Meeting the Task Head-on: Addressing COVID-19

The Lupus Research Alliance would be remiss if we did not acknowledge the tremendous toll that COVID-19 has had on people across our country—especially people with underlying health concerns ... like many in the lupus community.

Today, much hope is on the horizon and much that we can learn—and even gain—from this pandemic. For all the harm COVID-19 has caused, it certainly brought lupus to the forefront of America’s collective consciousness.

Just a few months ago, lupus remained a relatively unknown disorder outside the community living with the disease and those dedicated to treating it. Today, COVID-19 has raised greater interest in the need to understand a hyper-reactive immune system—the very quest the Lupus Research Alliance has been engaged in for more than two decades.

Our expertise is invaluable. The LRA focuses on understanding why the immune system malfunctions ... why the overzealous immune response attacks healthy tissue.

So, at this moment in time when lupus and COVID-19 intersect, let’s take a moment to celebrate the power of science.

We deeply appreciate your support ... and your unwavering commitment to making lupus a disease of the past.

You enable the LRA to provide funding to the world’s most brilliant scientists, moving their innovative ideas forward.

Thank you.

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Lupus, a mysterious disease, affecting millions worldwide, remains a significant challenge due to its complex nature and insufficient treatments. This document provides an overview of the current understanding of Lupus, potential research avenues, and the future possibilities in treating this disease.

**Unraveling the Complexity of Lupus**

Lupus is a heterogeneous disease, meaning that symptoms and responses to treatments vary widely from patient to patient—precisely what makes it so difficult to develop effective treatments. Understanding the underlying disease pathways in each patient is crucial.

In December of 2020, lupus research attained another major milestone when it transitioned from a critical evaluation phase to actual patient treatment. This revolutionary leap in lupus research, spearheaded by Lupus Research Alliance President and CEO Kenneth M. Fearon, signifies a new era in lupus therapy.

**Innovative Treatment Strategies**

Dr. Robert Comiter’s groundbreaking research is central to this new approach. His team has developed a novel treatment strategy that focuses on the disease’s root cause, aiming to prevent the immune system from attacking healthy tissues.

**Future Perspectives**

As we look forward, hope for a cure is on the horizon. The discovery of a cure for lupus would revolutionize medical practice, offering patients a brighter future.

In summary, understanding lupus requires continued research and development, and it is our shared responsibility to support these efforts. With the right strategies and partnerships, we can unleash the potential for a world free from lupus.

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**Meet Our Newest Awardees**

- **Marianne Clark, MD**
  - The University of Chicago
  - Madison Memorial in Lupus Research

- **Jocelyn Hutterer, PhD**
  - Barnes Research Institute at Virginia Mason
  - California Alliance for Lupus Research

- **Alexis G. Stitt, MD**
  - Fellow in the Medical Genetics Program
  - Medical College of Wisconsin

- **Robert D. Costos, PhD**
  - Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center Department of Pharmacology, Toxicology, and Pharmaceutical Sciences

These awardees are part of an exciting new generation of lupus researchers who are poised to make significant contributions to the field.

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**New Strategic Plan: Unlocking Opportunities**

The Lupus Research Alliance continues its quest for new treatments. With the new strategic plan, Unlocking Opportunities, the Alliance is poised to unlock new avenues for research and discovery, aiming to bring hope to those affected by lupus.

**Lupus Research Alliance Continues Its Search For New Treatments**

The Lupus Research Alliance continues its search for new treatments, driven by our unwavering commitment to finding a cure for Lupus.

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**Catalyzing Research**

- **Dr. Robert Comiter**
  - SUNY Upstate Medical University
  - New York University School of Medicine

Dr. Comiter’s research is transforming the way we approach lupus treatment, offering hope for a cure in the near future.

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**Collaborating to Speed Progress**

- **New Partnerships**
  - **COVID-19 Vaccine Trial**
    - Coronavirus Research Collaborative
  - **Genetic Testing**
    - Lupus Research Institute

These partnerships are driving innovative approaches to DF and accelerating progress towards a cure for DF.

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**Lighting a Path to Hope**

- **Dr. Robert Comiter**
  - SUNY Upstate Medical University
  - New York University School of Medicine

Dr. Comiter is a testament to the power of collaboration and innovation. His journey is a beacon of hope for lupus patients and their families.

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In conclusion, the Lupus Research Alliance continues its quest for new treatments, driven by our unwavering commitment to finding a cure for Lupus. With the new strategic plan, Unlocking Opportunities, the Alliance is poised to unlock new avenues for research and discovery, aiming to bring hope to those affected by lupus.

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**For more information and ways you can help, please visit:**

- **Lupus Research Alliance**
- **National Lupus Foundation**
- **American Lupus Association**
- **Global Lupus Foundation**