

# ABOUT LUPUS

Lupus is an acute and chronic (lifelong) autoimmune disease in which the immune system is unbalanced, causing inflammation and tissue damage to virtually every organ system in the body.

## Did you know?

- An estimated 1.5 million Americans have a form of lupus.
- Ninety percent of the people with lupus are women; however, men and children also develop the disease.
- Lupus is two to three times more common among African Americans, Hispanics/Latinos, Native Americans, and Asians – a disparity that remains unexplained.
- More than half of the people with lupus suffer four or more years and visit three or more doctors before receiving a correct diagnosis.
- Late diagnosis and delayed treatment contribute to significant tissue damage leading to organ failure, disability, and death.
- No cure or satisfactory treatment exists, and there have been no new drugs approved by the FDA specifically for lupus in more than 50 years!

# ABOUT THE LUPUS FOUNDATION OF AMERICA

The Lupus Foundation of America, Inc. (LFA) is the foremost national nonprofit voluntary health organization dedicated to finding the causes of and cure for lupus and providing support, services, and hope to all people affected by lupus.

The LFA energetically pursues its mission through five program objectives:

- Provides direct financial support to researchers through LFA's own national research program, *Bringing Down the Barriers*.
- Advocates for increased public and private sector support for research on lupus.
- Translates research findings into medically sound information and programs for people with lupus, their families, physicians, and other health professionals.
- Heightens public awareness of the impact of lupus.
- Supports individuals with lupus, their families, and caregivers.

## About Our Chapters

The Lupus Foundation of America (LFA) provides many of its direct services through a nationwide network of 300 chapters, branches, and support groups. Chapters conduct programs of public education and information, patient education, professional education, and advocacy.

### Join us and become a member!

- Membership in the LFA is through a local chapter. Members receive **Lupus Now** the LFA's award-winning national magazine, in addition to other benefits. To learn more about LFA programs and services that may be available in your area -- including education programs and support group meetings, or to request a list of physicians -- please contact the chapter closest to you.

For more information about lupus, or to find a chapter, visit [www.lupus.org](http://www.lupus.org).