2019 Novel Research Grants ($1,798,602)

Caitlin Do, PhD
The Role of Micropolymer Subunits in Driving Nerve-Neutrophil Interactions in SLE
Northwestern University - Chicago, IL

Gilles Guay, MD, PhD
Establishing the Role of Sepsis in the Pathogenesis of Lupus
University of British Columbia - Vancouver, BC, Canada

Linda Cole, MD
Products of the Lipoxygenase Pathway in the Pathogenesis of Lupus
University of Washington

Monteasp Agena, PhD
Targeting the Inactive X for Correcting Defects in Female Immune System
University of Pennsylvania

Sarah Smith, PhD
Optimizing Nicotinamide in SLE and Lupus
University of Texas at Austin

Robert Mathies, MD
Neuropsychiatric Symptoms of SLE
University of Colorado Denver - Anschutz Medical Campus

Traci Bowers, PhD
Examining the Role of Diabetes in the Pathogenesis of Lupus
University of Oklahoma - College of Medicine - Oklahoma City, OK

2019 Distinguished Innovator Awards ($2,000,000)

Fabienne Mackay, PhD
Novel Therapeutic Approaches for SLE
The University of Melbourne

Jeffrey Rathmell, PhD
Metabolic Networks and Unbiased Gene Sets to Identify Targets for SLE
Vanderbilt University Medical Center

2019 Target Investigation in Lupus Grants ($3,598,919)

Michelle A. Kahlenberg, MD, PhD
Shaping a Lifeline on the Drive of Lymphocyte Apoptosis and Activation for SLE
University of Michigan

Benjamin Kile, PhD
Establishing the Role of Apolipoprotein E and FOXO in the Pathogenesis of Lupus
Wake Forest University

Yue Ling Wu, PhD
New Mechanisms for Thrombosis and Atherosclerosis in SLE and APS
Loyola University Chicago

2019 Target Investigation in Lupus Grants ($1,798,602)

Michele C. Morea, PhD
Granulopoiesis to SLE Pathogenesis: Contribution of Dysregulated Immune Function in SLE
Northwestern University - Chicago, IL

Catherina de Weger, MD, PhD
Understanding the Pathogenesis of Inflammation in Lupus
Johns Hopkins University - Baltimore, MD

2019 2019 Lupus Insight Prize Awarded to Ignacio Sanz, MD

Dr. Sanz has already made invaluable contributions,” said Kenneth M. Farber, President and CEO, Lupus Research Alliance. “We look forward to his next advances afforded by new lupus insight prize. The LRA believes Dr. Sanz’s study could spark new treatments for the disease and help doctors determine the best course of action for their patients.

Specifics on the Investigation

Researchers speculated for some time that some B cells must migrate in specialized parts of the lymph nodes in order to be able to make these destructive antibodies. But Dr. Sanz and colleagues also found that, in contrast to healthy B cells, these lupus B cells were ready to transform into cells that produce harmful antibodies, even in patients with active disease.

“Thinking outside the box is a property that often hinders—horrifying—not so when it’s used to describe the ideas generated by Ignacio Sanz, MD,” Kenneth M. Farber, President and CEO of the Lupus Research Alliance said. “Dr. Sanz recently questioned that certain little-understood immune system cells are a major source of the harmful proteins that promote lupus symptoms. This breakthrough has the potential to alter the course of lupus research forever. In recognition of his groundbreaking work, the Lupus Research Alliance awarded Dr. Sanz the 2019 Lupus Insight Prize.”

Lung Flares — thanks to people like you!

The LRA thanks you for being part of our Board, our corporate foundry donors, and all of our loyal friends who want to make a difference, for their unwavering generosity.

Contributions to the Lupus Research Alliance are tax-deductible. To make a contribution, visit lupusresearch.org/community or call 1-800-722-5737.

2019 Lupus Insight Prize Awarded to Ignacio Sanz, MD

In accepting the prize, Dr. Sanz gratefully acknowledged the LRA. “I am deeply humbled and honored by the award. I thank my colleagues and the Lupus Research Alliance for recognizing my work, and I am eager to pursue further research with the potential for improving patient outcomes.”

The LRA congratulates Dr. Sanz on his discovery and wishes him further success. We look forward to his next breakthroughs in reducing patients’ risks and severity of disease flares.

Alliance Board of Directors

“Dr. Sanz has already made invaluable contributions,” said Kenneth M. Farber, President and CEO, Lupus Research Alliance. “We look forward to his next advances afforded by our Lupus Insight Prize. The LRA believes Dr. Sanz’s study could spark new treatments for the disease and help doctors determine the best course of action for their patients.”

The LRA congratulates Dr. Sanz on his discovery and wishes him further success. We look forward to his next breakthroughs in reducing patients’ risks and severity of disease flares. Dr. Sanz is always looking for new therapeutic targets and is energized to identify tailored to each person.

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2019: A YEAR OF TREMENDOUS GROWTH

The Lupus Research Alliance (LRA) boldly pursued breakthroughs. The LRA has become the leading funder of lupus research, more than doubling the amount of research dollars provided this year. Our signature fundraising event, the Lupus Walk, has grown to over $41 million! Here’s one reason why: Transforming Goodwill into Research

People make a difference—what’s something that the LRA knows for certain. And we don’t have to look any further than our Walk with us to Cure Lupus events. Walkers—many of whom have lupus or have a close relationship with someone who has the disease—are motivated by the LRA-funded critical lupus research initiatives.

In 2019, the determination of walkers like Matthew Milestone helped by generating nearly $2 million, bringing the total raised by Walks all over the country to over $41 million. Here’s what Matthew had to say: “I’m looking for a cure for me,” said Matthew. “I’m looking for a cure for one of my kids, my other parents.” I don’t want them to go through what I’ve gone through. I’m looking for a cure in case one of my kids gets diagnosed with this disease—and for the kids of other parents. I don’t want them to go through what I’ve had to go through.”

Leading with Extraordinary Clarity and Grace

The LRA is enormously grateful to Mary K. (Peggy) Crow, MD for more than 10 years of devoted service and leadership, as we recognize her as Chair of our Scientific Advisory Board, Director of the university’s Division of Medicine at Harvard University, and Chair of the Department of Rheumatology at HG and NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center. Dr Crow is Physician-in-Chief and Chair of the Department of Medicine at Hospital for Special Surgery—and now also the LRA’s Chair—has devoted her more than 10 years to the LRA.

As the world’s leading authority in lupus research, Dr Crow is Physician-in-Chief and Chair of the Department of Medicine at Hospital for Special Surgery, and was the first woman to serve as Chair of the Department of Medicine at Har...