



**LUPUS
RESEARCH
ALLIANCE**



STRIVING FOR A WORLD FREE OF LUPUS

As the largest private funder of lupus research in the world, the Lupus Research Alliance (LRA) is leading the way for better treatments and, ultimately, a cure through the power of science and clinical research. Our commitment to people with lupus guides our work across the entire research spectrum, from transformative discoveries in the lab to new therapies in the clinic. And, as a catalyst for change, we bring together leading global experts to advance our bold research mission. No other lupus organization has our research breadth or depth. We are relentless in our pursuit of a cure — and have the track record to get there.

April 2023

Spearheading research for a cure

We are pushing the boundaries of scientific exploration by forging strategic partnerships and investing in cutting-edge research. Our efforts are bringing the lupus community closer to more personalized, effective therapies and diagnostics.

Investing in Groundbreaking Developments for the Community

LRA is an early identifier of breakthrough science. LRA-funded research led to the development of Benlysta and Saphnelo® — the only biologic medications to be approved by the U.S. FDA for systemic lupus erythematosus since the 1950s.

Driving Breakthroughs in Engineered Cell Therapies

The LRA enabled pioneering research that unlocked a potential new treatment paradigm for lupus — engineering of patients' own immune cells (CAR T cells) that can eliminate harmful immune cells that cause lupus. This new approach has led to the most dramatic clinical trial outcomes in lupus to date and has been life-changing for the few people treated.

Advancing Innovative Treatments With Fewer Side Effects

At least 80% of people with lupus take potent steroids that help alleviate symptoms but often cause serious side effects. LRA-funded investigators discovered that replenishing the protein GILZ (Glucocorticoid-Induced Leucine Zipper), a key anti-inflammatory protein, may uncover new treatments offering the benefits of steroids without harsh side effects.

Opening the Door to Personalized Treatments for All

Because lupus affects each person differently, there is an urgent need to develop individualized medicines. Recently, LRA-funded research discovered a gut bacteria which may trigger autoimmunity — a breakthrough that can open the door to new personalized therapies.



“The LRA was visionary in supporting research of the interferon pathway as a target for new drugs. Saphnelo is now FDA-approved and getting into practice.”

DR. VIRGINIA PASCUAL, DIRECTOR, DRUKIER
INSTITUTE FOR CHILDREN'S HEALTH, WEILL CORNELL
MEDICINE, NEW YORK, NY



“Thanks to an LRA grant, our early studies proved that engineered CAR T cell therapy can keep lupus under control and paved the way to studies in patients.”

DR. MARKO RADIC, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR,
UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER,
MEMPHIS, TN



“This would have a revolutionary impact that may change the treatment of lupus forever.”

DR. ERIC MORAND, HEAD OF RHEUMATOLOGY,
MONASH HEALTH, MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA



“Gut microbes are a major environmental factor that may raise the risk of developing lupus and its severity. The LRA is enabling us to transition from academic research to new personalized lupus treatments, hopefully within the next 10 years.”

DR. MARTIN KRIEDEL, SECTION CHIEF OF
RHEUMATOLOGY, THE UNIVERSITY OF MUENSTER,
GERMANY; ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR ADJUNCT,
YALE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, NEW HAVEN, CT

Revolutionizing the lupus landscape

Our research investments allow the best researchers in the world to pursue novel ideas, advance treatments and diagnostics, and one day, discover a cure. Since our founding, the LRA has made a significant impact in the field and progress for people living with lupus.

Awarded **560+** grants and invested more than

\$260

million in research awards.



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Funded research that led to the only **2 new treatments** for SLE in the last 70 years.



IN UNDER A DECADE...

\$67M → **\$156M**

Invested \$67 million in research grants that led to 19 patents and an added \$156 million in funding from other sources.*

230



Forged **230 academic, pharma, and biotech collaborations** — connecting the brightest minds across disciplines and sectors.*

Furthered scientific dialogue and exploration through



500+

published papers and

200+

abstract presentations.*

Collaborated with our clinical research affiliate, Lupus Therapeutics, and the clinical trial network it oversees (Lupus Clinical Investigators Network), on nearly 25% of active lupus clinical trials.**



*Based on a 2022 LRA grant portfolio evaluation encompassing 152 awards granted between 2012-2018. / **Based on a LRA Research Program evaluation (2023), data on file.

“Anti-malarials, steroids, and chemotherapy drugs with a slew of side effects were once the only options for lupus. Thanks to the LRA’s funding of research toward specific new treatments, I finally have a medication that targets my lupus directly, and my health has greatly improved with less flare-ups and virtually no pain.”

SHANELLE GABRIEL, SINGER, POET, LYRICIST, AND LUPUS ADVOCATE



Putting our community first

The LRA and clinical research affiliate Lupus Therapeutics infuse the perspectives of people with lupus in everything we do to improve treatment progress and to ensure each person receives the maximum benefit from treatment.

- **The Lupus Accelerating Breakthroughs Consortium (Lupus ABC)** convenes people with lived lupus experience, researchers, scientists, advocacy groups, industry and government stakeholders, including the FDA to address the most urgent challenges and advance safer treatments for people with lupus.
- **Project CHANGE** addresses underrepresentation in clinical trials through comprehensive action plans and community engagement, so research reflects the entire lupus community.
- **The Lupus Nexus** is a unique lupus registry, biorepository, and information exchange platform that drives in-depth research to further the understanding and treatment of lupus.
- **The Lupus Landmark Study**, one of the Lupus Nexus components, is the largest of its kind longitudinal lupus study, following 3,500 patients with different types of lupus for five years to help accelerate personalized treatments for this disease.
- **Lupus Clinical Investigators Network (LuCIN)** is comprised of 50+ top clinical research institutions, 250+ clinical investigators and reaches 25,000+ people with lupus. LuCIN partners with pharmaceutical companies on clinical trials including the first drug in development for cutaneous lupus, and early stage cell therapy programs.
- **The Patient Advocates for Lupus Studies (PALS)** is a peer-to-peer clinical trial early education program, co-designed with lupus patients to improve clinical trial knowledge, participation, and diversity in representation.



I've included the LRA in my estate planning to make sure the investments I've made in research and care will continue to pay off for others for many years to come. I believe the LRA is conducting the very best lupus research in the world. They are giving their all. And I know they will achieve a cure."

BARBARA ABRAMS, LRA LEGACY DONOR

The time for a cure is now

People living with lupus are eager for a life free of their condition. Join us as we accelerate personalized medicine to make that life a reality.

Please know that **100% of your donation goes to support lupus research programs** because the Lupus Research Alliance Board of Directors funds all administrative and fundraising expenses.



To learn more and get involved, visit lupusresearch.org