

December 18, 2014

LRI 2014 — What a Year for Results!

Exciting, trailblazing novel lupus research continues to deliver! In 2014, innovation propelled new treatments and broke new ground to find the fundamental causes of lupus that can drive to a cure.

Help us Keep it Going!

DONATE

With your support, LRI researchers are:

- Finding novel ways to treat [antiphospholipid syndrome \(APS\)](#) – a complication causing blood clots that can lead to strokes and heart attack.
- Developing [new brain imaging markers](#) to detect cognitive impairment.
- Investigating drugs that block the newly-identified protein iRhom2 as [treatments for lupus nephritis](#).
- Finding markers to [diagnose and monitor lupus nephritis](#) without invasive biopsies.
- Applying latest cancer discoveries to [cut off the energy supply](#) and stop **harmful immune cells** from attacking.
- Discovering links between [lupus and ovarian cancer](#) to find better treatments for both.
- Getting to the heart of why [good cholesterol goes bad](#) in lupus and increases risk for atherosclerosis (hardening of the arteries).
- For the first time using cutting-edge technologies to identify [specific bacteria in the gut microbiome](#) that may trigger lupus – a major step toward early treatment and prevention.

Closing in on the Cause, Going for the Cure

Three [2014 Distinguished Innovators](#) were awarded up to **\$1 million grants** to discover what causes lupus and drive toward prevention and a cure. The only such awards of this magnitude in lupus challenge the international scientific community to pursue the underlying causes that can arrest or reverse the disease.

Each recipient has made recent major breakthroughs in fundamental immunology – the Distinguished Innovator Awards ensure those discoveries will be applied to lupus first.

- **Douglas Green, Ph.D.** is investigating how the pathway he discovered that normally disposes dead cells may go awry in lupus to attack the body's cells.
- Having found the process that alerts the healthy immune system to attack viruses,

- Zhijian "James" Chen, Ph.D. is testing how that pathway may malfunction in lupus.
- **Randolph J. Noelle, Ph.D.** is working on a novel molecule that holds the immune response in check, which could be used to bring the overactive lupus immune system back under control.

Collaborations Push Results ---- Harder and Faster

The LRI leads research collaboration across the entire lupus community -- industry, academia, government, non-profits, patients and families -- to accelerate breakthroughs and speed real-life results.

- LRI's [Lupus Industry Council](#) brings 15 bio-pharmaceutical companies to work together for the first time to solve tough challenges to drug development in lupus.
- As founding members, Lupus Research Institute (LRI) and Alliance for Lupus Research (ALR) help guide the National Institutes of Health [Accelerating Medicines Partnership](#) to discover new targets for developing lupus treatments.
- LRI supports the [Lupus Nephritis Trials Network](#), collaborating on clinical research of new treatments for kidney damage.
- Launched first national [Lupus Trials Fairs](#), giving hundreds of patients the chance to "meet their match" for clinical studies.
- Commissioned the [landmark joint study](#) (LRI|ALR) that identified 155 potential lupus treatments among drugs already approved for other diseases. Next step: clinical testing!
- As lead founder and funder of the [Lupus Initiative](#), the LRI now partners with the American College of Rheumatology to alleviate healthcare disparities, educating medical professionals nationwide to recognize, diagnose and treat lupus. The LRI's National Coalition of patient advocates has raised **\$8.6 million** in Congressional funding to support the *Lupus Initiative*.

Please stand with the LRI to harness the power of innovation to transform patient lives while we move closer to prevention and a cure.

Every dollar you give drives discovery...

[Help us deliver our promise to patients](#) – match their indomitable courage with firm commitment to **deliver a Life Without Lupus!**



About the Lupus Research Institute

The world's leading private supporter of innovative research in lupus, championing scientific risk-taking in the hunt for solutions to this complex and dangerous autoimmune disease.