatment while advancing toward a cure.
- Because the Lupus Research Alliance **Board of Directors** covers all administrative and operating costs, **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, **Debra Rose** as CFO and **Andrea O'Neill** as Executive Director.

Visit [LupusResearch.org](http://LupusResearch.org) to learn about lupus and how together we are **Breaking through**.