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## 13 Leading Pharmaceutical & Biotech Companies Come Together to Overcome Obstacles to Lupus Drug Development

Companies developing new drugs for lupus each grapple independently with common challenges – obstacles that are difficult for any one company to overcome alone. That’s why the Lupus Research Institute formed the **LRI Industry Council (LIC)** – to pool talent and resources and provide companies the opportunity to collaborate for the first time on issues of common interest in lupus drug development.

With the LRI as facilitator, 13 top pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies recently met in Washington, DC to discuss ways to surmount the hurdles they share in **developing new treatments for lupus**.

- How to enroll enough patients in clinical trials to test new lupus treatments is the first critical challenge the LIC began to tackle. No matter how promising, a drug cannot be approved by the Food and Drug Administration without demonstrating safety and effectiveness in large groups of people with lupus. Enlisting patients continues to present a major obstacle.
- Effectively proving benefit to patients is critical to new drug approval and the focus of a new partnership between the Lupus Research Institute’s Industry Council and the international consensus effort, **OMERACT (Outcome Measures in Rheumatology)**. Meeting together recently, industry experts set out the difficulties with current instruments used to measure drug effectiveness in lupus and how they can work together to develop improved tools.

“No one company or organization can solve the confounding difficulties that block new drug development in lupus,” said Margaret Dowd, LRI President and CEO. “In these and other collaborative initiatives, the LRI is bringing to bear the collective expertise and perspectives of the diverse members of the lupus community to knock down whatever roadblocks stand in the way of better, safer and more effective treatments for people with lupus.”

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**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.

**Lupus Research Institute**

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