

2018: Highlights of the Year

Bold Initiatives ... Tremendous Strides

We're BREAKING THROUGH on Lupus Research

In 2018 the Lupus Research Alliance has taken daring chances, pursued bold initiatives, and made tremendous strides!

The brilliant scientists we brought to the table ushered in discovery after discovery. These minds — the world's best and brightest — helped the Lupus Research Alliance break through in directions that once were considered impossible.

But battling lupus takes more than fostering the most innovative lupus research. That's why we advocated for greater lupus awareness and funding in the halls of Congress and in the homes of average Americans.

We proved that everyone could become powerful catalysts for change.

Our groundbreaking discoveries helped to broaden the basic knowledge of this disease for the entire lupus community, illuminating multiple paths to new treatments. And we made

important gains toward our ultimate aim: Finding a cure for the millions living with lupus worldwide.

During the past 19 years, the Lupus Research Alliance has invested more than \$200 million in lupus research programs and delivered breakthroughs that are speeding up the development of new treatments.

We truly are breaking through on the many pioneering fronts of lupus research:

Investing in Trailblazing Research

As the world's largest private funder of lupus research, the Lupus Research Alliance funded 16 scientists to conduct promising investigations in four critical areas:

- 7 scientists received \$4.3 million in grants through our two-year **Target Identification in Lupus** grant program. Supporting highly meritorious research, this program aims to discover molecular pathways and therapeutic targets that will lead to new treatments.
- Our **Novel Research Grant Program** awarded \$1.8 million for 6 high-risk, high-reward, original research projects relevant to basic, translational, and clinical investigations in lupus.
- The **Dr. William E. Paul Distinguished Innovator Award in Lupus and Autoimmunity** challenged two extraordinary

scientists to pursue innovative, hypothesis- or discovery-driven projects with \$1 million in grants.

- The [Lupus Insight Prize](#) awarded a highly meritorious investigator \$100,000 in recognition for her many contributions and to allow her to pursue a particularly promising potential treatment for memory loss associated with lupus.

We're Breaking Through ... thanks to donors like you!

Accelerating Drug Development

Comprised of leading lupus experts at academic research centers throughout North America, our [Lupus Clinical Investigators Network \(LuCIN\)](#) program provides an invaluable framework to quickly test potential new treatments.

The scope of the seven clinical trials currently underway is wide ranging — from evaluating a new app aiming to help patients report their symptoms more accurately in real time, to testing new and existing drugs as potential treatments for lupus.

Pushing the limits of lupus scientific exploration ... breaking new ground ... and attracting and training new researchers are all part of LuCIN's aim to advance quality research.

We're Breaking Through ... with the power of research and you!

In the Community

Launched in 2018, our new online [Lupus Community Forum](#) blog is helping lupus patients and their loved ones to make stronger connections with the greater lupus community.

Participants learn what others are saying about matters that are critical to their lives. It is a place to give and receive support ... and provide and gain new perspectives.

Community is a destination for discussion. Join the conversation and discover information on important matters that are a part of your life.

We're Breaking Through ... because you believe in lupus research!

Celebrating Outstanding Efforts

The achievements of lupus research giant, [John D. Mountz, MD, PhD](#) to accelerate the development of new treatment options were recognized by the Lupus Research Alliance. Dr. Mountz is the recipient of the Dr. William E. Paul Distinguished Innovator Award in Lupus and Autoimmunity.

Dr. Mountz explains what this grant means to lupus research:

"The Lupus Research Alliance allows for more novel approaches — such as the investigation I am conducting — which is far from mainstream. The thing is — if we see evidence for something — we have to take a chance. And this is exactly what the

Lupus Research Alliance allows researchers like me to do.

We have to build on new ideas, on new data, on new discussions. With the backing of this incredible organization, I am confident that my colleagues and I will break through to new treatment options and a cure for lupus.”

We're Breaking Through ... thanks to your compassion.

Transforming Goodwill into Research

If there is one thing that the Lupus Research Alliance has learned it's that there is power in numbers — and we need no greater proof than our [Walk with Us to Cure Lupus](#) events.

Walkers are passionate about ending lupus because many of them are personally affected. They may walk because a sister, mother, daughter, wife, or colleague has lupus — or they may walk because they have lupus themselves.

Such passion has generated over \$3 million in 2018. Even more remarkable is the fact that since we started this grassroots fundraiser in 2002, a cumulative total of nearly \$39 has been raised for critical lupus initiatives from these supporters.

We're Breaking Through ... because you helped us become the world's largest funder of lupus research!

Advocating for Lupus Patients

When the Lupus Research Alliance speaks out and advocates for greater funds for lupus research ... people listen. The effort we lead at the House and Senate level has resulted in a \$5 million [Lupus Research Program](#) grant administered through the Department of Defense. An additional \$2 million was granted by the NIH to advance medical research, including lupus research.

To date we have secured \$15 million to fund the Lupus Research Program within the Department of Defense, and 13 exciting scientific projects are underway.

We're Breaking Through ... securing funds for lupus research.

Uniting the Global Community

TV newscaster and Lupus Research Alliance Board Member [Brenda Blackmon](#) is the first spokesperson for our [Breaking Through Social Media Campaign](#).

In a short video completed at the end of 2018, Ms. Blackmon highlights how the Lupus Research Alliance is uniting the global community to break through the complexities of lupus by raising awareness, advancing new treatments, advocating for more federal research dollars, and funding discoveries that will lead to the prevention and a cure.

“As the parent of a daughter with lupus, this initiative gives me hope that better treatments and a cure for lupus are on their way,” said Ms. Blackmon.

We're Breaking Through ... as we connect lupus patients.