



## **Dr. George C. Tsokos Receives Lupus Insight Prize for at FOCIS 2015** *Grant Project Aimed at Improving Lupus Nephritis Treatment*

SAN DIEGO, CA (June 24, 2015) – **George C. Tsokos, M.D.**, Chief of the Rheumatology Division at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School, received the 2015 [Lupus Insight Prize](#) today for a project with great promise in improving treatment for lupus nephritis. The award was presented at FOCIS 2015, the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Federation of Clinical Immunology Societies.

The Lupus Insight Prize is a collaborative initiative among the [Alliance for Lupus Research \(ALR\)](#), the [Lupus Foundation of America \(LFA\)](#), and the [Lupus Research Institute \(LRI\)](#). The \$200,000 Prize recognizes a major, novel insight and/or discovery that has the promise of changing thinking about lupus as well as a high likelihood of generating further advances in the diagnosis and treatment of the disease.

### **Innovative Project Aims to Improve Lupus Nephritis Treatment**

Dr. Tsokos will use the award funds to study the molecular link between the immune system and the kidney damage seen frequently in patients with lupus nephritis, a dangerous complication of lupus. His research also aims to develop a targeted delivery of drugs directly to kidney cells that block the action of a single destructive enzyme.

“I am honored to receive this award from the three leading organizations in lupus,” commented Dr. Tsokos. “The Prize will allow my team to further exciting work that has potential to significantly improve treatment of lupus nephritis, a dangerous condition that results when the lupus immune system attacks the kidneys. The ability to target drugs would help more effectively treat kidney damage with less debilitating side effects than is common with current standard of care.”

[IMPORTANCE OF LUPUS INSIGHT PRIZE AS A WAY TO FURTHER PROMISING LUPUS RESEARCH BY SEASONED SCIENTISTS AND AS A COLLABORATION IN THE LUPUS COMMUNITY], Kenneth Farber, President of the Alliance for Lupus Research.

[GEORGE TSOKOS’ LEADERSHIP AND CONTRIBUTIONS IN LUPUS RESEARCH], Sandra Raymond, President and CEO of the Lupus Foundation of America.

[SIGNIFICANCE OF DR. TSOKOS RESEARCH FOR IMPROVING LUPUS NEPHRITIS TREATMENT AND WHY NEW TREATMENTS ARE NEEDED], Margaret G. Dowd, President and CEO of the Lupus Research Institute.

### **About Lupus**

Lupus is a chronic autoimmune disease that can cause inflammation and tissue damage to any organ system in the body. An estimated 1.5 million Americans and at least 5 million people worldwide have lupus.

### **About Lupus Nephritis, a Dangerous and Common Complication**

Many people with lupus develop lupus nephritis — when lupus attacks the kidneys. Lupus nephritis is typically treated with immunosuppressive drugs that increase risk of infection as well as corticosteroids which can cause serious side effects such as weight gain and high blood pressure. People with lupus nephritis may need dialysis, which filters the blood through a machine to remove waste products from the body, and in severe cases, a kidney transplant.

### **For More Information about the Funding Organizations:**

[Alliance for Lupus Research](#)

[Lupus Foundation of America](#)

[Lupus Research Institute](#)

### **About FOCIS**

FOCIS exists to improve human health through immunology by fostering interdisciplinary approaches to understand and treat immune-based diseases.

###

### **Media Contacts:**

Courtney Love, Alliance for Lupus Research, [clove@lupusresearch.org](mailto:clove@lupusresearch.org), 212-218-2869

Lauren Topf, Lupus Foundation of America, [topf@lupus.org](mailto:topf@lupus.org), 301-424-8546

Margy Meislin, Lupus Research Institute, [mmeislin@lupusny.org](mailto:mmeislin@lupusny.org), 212-685-4118 x 34

Sarah Martis, Federation of Clinical Immunology Societies, [smartis@focisnet.org](mailto:smartis@focisnet.org), 414-359-1670 x1103

Source: Lupus Research Institute