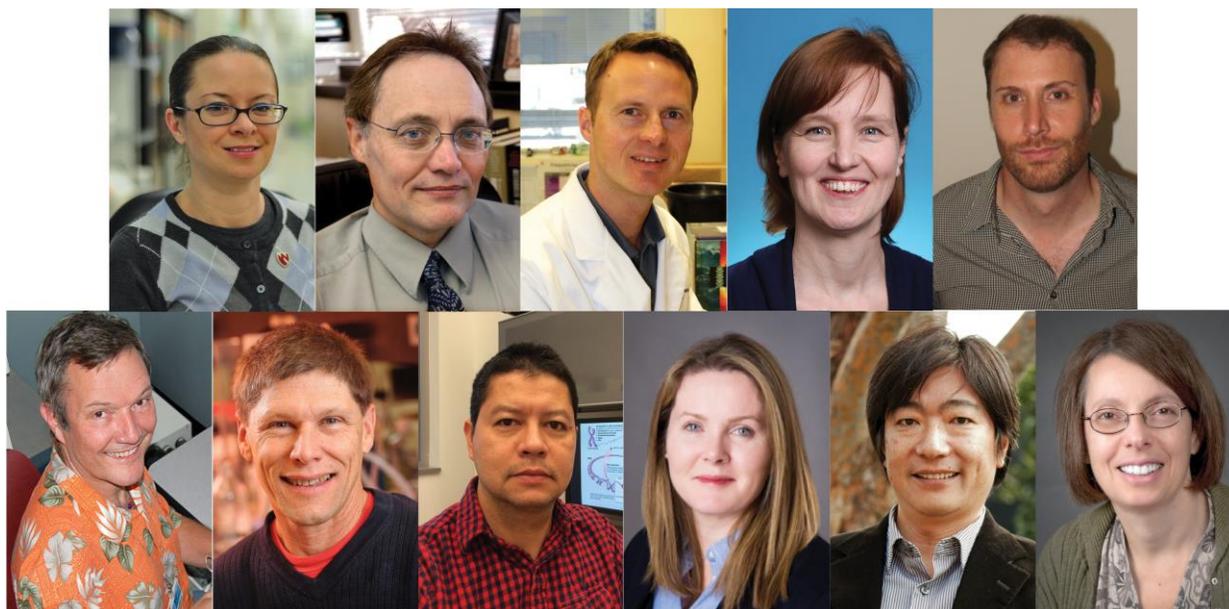




February 2015

LRI's 2015 Novel Research Grants Drive Discovery in Promising New Directions



As the Lupus Research Institute (LRI) celebrates its 15th anniversary, the engine of innovation moves forward at accelerated speed with the announcement of this year's Novel Research Grants bringing new talent from a wide diversity of specialties. Each new project lives up to the strictest definition of novel – wholly original, never-been-done-before.

Strategies for Better, Safer Treatments

Five studies will test high-risk, highly original approaches to controlling lupus. Here are the questions they will explore:

- [Can reducing iron levels treat kidney damage?](#) Dr. Erika Boesen, University of Nebraska
- [Can cutting down on salt reduce inflammation?](#) Dr. Michael Stein, Vanderbilt University
- [Can adjusting your microbiome through diet prevent blood clotting?](#) Dr. Martin Kriegel, Yale University
- [Can boosting an immune system regulator treat lupus?](#) Dr. Edith Janssen, Cincinnati Children's Hospital
- [Can antibodies be used as a treatment to lower inflammation?](#) Dr. Robert Anthony, Massachusetts General Hospital

Innovative Technologies to Advance New Therapies

Bringing emerging technologies into lupus research, the LRI pushes the boundaries of discovery and

advances innovative new therapies with three new grants. Three new studies use cutting-edge technology to answer key questions.

- [Can technology for killing cancerous B cells work in lupus?](#) Dr. Marko Radic, University of Tennessee
- [Which interferons impact lupus symptoms and severity?](#) Dr. Mark Walter, University of Alabama
- [Which genes cause lupus and could identify those at risk?](#) Dr. Iouri Chepelev, Cincinnati Children's Hospital

Understanding the Signals that Control the Lupus Immune System

Three LRI researchers explore newly discovered signals between immune cells -- instructing them to attack or hold back.

- [Can one molecule slam on the brakes?](#) Dr. Kate Fitzgerald, University of Massachusetts
- [Can we block the signal to T cells to prevent an attack?](#) Dr. Hideki Ueno, Baylor Research Institute
- [Does a faulty biological clock contribute to kidney damage?](#) Dr. Anne Davidson, Feinstein Institute for Medical Research

“Distinguished by an extraordinary openness to the unexpected, the LRI nurtures risk-taking to pursue true innovation,” said President and CEO Margaret Dowd. “This cornerstone strategy has demonstrated solid success – achieving some of the most pivotal discoveries in lupus of the last decade. Novel research is the proven path to breakthroughs that transform patients’ lives with better treatments while moving closer to a cure.”

[Meet LRI's Class of 2015](#) – 11 brilliant scientists looking at lupus from diverse, but consistently novel, perspectives to drive discovery and deliver results.

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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.

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