

## LUPUS RESEARCH INSTITUTE



*The Patient Voice for Lupus Research*

### Questions and Answers

#### **Lupus Research Institute /LRI National Coalition**

##### **What is the Lupus Research Institute?**

The Lupus Research Institute (LRI) is the national nonprofit organization leading the advancement of new science in lupus. By deliberately seeking and funding only the highest-quality basic and clinical novel research, the LRI aims to change the course of lupus research to prevent, treat and cure lupus.

##### **What type of research does the LRI fund?**

Created in collaboration with lupus scientific community leaders, the LRI encourages scientists to search for answers solely in unconventional, innovative ways to bring a flow of fresh perspectives and new talent to the challenges of this multifaceted and elusive disease. The LRI has awarded more than 10 million in grants, supporting basic and clinical novel research projects of more than 40 established and new investigators nationwide. This prestigious group of scientists spans multiple disciplines and is conducting research to better understand the mechanisms of the disease, as well as the organ and tissue damage it causes. The LRI also supports the development of novel clinical trial methodologies that will accelerate the testing of promising agents in patients to make much-needed new treatments available more rapidly.

##### **What is the Lupus Research Institute National Coalition?**

The Lupus Research Institute (LRI) National Coalition is the advocacy network of state and local lupus organizations united to:

- Promote increased education and awareness of the seriousness of lupus and the need for increased research.
- Advocate for the eradication of lupus through a vigorous public and private-supported research effort.
- Collaborate on initiatives aimed at increasing funding for novel research in lupus.
- Empower lupus patients to actively advocate for improved treatments and a cure.

##### **What organizations participate in the LRI National Coalition?**

Partnership groups represented hail from major urban centers (New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Washington, D.C.) as well as regional and statewide lupus organizations from such diverse parts of the country as California, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Hampshire, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Virginia, and West Virginia. In addition, healthcare organizations such as the Association of Black Cardiologists, National Kidney Foundation and WomenHeart: the National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease, participate in Coalition initiatives.

##### **What programs and initiatives has the LRI National Coalition sponsored?**

In 2004 the Coalition achieved a significant breakthrough in federal government support for lupus research. The Coalition's advocacy efforts led to a congressional directive to the NIH to develop a 5-year trans-institute research plan for lupus. The Coalition also co-sponsored a multi-disciplinary forum, "African Americans and Lupus: Invisible No More," at the Congressional Black Caucus 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Legislative Conference in Washington, DC. The most recent Coalition program, the "Get into the Loop" public service advertising campaign, alerts young women to the risks, dangers and symptoms of lupus.