



March 24, 2015

LRI National Coalition Voices Lupus Needs to Congress Be a Virtual Advocate and Be Heard!



Congress is listening to lupus patients today as the Lupus Research Institute [National Coalition](#) visits the U.S. Capitol for **2015 Lupus Advocacy Day**.

Members of the Coalition have gathered in Washington from the major urban centers across America – as far away as Los Angeles and as close as Pittsburgh. Collectively we will visit over **50 members of Congress and their staff**.

Now you can help make sure **every member of Congress** from every state hears how they can help lupus patients -- join the LRI Coalition TODAY as a virtual advocate.

Use LRI's automated [Legislative Action Center](#) to email your federal legislators and ask them to help:

Speed up New Drug Approvals and Include the Patient in the Process

- Both sides of Congress – the House and the Senate – are working on “21st Century Cures” legislation to improve how new drugs are tested and approved. We ask all Members of Congress to **support including ways to speed up new drug development** for lupus. And we ask that **patients are consulted** at all stages as drugs are researched and considered for approval by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Click [here](#) to take this action.

Write FDA to Include Lupus in Public Meetings

- FDA would like to take the patient perspective into account when considering potential new treatments. FDA asked for public feedback on which diseases to focus on in upcoming meetings on drug development. We ask Members of Congress to **urge FDA to focus one of these public meetings on lupus** as a devastating disease that desperately needs better, safer treatments and a cure. Click [here](#) to take this action.

Increase Funding for Research to Improve Treatment

- We ask Congress to devote **at least \$32 billion** in 2016 for biomedical research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in the next budget. NIH research is essential to give patients better treatments and find a cure for diseases like lupus. Click [here](#) to take this action.

Support Bill to Make Biologic Drugs Affordable for Patients

- All patients should have access to the best medications available. But some insurance companies increase the amount paid by patients requiring them to pay a high percentage of the cost – which could run thousands each month. We ask Members of Congress to sponsor the **Patient Access to Treatments Act (PATA)** to protect patients from having to choose between paying more than they can afford and risking serious consequences by forgoing the medications they need. Click [here](#) to take this action.

Please use our [automated tools](#) to easily email or phone your federal representatives. In just minutes, you can represent the lupus community to Congress – the nation's leaders whose decisions directly impact patients' lives!

Special thanks go to our 2015 Lupus Advocacy Day sponsors: GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), Bristol-Meyers Squibb (BMS), UCB, Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals, Genentech and the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO).

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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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