

S.L.E. LUPUS FOUNDATION

Vision...Purpose...Progress

Lupus is chronic autoimmune disease that afflicts nearly 1.5 million Americans. Ninety percent are women, and most are in the prime of their lives. To date, there is no known cause or cure, yet lupus remains our nation's least recognized major disease.

A complex, frequently misdiagnosed and severely underdiagnosed disease, lupus runs an unpredictable course. Currently, available treatments often cause as much destruction to the body as lupus itself. Yet there hasn't been a new treatment developed for lupus in more than 40 years.

S.L.E. Lupus Foundation

For more than 30 years, the S.L.E. Lupus Foundation has pursued its mission to:

- + Provide services for people with lupus and their families
- + Educate and inform the public about the disease
- + Encourage and support lupus research

Patient Services

The Foundation offers a broad spectrum of services free-of-charge to help people with lupus and their families. Services range from personal counseling and referrals to physicians, clinics and support groups, to grants for emergency aid. Educational programs and medical symposia are held regularly for the larger community.

Our *New York City Lupus Cooperative*, a grass-roots, national demonstration model for the effective management of chronic disease among inner-city minority women, has provided outreach and awareness to more than 30,000 community residents. The cooperative centers are located in East Harlem and the Bronx.

Public Education and Awareness

To increase the public's understanding of lupus, the Foundation raises awareness through broadcast and print media both in New York City and nationwide. James Garner, whose daughter has lupus, will star in our new national PSA campaign. Board member Jessye Norman serves as the Foundation's spokesperson.

Research

The Foundation continues to collaborate with the scientific community and public sector in pursuit of new treatments and a cure. This year, the Foundation, in partnership with the Lupus Research Institute (LRI), is providing competitive, peer-reviewed grants for lupus research to more than 40 of the highest-ranking scientists nationwide—the greatest number of scientists currently supported by any lupus organization.