

March 10, 2015

Dear Friend,

The S.L.E. Lupus Foundation and the Lupus Research Institute are extremely grateful for your support over the years. Your dedicated commitment has allowed the LRI's bold novel research platform to consistently exceed scientific expectations and deliver unparalleled research success. As a very important member of our lupus community, we wanted to share some truly exciting news with you about our organization.

We are very pleased to let you know that the Boards of Directors of the S.L.E. Lupus Foundation (SLE), Lupus Research Institute (LRI), and the Alliance for Lupus Research (ALR) have approved the intent to merge our organizations. A joint committee of the LRI and SLE Boards will now proceed to guide and oversee the financial and legal proceedings required to move the merger forward.

Clearly this merger ushers in a new era of unprecedented scientific promise and progress for the entire lupus community, and most certainly, for lupus patients.

As the LRI marks the 15th Anniversary of our extraordinary work advancing novel research in lupus, and SLE's 45 years of unprecedented contributions of science and service for the lupus community, we also recognize you—our loyal friends and generous supporters. Without all of you, the remarkable impact of innovation on lupus and autoimmunity that we are so proud to have achieved would not have happened.

Please know as we go forward that all of us at the SLE and LRI – board and staff – cherish and salute you, confident that we will continue to walk together on the exciting next steps of this journey. We need you every step of the way!

With deepest gratitude and very best regards,

Susan Golick  
Founder

Richard K. DeScherer  
President

Margaret G. Dowd  
CEO

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**About the S.L.E. Lupus Foundation**

The S.L.E. Lupus Foundation is the preeminent lupus organization providing direct patient services, education, public awareness, and funding for lupus research.