



# DISCOVERY

Pioneering discovery to cure lupus



Lupus  
Research  
Institute

June 2014

## Second Lupus Insight Prize Awarded by Three Lupus Organizations



Dear Lupus Community,



We are excited to share with you that **Bruce Richardson, M.D., Ph.D.**, of the University of Michigan, received the second Lupus Insight Prize during a formal ceremony at [FOCIS 2014](#), the 14th Annual Meeting of the Federation of Clinical Immunology Societies in Chicago.

The Prize is a collaborative initiative among the Alliance for Lupus Research, the Lupus Foundation of America, and the Lupus Research Institute to recognize and honor the achievements of an outstanding investigator whose research efforts have significantly advanced the field and have a high likelihood of generating further insights in understanding the causes, biology, treatments, or a cure for lupus.

Dr. Richardson's pioneering work laid the foundation for the study of epigenetics in lupus and autoimmunity. Epigenetics looks at chemical modifications to DNA that turn genes on or off. These modifications may occur naturally or as a result of external factors including age, environment, lifestyle, and disease state.

The \$200,000 award will allow Dr. Richardson to delve deeper into how environmental exposures, genetic factors and epigenetic changes interact to trigger lupus disease and flares. These studies have the potential to lead to new therapeutic approaches designed to prevent lupus development and flares, as well as identify new targets for treatment.

The awards ceremony was followed by a special scientific session on environmental influences in lupus in which Dr. Richardson presented his latest findings. In addition, [Amr Sawalha, M.D.](#) presented new results funded by his LRI Novel Research Grant. Dr. Sawalha is looking at how a particular type of epigenetic change, known as DNA methylation, might help explain how lupus is triggered. He recently was awarded \$1,155,000 from the National Institutes of Health to continue this important work.

We look forward to following the progress of Dr. Richardson and Dr. Sawalha in applying the promising area of epigenetics to advance lupus care.

### [Full Press Release](#)

Sincerely,



Margaret Dowd  
President and CEO  
Lupus Research Institute

P.S. Please [visit our website](#) to learn more about lupus and the research the LRI is funding to drive new treatments as well as ways to prevent and cure the disease.

**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**

330 Seventh Avenue, Suite 1701, New York, NY 10001

T: 212.812.9881 F: 212.545.1843

e-mail: [Lupus@LupusNY.org](mailto:Lupus@LupusNY.org)

[LupusResearchInstitute.org](http://LupusResearchInstitute.org) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Email Preferences](#)