



About The Lupus Initiative

Mission & Vision:

The Lupus Initiative provides medical professionals, educators and students with easy-to-use educational resources to ensure the early and accurate diagnosis, effective treatment and management of patients with lupus, regardless of age, gender, race, ethnicity or socioeconomic status, so that they may potentially lead healthier lives.

Who We Are:

- Guided by a national consortium of experts in medicine, public health, academia, research, patient advocacy and health disparities
- Managed by the American College of Rheumatology
- Funded, in part, by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services through its Office of Minority Health
- Goals align with HHS' priority of achieving health equality across the nation

For More Information

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Empowering Medical Professionals to Take Action Against Lupus

Fighting a complex disease that disproportionately affects women and people of color



Why Lupus?

Lupus is a complex, chronic autoimmune disease that is devastating and potentially life-threatening.

- Affects up to 1.5 million people across the U.S.
- Particularly devastating for women in the prime of life
 - 90 percent of those affected are women between the ages of 15 and 45
 - A leading cause of premature cardiovascular disease, stroke and kidney disease
- 2 to 3 times more common in people of color than in Caucasians
- Poorer outcomes and higher death rates seen in people of color and of lower socioeconomic status
- Often difficult to diagnose: patients spend an average of 4 years and see 3 physicians before receiving a correct diagnosis
 - Involves a range of symptoms common to multiple diseases
 - Symptoms can seem nonspecific or even mild
 - Can affect any organ system

While there is no cure for lupus, the symptoms are treatable and can often be managed with the right care. The more medical professionals know about lupus, the more likely they are to identify the signs and symptoms early and accurately, improving outcomes for patients.

Educational Materials for the Classroom and Practice

The Lupus Initiative's free comprehensive, user-friendly educational materials are available online and can be easily incorporated into existing medical and health profession curricula on a range of topics. They can also help medical professionals meet CME requirements and assist in patient care and empowerment. The materials were developed and tested by experts from across medical specialties, as well as leaders in public health, academia and research.



For Educators

Tool	Description
PowerPoint Slides	Presentations on lupus, with an emphasis on health disparities, that can be used to augment existing medical, nursing and other health profession school lectures
Video Reference Library	Short teaching videos, featuring renowned lupus experts, on a variety of topics, including childhood onset lupus, health disparities and the provider's role in lupus care coordination
Case Studies	Case studies, including those that provide experiential learning, test skills in real time and offer feedback

For Medical Professionals

Tool	Description
CME activities	Continuing education courses covering topics such as health disparities, unconscious bias, pregnancy, and dermatology
Role of Perspectives in Lupus Care	Four-part video series that addresses how unconscious bias in health care can impact diagnosis and treatment of lupus and patient care overall
Teaching Videos*	Short videos featuring lupus experts and some of their patients on topics such as access to and coordination of care
Patient Lectures**	Videos to help patients understand lupus, lupus as it relates to cardiovascular disease, and the importance of personal health records
Patient Video/DVD**	Video developed in partnership with Emory University School of Medicine to support patients living with lupus
Illustrated Stories**	Comic book-style stories to help patients understand lupus and the importance of adhering to treatment plans
Lupus Story Bank*	Videos from real people sharing their experiences with lupus
Symptom Tracker**	Printable document to help patients monitor symptoms between visits

* For use with patients

+ Available in English and Spanish