

November 13, 2015

Highlights from Scientific Conference for the Non-scientist: Advancing Lupus Care Through Research and Advocacy *The Progress and The Promise*

What are some of the most exciting new scientific studies that bring hope for better treatments and a cure for lupus? [Watch these video presentations](#) if you were not among over 100 patients, friends and family members in New York City who heard directly from four scientists and two advocates who are fulfilling the promise of cutting-edge research to transform the lives of people with lupus.

Introducing the program, Lupus Research Institute (LRI) President and CEO Margaret Dowd emphasized to the audience. "We do patient-centric research which means that everything is about you and for you."



Kenneth Farber, President of conference co-sponsor Alliance for Lupus Research (ALR) said, "The way to prevent and cure lupus is to fund great biomedical research. For that we need time, talent and treasure."

LRI|ALR Funded Research Brings Breakthroughs



[Martin Kriegel, MD, PhD](#) – Can Controlling Gut Bacteria Prevent Dangerous Clotting Disorder?

Do certain bacteria that live in the gut trigger the antibodies that cause dangerous blood clots in antiphospholipid syndrome (APS)? Dr. Martin Kriegel's team at Yale University said, "Our goal is to discover which bacteria drive lupus and find new ways to target them."

[Michele Kosiewicz, PhD](#) – Why are Men Protected From Lupus and How Can that Lead to New Treatment Options?

Instead of asking why women are 9 times more likely to have lupus, Dr. Michele Kosiewicz turned the question upside down to look at why men are at so much less risk.



[Amrie Grammer, PhD](#) - Repurposing Existing Drugs for Lupus: An Update

How can we get new treatments to lupus patients faster? A joint ALR-LRI project is testing drugs already approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for other diseases that might be used to treat lupus. Conducted by Drs. Amrie Grammer and Peter Lipsky, the goal is to bring better and safer therapies to lupus patients.

[Michael Stein, MB ChB](#) – Can Reducing Dietary Salt Alleviate Lupus Symptoms?

Dr. Michael Stein described, “With the innovative MRI imaging technology we developed, we can examine for the first time if lupus patients have excess salt in their tissues and if reducing dietary salt can reduce inflammation and high blood pressure in lupus.”



Advocacy Brings Breakthroughs to Patients

Kelly Fund for Lupus founder and television newscaster [Brenda Blackmon](#) moderated the conference and shared a bit of her own story as a mom loving a child with lupus. “As tough as it is to be someone with lupus, it is also tough to be someone who loves someone with lupus.”

“Every dime raised by the sale of my book *A Mom’s Story* goes to ALR and LRI to support advocacy, education and research,” said Ms. Blackmon. Because that’s what will give us all hope and a cure.”



Lupus patient and 150% committed advocate [Kathleen Arntsen](#) stressed learning about research, connecting with a lupus community, raising awareness with your legislators. “It gives you so much power to feel you have a voice and can make a difference.”

Thanks to Our Supporters and Our Sponsors

We thank our corporate sponsors for enabling us to provide this program.



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About the Lupus Research Institute

The Lupus Research Institute (LRI), the world's leading private supporter of novel research in lupus, pioneers discovery and champions scientific creativity as it has successfully demonstrated the power of innovation to propel scientific solutions in this complex autoimmune disease.

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