



DISCOVERY

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Lupus Research Institute Congratulates AstraZeneca|MedImmune on Positive Results of Anifrolumab for Lupus

The Lupus Research Institute (LRI) congratulates AstraZeneca and its global biologics research and development arm, MedImmune on the exciting results showing the investigational drug anifrolumab significantly reduced disease activity in moderate to severe lupus and improved symptoms. These data from the Phase II clinical trial will be [presented today](#) at the American College of Rheumatology (ACR) 2015 Annual Scientific Meeting.

Anifrolumab is a human monoclonal antibody that blocks the type I interferon (IFN) receptor that inhibits the activity of all type I IFNs, which play a central role in lupus. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration recently assigned anifrolumab Fast Track designation, which expedites the review process; Phase III trials of anifrolumab for moderate-to-severe lupus began July 2015.

“We have been eagerly awaiting clinical data of this magnitude for many years,” said Principal Investigator Richard A. Furie, MD, Chief, Division of Rheumatology, North Shore-LIJ Health System. “These results provide very compelling evidence that blocking the type 1 interferon system with an inhibitor of the type I interferon receptor is a promising strategy for the treatment of SLE and support the progression of anifrolumab into Phase III.”

“This announcement brings much-needed and much-welcomed news – hope for lupus patients,” LRI President Margaret Dowd notes. “Better, safer new treatments are critical for all those who suffer with this complex and difficult disease. We eagerly look forward to rapid progress with anifrolumab.”

Dowd also commented, “We are especially pleased to see these impressive results just one year after the LRI recognized AstraZeneca and MedImmune with our 2014 Outstanding Scientific Leadership Award. The company’s declared commitment to scientific innovation and a corporate mindset to think outside the box is the culture the lupus community needs to deliver great science and potential breakthrough therapies like anifrolumab. The Lupus Research Institute shares that belief in the power of innovation – our core mission – and continues to champion and support the cutting-edge novel ideas that change the face of lupus research and transform patients’ lives.”

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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.

Lupus Research Institute

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