



DISCOVERY

Transforming lives through innovation.



February 27, 2015

LRI: Celebrating the 15 Years that Changed the Face of Lupus Research

“Every great advance in science has issued from a new audacity of the imagination.”
John Dewey, philosopher

That guiding principle is what brings the [Lupus Research Institute](#) (LRI) to our 15th anniversary – a milestone in our history and in our future. To encourage scientists to take risks; to take away constraints to creativity; to fund the most novel and audacious research to understand, treat, prevent and cure lupus – that is what the Lupus Research Institute set out to do. And with all of your help – our scientists, our advisors, our donors, our patients and their dedicated families – we have turned lupus research upside down.

- **\$200 million delivered for innovative, groundbreaking research.** With an investment of \$50 million in original ideas, LRI leveraged over \$150 million in additional funding from NIH and others to continue the novel research initiated with our grants.
- **New talent and ideas to lead the field.** LRI funded over 150 investigators from diverse disciplines, many working in lupus for the first time. Their new perspectives and expertise expanded the scope and ambition of lupus research.
- **Deep understanding of human lupus.** LRI pushed forward the scientific agenda by championing investigations in human lupus. Over half of LRI research focuses on cells and tissues from patients, generating deep knowledge of the human disease that directly informs the development of new medicines.
- **Breakthrough discoveries to propel new treatments.** LRI-funded discoveries on the immune system in lupus and how it damages vital organs such as the heart, kidney and brain have spurred the development of new treatments like belimumab. LRI advances in understanding lupus propel innovative targeted therapies now being tested in patients and even more following in the pipeline.
- **Driving to prevention and cure.** LRI’s \$1 million Distinguished Innovator Awards, launched in 2012, challenge the global scientific community to uncover the root causes of lupus that drive to prevention and a cure.

[Read more](#) about how LRI’s cornerstone strategy of funding innovative scientific ideas in lupus has more than demonstrated its power to make significant breakthroughs in understanding a complex disease. We now have the knowledge and tools to innovate across the full spectrum of lupus research – fundamental, human, translational and clinical research – to propel the delivery of new treatments and diagnostics to patients.

At the LRI we will continue to turn lupus research upside down and push for the ultimate goals of prevention and cure. And at the same time, drive creative, new practical solutions so patients can be identified earlier, and treated with safer and more effective medicines to protect them from life-threatening organ damage.

Thank you for your support as we work to transform the lives of those with lupus today and to prevent and cure lupus tomorrow.

Sincerely,

William E. Paul, M.D.
Chairman, Scientific Advisory Board



Margaret Dowd
President and CEO



About the Lupus Research Institute

The world's leading private supporter of innovative research in lupus, the LRI champions scientific risk-taking in the hunt for solutions to this complex and dangerous autoimmune disease.

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