



ROSEMARIE
K. WITTER
FOUNDATION
White Roses for a Lupus Cure

JOURNAL

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**ROSEMARIE
K. WITTER
FOUNDATION**

White Roses for a Lupus Cure

The Rosemarie K. Witter Foundation is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting medical research in finding effective treatment, leading to a cure for Lupus. As a sponsor of the Rose Garden Scholarship Fund, the foundation will award scholarships to women afflicted with Lupus who are pursuing a college degree in the areas of engineering, science, mathematics, medicine or law thus assisting them with financial to pursue their education.

Greetings, on behalf of the Rosemarie K. Witter Foundation Inc., we would like to extend our sincere gratitude for your support towards our commitment to finding effective medical treatment for Lupus and ultimately a cure, while offering scholarship opportunities to young women.

The RKW Foundation is unique as we are small, however committed and determined. We are exposed to Lupus up close and personal. In 2002, my sister Rosemarie Karenza Witter lost the battle to this dreadful disease at the young age of thirty-seven, in the prime of her life, an intellectual, mechanical engineer, with hopes of attending law school. Rosemarie - affectionately known as "Rosie" - was a humanitarian who truly cared about her fellow man.

The vision to launch this foundation came to me immediately after Rosie's passing, however it took 10 years to finally move forward. On July of 2012, the Rosemarie K. Witter Foundation Inc. debuted as a nonprofit organization and was awarded the 501(c) (3) exempt status. Our mission is: to raise significant funds to partner with research scientist, sharing some of our observations about patterns, in particularly people with Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE) (an autoimmune disease), in which the body's immune system mistakenly attacks healthy tissue. In addition, a portion of the funds raised, will assist women in college suffering from this disease, with a scholarship, who are studying in the areas of medicine-, science, mathematics and law.

In 2011 BENLYSTA was and is the first and only drug approved to treat lupus in more than 50 years. This medicine is the first drug developed specifically for Lupus since the disease was discovered more than a century ago. Currently approved medications for Lupus are borrowed from other diseases and conditions.

To date there is no cure for Lupus, the goal of treatment is to control symptoms. In conjunction with your support; the RKW Foundation Inc. will continue to utilize various disciplinary approaches in our quest to finding effective treatment and ultimately a cure, by advocating for corporate investments (public & private) to fund our cause in pursuit of a scientific breakthrough.

On behalf of the RKW Foundation, we would like to extend our appreciation and sincere thanks for your participation in this charity e. vent. We are grateful for your generosity in allowing us to bring awareness to the destructive disease Lupus.

We would like to express sincere appreciation to all our Sponsor; your commitment allows our team to focus and work towards the mission.

Once again, thank you all for your committed support. I look forward to sharing some great news in the near future!

Sincerely,

Marcia Witter- Williams Chairperson

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Marcia Witter-Williams
Mortgage Banking Professional - AVP Flushing Bank

I am a founding member of the RKW Foundation. My eclectic background encompasses Art & Design, Paralegal Studies and Mortgage Banking. Educational background consists of degrees in Fashion Design from F.I.T. (SUNY), Communication from the College of New Rochelle and a Paralegal Certificate. It is my belief that this abstract life journey has allowed me to blend the various experiences with critical & analytical perspective, resulting in the ability to contribute to various aspects in society.

In addition to serving on the RKW Board; I participate in my local church as a member of the Deacon Board, Media Team & Worship & Music Committee.

My vision / passion for the cause of finding a cure for Lupus and for the RKW Foundation, resulted from my personal experience in how ravishing this disease can be. I watched helplessly as Lupus destroyed my beloved sister's life and subsequently the life of a dear coworker, who also lost the battle with Lupus in less than five years.

As the RKW Foundation moves towards our mission, we will work to create a clear pathway for those living with this disease, especially young professional women – with the immediate goal of improving the quality of life of those living with Lupus and ultimately – an effective treatment and even a cure for this devastating disease."



Dwight Elliston
Business Analyst, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta

Dwight Elliston has a 15+ year career in information systems management and technology process improvement. He earned a BA in Political Science from Columbia University, and an MS in Information Systems from Georgia State University. Dwight is a consummate community organizer, and social entrepreneur -- serving in leadership positions on several charity and policy boards in Atlanta. Like his cousin, Rosemarie, Dwight is a native of Jamaica, and joined the RKW Foundation's board in 2012.



Lorraine Allyson-Govan
Social Worker

Lorraine Allyson-Govan is native of South Africa and is a founding member of the RKW Foundation. She is a compassionate humanitarian. Lorraine holds a degree in Counseling Psychology from the College of New Rochelle. She is an experienced Social Worker with over 15 years of service, who is passionate and committed to the task of helping families. Lorraine is an adopted sister to Rosemarie who is still devastated by her loss and is therefore committed in finding a cure for this dreadful disease.



Santo A. Cipolla

Litigation Paralegal, Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP

Santo Cipolla has over 30 years of experience as a paralegal. He is a native New Yorker. He was educated through the New York City public school system and attended the City University of New York at Queens College. In 1985, he graduated from Queens College with a B.A. in Political Science / Communications. In 1986, he enrolled in the ABA Approved Queens College Paralegal Program. Since 1989, he has been a Member of the Advisory Board to the Queens College Paralegal Studies Program. Throughout his paralegal career, he has worked in various New York City law firms and has worked on some very prominent cases. As a litigation paralegal at Kramer Levin, Santo has worked on some of the largest bankruptcy and litigation cases around. Santo worked with Rosemarie when they were both paralegals at Curtis, Mallet-Prevost, Colt & Mosle and then at Kramer Levin where he was a member of the Bankruptcy Department before becoming the litigation paralegal coordinator. Santo became a member of the Board of Directors of the RKW Foundation in 2012 due to his close family ties with the Witter family and his friendship to Rosie, and has played an active role in the formation of the organization.



Maliya Cherelus

Chairperson of the RKW Event Planning Committee, Maliya Cherelus earned a BA in Psychology from New York University with over 20 years of experience in Banking and 10 years of experience in Radio Broadcasting. Maliya joined the RKW Foundation after attending the inauguration Gala in 2012. She was approached by Marcia Witter-Williams, the Chairperson of RKW, and was impressed by her passion for the cause. She was surprised to learn that Lupus was very prevalent in the Caribbean community. Maliya, who works at the United Nations, has always been involved in various charities and community based projects. She did not think

twice about volunteering with RKW because she saw it as an opportunity to reach out and educate our community about Lupus, and to be involved in an organization that awards scholarships to women afflicted with the disease.



Charlene R. Quashie

A Lupus survivor since 1993, Charlene became a member of the RKW Foundation, after attending the 2012 inauguration Gala event. Invited guest of fellow church member Ilene Joseph, who lost her daughter to Lupus, is also a friend of Marcia. “I decided to become a member after witnessing firsthand Marcia’s passion for finding a cure for lupus. I also want to play a role in helping to find a cure for this disease, so I can help others as well as myself live a healthier, fulfilling life. I find it extremely admirable that Marcia has followed through with her vision of establishing the RKW Foundation in memory of her sister, and is taking such a proactive stand

to help others have a fighting chance.”



My name is Charlene Quashie and I am a Lupus Survivor. In 1993, I was officially diagnosed with Systemic Lupus Erythematosus – “SLE” or Lupus. Lupus was unknown to me up until that time. I learned that lupus is a chronic, autoimmune disease that can damage any part of the body (skin, joints, and/or organs inside the body). It is estimated that at least 1.5 million Americans have lupus. Annually, across the country, more than 16,000 new cases of lupus are reported. It is suspected that 5 million people throughout the world have a form of lupus. Lupus is mostly found in women of childbearing age (15-44), however, children, teenagers and a small percentage of men develop lupus too. People of all races and ethnic

groups have the potential to develop lupus, but women of color are two to three times more likely to develop this disease than their Caucasian counterpart.

I was a junior in college when this rash appeared on my face out of nowhere. I was concerned but not alarmed. I remember I was on summer break when my family and I saw a dermatologist in the city, who basically gave me the run around and only had the intention of selling me his product line. None of my doctors could tell me what was going on. I returned to school with questions unanswered and feeling insecure because I had what is known now as the “butterfly rash” across the bridge of my nose and my cheeks, out there for the world to see. I ended up speaking to a nurse on campus who recommended that I see a dermatologist in Albany, NY. I went to school in Alfred, NY, so that was a 4+ hour drive for a doctor’s appointment. The run around was exhausting, I was upstate away from my family and my emotions was all over the place, but I knew I had to be strong throughout this process. I was determined to uncover this mystery, so I made the trip there and back by myself. The doctor examined me and right away he was certain of what it was, but wanted to verify, so he took a biopsy of my cheek and referred me to a specialist at Strong Memorial in Rochester, NY, to have additional testing. I had several of the symptoms they test for. My symptoms were: Raynaud’s disease, anemia, a low white blood cell count, butterfly rash across my nose and cheeks (prompted

by the sun), protein in my urine, extreme fatigue, and unexplained hair loss. Once they realized I had protein in my urine, they suggested I have a kidney biopsy to see what stage my kidneys were in. I was in stage 3 (out of 5) which was manageable, but I needed to start treatment right away before it worsened. I was an emotional roller-coaster, I was scared because this was serious and I'm dealing with it all by myself. My mother was very worried and wanted me to get a second opinion, but a friend of hers who was a nurse explained the importance of acting fast and treating it, before things took a turn. I had the biopsy done and it showed that the lupus was very active, but with treatment it could be controlled. My family made arrangements to come up and meet the doctor and discuss my condition. The doctor reassured all of us that with treatment I can manage my condition and live a normal, healthy life. The same doctor treated me while I was away at school up until graduation and arranged for me to follow-up with a doctor in my hometown. One thing that I learned about Lupus is that it affects everyone differently. In most cases, lupus patients suffer from joint pains. My situation is unique, because I don't suffer from any joint pains. I don't even know when my Lupus is flaring up, unless I have blood work done to check my levels. I am thankful that I can function normally and that this disease doesn't affect my daily living, but in most cases it prevents patients from leading a normal life, in some cases, unable to hold down a job. I've noticed that I have some health issues that can't be explained and many

times Lupus is to blame. Lupus is a funny disease, to this day doctors are still striving to figure it out. Many people have been misdiagnosed and are currently unknowingly living with this disease. There have been many strides made over the past 60 years for lupus, one being a new medication – Benlysta – created to treat adult patients with active lupus. Despite this victory, many patients continue to suffer, because of the lack of effective treatment. With the amount of time that has past and the numerous new cases developing each day, there is no reasonable explanation why people continue to suffer from this disease. Continuous support for medical research is still needed. As patients, we need to be our own advocates and hold doctors, researchers and congress responsible for supporting medical research to find a cure for lupus. After I was diagnosed, I went straight into learning mode, reading and researching all that I could find about my condition and educated my family so that they wouldn't worry as much. I joined a support group that helped me tremendously to cope with Lupus. I'm so grateful for my family and friends who were there for me, even if it was just a kind, positive gesture or words of encouragement. I'm extremely grateful for the information I was able to find that cleared up that "old school" thinking. Since my diagnoses, I've noticed that many people are making a more conscious effort to educate the public about Lupus, instead of suffering silently with it. I've noticed billboards, advertise-



Rosemarie K. Witter was born in Kingston, Jamaica, and grew up in New York City. She earned a degree in Mechanical Engineering, and aspired to study for a law degree. In 2002, her life was cut short by Lupus before she even got a chance to pursue her life's dream. Affectionately known as Rosie, she was a loving and caring individual, and a humanitarian who was passionate about the causes in which she believed. Had she lived, Rosemarie would have dedicated her life to finding a cure for Lupus and supporting research to identify new therapies. Her family and friends are committed to carrying the torch, and are honored to continue her legacy.



White Roses For a Lupus Cure Program

Master of Ceremony – Mr. Veron Larrow

Greetings & Opening Remarks - MARCIA Witter- Williams - Chairperson

Entertainment – Michael Genova

Keynote Speaker:

Multi Emmy Award Winning Anchor & Author - Ms. Brenda Blackman

Entertainment – Alejandro Omedia

Maliyah Cherelus - Scholarship award presentation

Melissa Flores - Charla de Lupus (Hospital For Special Surgery)

Charlene Quashie - Research scientist grant presentation

Dwight Elliston - Presentation of honoree awards

Lorraine Allyson- Govan - Announcement of silent auction winners

Entertainment – Alejandro Omedia

Master of Ceremony - Acknowledgment of sponsors

Santo Cipolla- closing remarks

Note – Tee Shirt Fashion Showcase – During Cocktail hour- Colleen Windross-Designer

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KEYNOTE SPEAKER

MS. BRENDA BLACKMON

EMMY AWARD NEWS ANCHOR,
FOUNDER OF BRENDA BLACKMON COMMUNICATIONS INC
AND THE KELLY FUND FOR LUPUS INC

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ments, commercials, seminars, and even TV shows talking about lupus. Many celebrities have come forward to share their story as well.

For the most part, my lupus has been quiet and inactive and my kidneys are in remission. There was a time years after my initial diagnosis that I had a flare up and my kidneys were in stage 4. At that time I was treated with an experimental drug that worked. I also credit my health to maintaining a healthy lifestyle and exercising daily. Despite our pain and fatigue, we can find some form of exercise that will help us better manage our disease. Learning to take control of our bodies and our health puts us closer to overcoming this disease. I am truly grateful for all of the doctors, researchers and organizations that help bring us closer to learning more about this disease, how we can effectively treat it and finding a potential cure. So much has changed over the years

and we our moving in the right direction of understanding lupus and finding alternative forms of treatment. I became a member of the Rosemarie K. Witter (RKW) Foundation, Inc., because of the love and passion that's poured into the vision of this non-profit organization. Our mission is to give a scholarship to a woman diagnosed with lupus, enrolled in college, in a degree-granting program in engineering, science, mathematics, law or medicine, and partnering with lupus research scientist in connection with of our mission to find a cure for lupus. The main thing that has kept me going was that I decided to fight and take control of my life. I was determined to live life by my design, not allowing lupus to limit me in any way. I work a full-time job as a legal secretary, I'm a Team Beachbody Coach, I exercise on a regular basis, I make the daily intention of maintaining a healthy lifestyle and I promise myself to enjoy life every chance I get. This is my story.
~ Charlene Quashie

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AND

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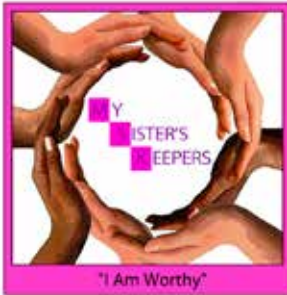
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Brenda Blackmon is a New York Television News Legend. Most recently she anchored the PIX11 News at 6:30 p.m. She's still most recognized for her position as an Emmy Award winning Anchor at WWOR-TV in New York. For 23 years as Lead Anchor she covered it all- Presidential Inaugurations, global exclusives and stories that changed us all, like September 11th. Blackmon started her career in the early seventies at The

Ledger Enquirer Newspaper and went on to land her first television job in 1973.

After six years of paying her dues as a reporter, Blackmon became the first African American news anchor in her hometown of Columbus, Georgia and has been breaking down barriers ever since. She's been honored with four Emmy Awards, two Edward R. Murrow Awards for Broadcast Excellence and more than a dozen Associated Press Awards.

The Network Journal recognized her as one of the "25 Most Influential Black Women in Business", while she served as President of Brenda Blackmon Communications, Inc. for more than a decade.

She was honored with the Shirley Chisholm Award for public service. She was also named Woman of the Year by the Queens, New York Courier News.

Blackmon is active in the community with organizations like SHARE- support for women with breast and ovarian cancer. She is the founder of "The Kelly Fund for Lupus, Inc." an organization that began in 2008 a few years after her daughter Kelly was diagnosed with lupus. The nonprofit organization is dedicated to supporting those affected by lupus, educating the public, and helping to find a cure. Blackmon graduated Magna Cum Laude from Fairleigh Dickinson in New Jersey, where she later began teaching as an adjunct professor and serves on the Board of Trustees. She also holds a Master's Degree (MPA) in Public Administration and has received three honorary doctorates.

She inspires daily on social media at Instagram, Twitter and Facebook.

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Helayne Oberman Stoopack – The Rosemarie K. Witter Foundation Inc. extends sincere appreciation for the support received from Mrs. Stoopack on behalf of Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP.

Halayne Stoopack concentrates her practice on federal income taxation. She provides advice to clients regarding mergers and acquisitions, tax-free spin-offs, joint ventures, real estate transactions, bankruptcy reorganizations and workouts, investment partnerships, regulated investment companies, public charities, private foundations, charitable donations and individual income tax issues.

Ms. Stoopack also represents clients in federal and state tax controversies.

Ms. Stoopack is co-author of “Transfers to Controlled Corporations: In General,” 758 T.M. Bloomberg BNA, 2014.

Lupus Support Group

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Hospital for Special Surgery’s Charla de Lupus (Lupus Chat)® is a unique national program providing support and education to people with lupus and their loved ones with a focus on diverse communities. Ongoing since 1994, the Charla program provides comprehensive bilingual services which include: the Charla Line, a national telephonic support and education helpline; in-person peer support at four hospital-based rheumatology clinics around New York city, monthly Charla Teen, Young Adult and Parent support Groups and participates in numerous community events and educational presentations to spread lupus awareness.

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KENNETH PLUMMER
Kensworth Consulting



Kenneth Plummer is the President of Kensworth Consulting a boutique marketing, governmental relations and consulting firm founded in 2004.

After his parents immigrated from Jamaica, Kenneth was born in the Bronx and moved to Mount Vernon in the early 1980's. Kenneth credits his family for providing him with his core values and with a strong work ethic. In fact, his long term entrepreneurial spirit can be traced to when his Uncle Leo gifted him a subscription to Black Enterprise magazine as a young man, thereby sparking his curiosity in business.

Under his leadership, Kensworth Consulting has quickly become one of the preeminent communication firms in Westchester County with a specialty in politics, non-profit fundraising and real-estate development. Over the past ten years, Kensworth Consulting has serviced over \$300 million in recently approved and completed

new construction and large scale development projects throughout Westchester County.

Kensworth's clients have included Petro Development, the New Rochelle Housing Authority, the MacQuesten Companies, Michael Anthony Holding Corporation, an array of elected officials, and the Alexander Development Group to name a few.

He also honed his skills while working as Assistant Director of Athletic Marketing for Florida A&M University for their eighteen Division One programs, where he played a vital role in increasing revenue for their football and attendance for basketball, volleyball and track and field programs. An active member of the community, Kenneth has lent his support to numerous non-profit organizations and charitable events including The Boys and Girls Club, Ben Gordon Day, Bridge to Africa, BizNet-Networking and many others.

The self-taught businessman credits the success of Kensworth Consulting to, “the basic philosophy of hard work, long hours, self-confidence, the courage to take risk, and the desire to give value and service to every client”.

In spite of his success, Kenneth remains humble in the belief that he would not have made it this far, were it not for his association with mentors, colleagues and industry leaders who selflessly shared their vast experience and knowledge base.

Kensworth Consulting

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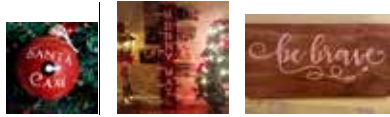
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Alejandro Olmedo's opera career began with the opportunity to sing live for Plácido Domingo in 1987. He dedicated a popular Mexican song in honor of Mr. Domingo who was impressed with the beauty and quality of his voice and encouraged Alejandro to study and train seriously for a career in opera. Alejandro took Mr. Domingo's advice and began studying

voice with Francisco Cassanova and Gustavo Marquez, music with Scott Wiles. In 1995, he entered the Operalia in Mexico City and became a semi-finalist. At the 1997 Operalia contest in Tokyo, he was a finalist. Mr. Domingo then introduced Mr. Olmedo to Bruno Pola, the internationally acclaimed Italian baritone. Mr. Pola became Alejandro's teacher and mentor. Mr. Olmedo also coached in operatic repertoire with Jeffrey Goldberg (Metropolitan Opera), Gene Bullard, zarzuela specialist Pablo Zinger, Aldo di Tullio, and Metropolitan Opera conductor Richard Weitach. Alejandro traveled to Italy, Switzerland, Germany, Sweden and Finland for five consecutive summers to continue his vocal studies with Mr. Pola. In 1998, at the invitation of Mr. Plácido Domingo, Alejandro sang for King Juan Carlos of Spain, and his wife, Sofia, Queen of Spain. His current vocal coaches in New York are Meropolitan Opera Assistant Conductor Lucy Arner and Luigi Veccia.

Get in the L O O P -Raising Awareness for Lupus

That's right; May is seen as time to come together and help raise national awareness for all the forms of lupus. This is a time to show support for the estimated 1.5 million people in the United States who are affected by this chronic autoimmune disease. With this new info-graphic, we hope to help raise awareness for lupus patients and their families this month. If you are in the Birmingham Alabama area, check out some of the Lupus Clinical Trials that Achieve Clinical is conducting.

Looking back, the first observance for lupus awareness happened back in 1977. The president at the time, Jimmy Carter, signed Public Law 95-72 declaring a week long national lupus observance. This first observance occurred in September, but over the years it was moved to October and lengthened. Then in 2009, the Lupus Foundation of America had the annual Lupus Awareness Month moved to May. The month of May held many more opportunities to promote lupus awareness, so the decision to make the final change was not too difficult. You can also check out the full story on the major Lupus Organizations in America.

Then of course there is World Lupus Day, which takes place on May 10th. This serves as an excellent opportunity for lupus organizations around the world to collaborate and raise awareness. Traditionally people will wear purple or sport a purple ribbon during the month to show support for lupus. The national symbol for lupus is the butterfly. This is representative of one of the more common symptoms of lupus, the butterfly rash, while also representing hope for lupus patients. There is another symbol that is widely used for lupus as well, and that would be the wolf. In Latin, the word "lupus" literally means "wolf". Due to the Latin translation, the wolf has served as an effective symbol for lupus awareness.

What is Lupus?

Research has shown that a majority of Americans don't know much about lupus, if anything at all. This is a debilitating disease which claims lives and remains unpredictable, so there is a lot of effort being put into spreading further awareness. Globally, it is estimated that 5 million people are affected by some form of lupus. Shockingly, research has shown that women have been diagnosed with lupus in 90% of all cases! A majority of these women get diagnosed between the ages of 15 to 45 years of age. For most cases of lupus, the doctor makes the diagnosis based on a number of physical symptoms and the results of lab tests. So, the American College of Rheumatology developed a list of criteria which could be used to help diagnose lupus.

MAY is NATIONAL LUPUS AWARENESS MONTH



THE BUTTERFLY
symbol for the butterfly rash

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

MAY 10TH IS WORLD LUPUS DAY



THE WOLF
the word "lupus" in latin means "wolf"

WHAT IS LUPUS?

TYPES

SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS (SLE):

Most serious form of lupus, which can affect the skin, mouth, kidneys, brain, lungs, and heart. Underlying cause of this disease is still unknown. The highest incidence of SLE is observed in women ages 20-40.

CUTANEOUS LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS:

This type of lupus primarily affects the skin. This condition causes inflammation and sores around the face, ears, scalp, and other areas of the body.

DRUG-INDUCED LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS:

This form of lupus is similar to SLE. Patients develop this condition due to a hypersensitivity reaction to medication. Isoniazid, hydralazine, and procainamide are some of the medications which have been known to cause drug induced lupus.

NEONATAL LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS:

This is a rare form of Lupus which can occur in infants born to mothers who have SLE. These infants show symptoms of lupus at birth, because they are affected by their mother's antibodies in the womb.

DEMOGRAPHICS & STATS

1.5MM Americans affected by Lupus

5.0MM People affected globally by Lupus



About 90% of Lupus cases are diagnosed in women.

15-45

80% of those with Systemic Lupus developed the disease between the ages of 15 to 45.

70% of lupus cases – systemic or (SLE).

A major organ will be affected in about 50% of SLE cases.

In 20% of Lupus patients, a close family member (parent/sibling) has, or will develop, lupus.

SYMPTOMS

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF RHEUMATOLOGY'S CRITERIA USED TO DIAGNOSE LUPUS:

- Malar Rash
- Discoid rash
- Photosensitivity
- Oral ulcers
- Arthritis
- Serositis
- Kidney Disorder
- Seizures
- Psychosis
- Blood Disorder
- Immunologic Disorder
- Abnormal antinuclear antibody

LUPUS TREATMENTS

Lupus treatment strategies can vary depending on the particular symptoms of the patient. Also, treatments may need to be changed as symptoms flare or subside.

NONSTEROIDAL ANTI-INFLAMMATORY DRUGS (NSAIDS):

Benefits: Used to treat fever, pain, and swelling that can be associated with lupus. Available over-the-counter (milder) or by prescription (stronger).

Negatives: Stomach bleeding, kidney problems and an increased risk of heart problems.

ANTIMALARIAL DRUGS:

Benefits: Hydroxychloroquine, commonly used to treat malaria, can be used to control lupus symptoms.

Negatives: Upper stomach; in some rare cases, can cause damage to the retina of the eye.

IMMUNE SUPPRESSANTS:

Benefits: These can be more beneficial for the severe cases of lupus, since they work to suppress the immune system.

Negatives: Higher risk of infection, liver damage, infertility, and cancer.

CORTICOSTEROIDS:

Benefit: Corticosteroids, like Prednisone, can be used to combat the inflammation caused by lupus.

Negatives: Long term side effects include: weight gain, easy bruising, thinning bones (osteoporosis), high blood pressure, diabetes and increased risk of infection.

CELEBRITIES AFFECTED BY LUPUS



MICHAEL JACKSON

The King of Pop was diagnosed with Lupus in 1986.

SEAL

The singer's famous scars on his face are the result of a childhood bout with discoid lupus.

NICK CANNON

In March of 2012, he announced that he had Lupus Nephritis.

LADY GAGA

In 2010, the performer tested borderline positive for Lupus.

TIM RAINES

This baseball hall of fame candidate was diagnosed with Lupus in 1999.

MILLIE

George H.W. Bush's Springer spaniel is the most famous dog with lupus.

LUPUS ORGANIZATIONS



LUPUS FOUNDATION OF AMERICA (LFA)

Founded in 1977, this is the largest and oldest lupus organization in America. They were the driving force behind the establishment of a National Lupus Awareness Month.



ALLIANCE FOR LUPUS RESEARCH

This organization was founded in New York right before the turn of the millennium. In their relatively short history, ALR has been able to provide more funding than any other non-governmental agency worldwide for lupus research.



LUPUS RESEARCH INSTITUTE

This National non-profit organization is dedicated to funding brand new lupus research. Their ideology is that the best lupus treatments will only be found through pursuing innovative research.



S.L.E. LUPUS FOUNDATION

The members of this national lupus Organization have devoted themselves to helping lupus patients and their families live a better quality of life. They help thousands of families deal with the day-to-day complications of life with lupus.

For anyone who might be interested in learning more about the observance of World Lupus Day, please visit www.worldlupusday.org

SOURCES

<http://www.lupususa.org/lupus-101/what-is-lupus/>
<http://www.lupususa.org/lupus-101/what-is-lupus/>
<http://www.lupususa.org/lupus-101/what-is-lupus/>
<http://www.lupususa.org/lupus-101/what-is-lupus/>

Achieve Clinical Research
 An Acorn Research Site www.achieveclinical.com

Types of Lupus

Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE): This is the most common form of lupus making up for around 70% of all cases. SLE ranges in severity, but the severe cases of SLE are as bad as they get. This form of lupus can affect the skin, mouth, kidneys, brain, lungs, and heart. Common symptoms of this disease include fatigue, photosensitivity, swollen joints, mysterious fever, skin rashes, hair loss, and kidney issue.

Cutaneous Lupus Erythematosus (CLE): The word “cutaneous” actually means skin, and CLE tends to primarily affect the skin. This particular condition can cause inflammation and sores which will appear over the the face, ears, scalp, and other areas of the body.

Drug-induced Lupus Erythematosus: This condition is similar to SLE except for one major difference. This type of lupus is the result of a hypersensitive reaction to a medication. Research has shown that Isoniazid, hydralazine, and procainamide are some of the more common medications that have been known to cause drug-induced lupus.


Neonatal Lupus Erythematosus: This is a rare form of lupus which can occur in infants that are born to mothers with lupus. While in the womb, the infant is attacked by the mother’s antibodies. At birth, these infants show some of the symptoms of lupus. These symptoms eventually disappear completely, but some of these infants can develop a rare heart defect.

Available Treatments for Lupus

Currently, the treatments that will be prescribed to lupus patients based on the symptoms that they are experiencing. Unfortunately, there is still no cure for lupus. Patients hope to control their symptoms with medication so that they can live a better quality of life. The exact drug prescribed to the lupus patient may change during the course of treatment based on how the disease is reacting. The National Lupus Awareness Month info-graphic lists some of the treatments that are currently being used to treat lupus patients. It is very important that doctor and patient collaborate often to make sure that the treatment plan is working effectively. In some cases, other drugs are needed to treat other conditions like hypertension, which can be linked to lupus. There are some possible side effects related to taking these medications, so do not hesitate to inform your doctor if any should occur.


The Faces of Lupus

This chronic autoimmune disease has affected millions of lives, and there have been a few public figures to come forward with their diagnosis. Music icons like Nick Cannon and Michael Jackson were diagnosed with lupus. In fact, George H.W. Bush’s dog Millie may have become the most famous animal with the disease after her diagnosis. These public figures have embraced their disease, and now they work to raise awareness around the world.



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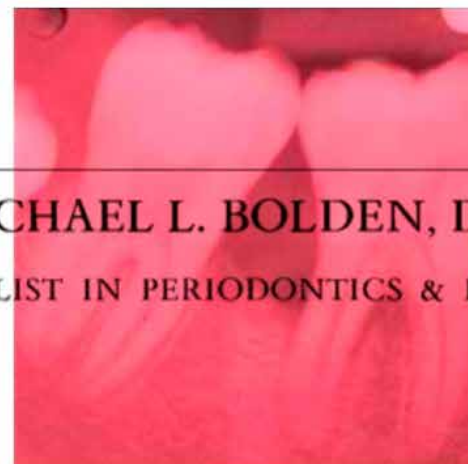
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Marina Ovanesyan
2017-Rose Garden Scholarship Recipient

Starting from a really young age, I developed a love for scientific investigation. Little did I know that I would eventually be simultaneously diagnosed with systemic lupus and a very rare blood disorder, Evans Syndrome, at 16 years old which would subsequently lead me to confirm that I would like to dedicate my life to saving the lives of sick children.

Given multiple complications of lupus including frequently being diagnosed with secondary chronic conditions, I was always in the hospital and emergency room and, with time, I became more and more interested and curious about medicine. Notably, during my second ever hospital admission, the pediatric residents embraced my blossoming curiosity of medicine and happily answered all my questions and even taught me how to do a physical and several other procedures (on a stuffed animal) whenever they weren't busy. I have witnessed the care and love of medicine the pediatric residents and attendings expressed during frequent admissions prior to my formal diagnosis of both conditions. These residents kept their promise on letting me shadow them and I was able to see different aspects of medicine within several different pediatric sub-specialties. I realized that although a hospital can be a scary place, it is also where miracles happen and my decision to go into medicine was confirmed.

Within the next few years, I plan on enrolling in an MD or MD/PhD program. I aspire to become a pediatric hematologist/oncologist specializing in bone marrow and stem cell transplantation or a pediatric rheumatologist based on interests and personal experiences as both a volunteer and multi-specialist patient. Pediatric rheumatology is very close to my heart because of childhood-onset lupus and because I am a member and mentor of an adolescent lupus support group and love supporting those whom are newly diagnosed. As a former geriatric unit volunteer, I would often encounter depressed or hopeless patients who felt relieved that I could relate to them once I shared my personal experience. In my opinion, there is nothing more special than for a physician to completely understand exactly what their patients are experiencing.

I would like not only to see patients in the clinic and inpatient settings, but also work on clinical trials and research that may lead to enhanced medical outcomes and possibly cures. I would like to uncover more information behind mysterious conditions. Specifically, I am most interested in pediatric, hematological, autoimmune, bone marrow/stem cell transplant, and cancer research.



Michaela Genova- Italian American Artist

Michael Anthony is an Italian American artist who performs the old-school classics with a modern touch.

From a very young age, Michael found himself center stage at all his family and friends gatherings from small celebrations to large engagement venues. More recently, he has performed with New York Philharmonic Symphony Singer Laura Lorenzo, Singer Song Writer Carrie McQuade, and has mingled with some of the legendary artists of all time like Tony Bennett. Michael is very excited to be here tonight in support of our united mission to find a cure.

See Facebook @ Michael Anthony Sings for current songs and event updates

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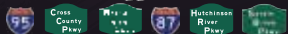
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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

NAME: Barbara J. Vilen,

eRA COMMONS USER NAME (credential, e.g., agency login): bvilen

POSITION TITLE: Associate Professor

EDUCATION/TRAINING (*Begin with baccalaureate or other initial professional education, such as nursing, include postdoctoral training and residency training if applicable. Add/delete rows as necessary.*)

INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE (if applicable)	Completion Date MM/YYYY	FIELD OF STUDY
Bemidji State University, Bemidji, MN	B.S.	1981	Medical Technology
University of NC at Chapel Hill, NC	Ph.D.	1994	Immunology

INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE (if applicable)	Completion Date MM/YYYY	FIELD OF STUDY
National Jewish Research Center, Denver, CO	Postdoc	2000	Immunology

Personal Statement

The goals of my research are to elucidate the mechanisms that regulate B cell responses to self- and foreign-antigen, and to identify how these mechanisms are dysregulated in autoimmunity and host-pathogen responses. My experience studying MHC class II gene expression with Dr. Jenny Ting, and B cell signal transduction with Dr. John Cambier, provided a broad immunology background for studies aimed at achieving these goals. Our recent studies (See #4 below) reveal that lupus-prone (MRL/lpr) macrophages harbor defects in lysosomal acidification, diminishing degradation and promoting the recycling of FcγR-bound IgG-ICs back to the cell surface. Chronic FcγR activation from recycled ICs promotes autoantibody and BAFF secretion, and prolongs intracellular residency of ICs due to their lack of degradation. This induces phagosomes to leak apoptotic antigens and IgG into the cytosol activating AIM2 and TRIM21. Our future goals are to define the upstream events that fail to regulate FcγRI signal transduction and to characterize the events that disrupt lysosome acidification. My experience in studying murine SLE, my background in signal transduction, the established clinical collaboration, creates a strong team, which make us well-suited to carry out future projects.

A. Positions and Honors

Position and Employment

1984-1986	Research Technician-University of Minnesota, Department of Medicine/Hematology, Minneapolis, MN, Laboratory of Phil McGlave MD
1986-1987	Research Technician-Mayo Clinic, Department of Immunology, Rochester, MN, Laboratory of Paul Leibson MD/PhD
1987-1993	Graduate Student-University of N. Carolina-Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC Thesis Advisor: Jenny Ting PhD
1994-2000	Postdoctoral fellow-National Jewish Research Center, Denver, CO, Post-doc Mentor: John Cambier PhD
2001-2007	Assistant Professor-Department of Microbiology and Immunol-

ogy, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC
2008-present Associate Professor-Department of Microbiology and Immunology, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC

Honors and Professional Memberships

1992	Lineberger Predoctoral Fellowship Award
1994	NRSA Postdoctoral Fellowship
1995	Leukemia Society Fellow Award
2000	NIAID Research Scholar Development Award
2008	Arthritis Foundation J.V. Satterfield Research Award
2009-2012	Associate Editor, Journal of Immunology
2012-2015	AAI Program Committee

B. Contributions to Science

Overview: Our studies have focused on B cell innate and adaptive immune responses during immunity and autoimmunity. We have elucidated several mechanisms of B cell tolerance and identified how these mechanisms are overcome in murine systemic lupus erythematosus with ongoing studies assessing defects in human disease.

- During my post-doc and the first years as an assistant professor my research focused on mechanisms of B cell tolerance involving the B cell antigen receptor (BCR). These studies identified that one mechanism of BCR desensitization resulted from dissociation of the Ig-α/Ig-β signal transducing complex from μ-heavy chain. Subsequent co-aggregation of receptors lacking Ig-α/Ig-β with signal competent receptors attenuated BCR-mediated signaling. Mechanistically, we found that unshoothing of μ-heavy chain was required for clathrin-mediated endocytosis and the delivery of antigen to the lysosome for antigen processing/presentation.
 - Vilen, BJ, T Nakamura, JC Cambier. (1999) *Antigen stimulated dissociation of BCR mlg from Ig-alpha/Ig-beta: Implications for receptor desensitization.* **Immunity** 10: 239-248. PMID: 10072076.
 - Vilen, BJ, KM Burke, M Sleater, JC Cambier. (2002) *Transmodulation of BCR signaling by transduction-incompetent receptors: implications for impaired signaling in anergic B cells.* **J. Immunol.** 168:4344-4351. PMID: 11970976, PMCID: 3726184.
 - Kim, J-H, L Cramer, H Mueller, B Wilson, BJ Vilen. (2005) *Independent trafficking of Ig-alpha/Ig-beta and mu-heavy chain is facilitated by dissociation of the B cell antigen receptor complex.* **J. Immunol.** 175:147-154. PMID: 15972641, PMCID 3895480.
 - Kim J-H, JA Rutan, and BJ Vilen. (2007) *The transmembrane tyrosine of mu-heavy chain is required for BCR destabilization and entry of antigen into clathrin-coated vesicles.* **Int. Immunol.** 19(12):1403-1412. PMID: 17981794, PMCID: 3716379.

2. After my post-doc, my interest in tolerance extended to how autoreactive B cells were regulated during innate immune responses. Although TLR4 activation was known as a polyclonal activator of B cells, it remained unclear how autoreactive B cells maintained unresponsive during TLR4 stimulation since B cell receptors are expressed on autoreactive and naïve cells. We found that concurrent TLR4 stimulation of dendritic cells and macrophages induced the secretion of IL-6 and soluble CD40L, which selectively repressed Ig secretion by autoreactive B cells. Mechanistically, chronic BCR signaling limited nuclear translocation of phospho-ERK. Thus, autoreactive B cells remain anergic because of receptor cross-talk between chronic BCR signaling and IL-6 receptor/CD40 signaling to regulate Ig secretion by TLR4. Current studies of B cell tolerance during innate immune activation focus on NLRC3, and its potential role as a negative regulator of Ig secretion upon innate stimulation of autoreactive B cells.
 - a. Kilmon, MA, JA Rutan, SH Clarke, BJ Vilen. (2005) *Low-affinity, Smith antigen-specific B cells are tolerized by dendritic cells and macrophages*. **J. Immunol-Cutting Edge** 175:37-41. PMID:15972629, PMCID: 3724409.
 - b. Gilbert, MR, DG Carnathan, PC Cogswell, AS Baldwin, BJ Vilen. (2007) *Dendritic cells from lupus-prone mice are defective in repressing Ig secretion*. **J. Immunol** 178:4803-10. PMID:17404261, PMCID: 3700365.
 - c. Gilbert, MR, Wagner, NJ, SZ Jones, AB Wisz, J Roques, KN Krum, S-Y Lee, V Nickeleit, C Hulbert, JW Thomas, SB Gauld, and BJ Vilen. (2012) *Auto-reactive pre-plasma cells break tolerance in the absence of regulation by dendritic cells and macrophages*. **J. Immunol** 189: 711-20. PMID: 22675201, PMCID: 3392546.
 - d. Lee, S-R, Rutan, JA, MA Kilmon, NJ Wagner, SZ Jones, SH Clarke, and BJ Vilen. (2012) *Receptor cross-talk spatially restricts p-ERK during TLR4 stimulation of autoreactive B cells*. **J. Immunol** 189: 3859-68. PMID: 22984080, PMCID: 3466401.
3. B cell memory is an important aspect of humoral immunity and autoreactive memory cells play a role in perpetuating autoimmune responses. Our studies of B cell memory responses during immune activation to foreign antigens and pathogens identified that BAFF secretion, elicited by productive antigen-antibody immune complexes, is a key cytokine involved in upregulating Bcl-6 expression in activated T and B cells. We hypothesized that the lack of long-lasting protection following *Staphylococcus aureus* infection is disrupted because Protein A inhibits binding of immune complexes to FcγRs. Instead we found that memory responses formed; however, *S. aureus* Protein A disrupted formation of long-lived plasma cells subsequently leading to a decline in *S. aureus*-specific antibody. This occurred by expanding the short-lived extrafollicular B cell response, and limiting the proliferation of B cells that arrive in the bone marrow but fail to establish in long-lived bone

marrow niches.

- a. Gohlke, PR, Williams, JC, Vilen, BJ, Dillon, SR, Tisch, R, GK Matsushima. (2009) *The receptor tyrosine kinase MerTK regulates dendritic cell production of BAFF*. **Autoimmunity** 42:183-97 PMID: 19301199, PMCID: 2892231
 - b. Kang, SA, AB Keener, SZ Jones, RJ Benschop, AC Maldonado, JC Rathmell, SH Clarke, GK Matsushima, JK Whitmire, and BJ Vilen. (2015) *IgG-immune complexes promote B cell memory by inducing BAFF*. **J. Immunol** 196: 196-206. PMID: 26621863; PMCID: 4684997
 - c. Keener, AB, LT Thurlow, NA Spidale, KM Cunnion, R Tisch, AR Richardson, and BJ Vilen. (2017) *Staphylococcus aureus Protein A disrupts long-lived plasma cell-mediated immunity*. **J. Immunol** 198:1263-73. PMID: 28031339, PMCID: PMC5266639
4. Published work shows that apoptotic debris accumulates on the surface of murine and human hematopoietic cells in SLE. On myeloid cells this represents IgG-immune complexes that promote heightened BAFF secretion, autoantibody, migration of cells to the kidney and renal disease (SLE phenotypes). Reducing BAFF to levels found in normal mice protects glomeruli from T cell infiltration; however, it does not affect migration of hematopoietic cells to the kidney. Mechanistically we find that the accumulation of ICs results from diminished acidification of the lysosome impairing degradation and promoting the recycling of FcγR-bound ICs back to the cell membrane. The prolonged intracellular residency of nucleic acid and IgG leads to TLR activation and causes the phagosome to leak cargo into the cytosol promoting the activation of AIM2 and TRIM21. Our current work focuses on defining the molecular events that link FcγRI to lysosomal acidification. We find that chronic mTOR activation is central to the defect, and its mislocalization within MRL/lpr macrophages dysregulates caspase1/11 impeding lysosomal maturation by disrupting Rab39a cleavage. Our goals in this application are to define the events between FcγRI and mTOR, and to assess whether forcibly crosslinking FcγRI and FcγRIIb with a multivalent bispecific antibody-based therapeutic is efficacious in restoring tolerance in lupus-prone mice. We will also generate human versions of the multivalent, bispecific antibody, which can be used *in vitro* to assess whether forcibly crosslinking human (hu)FcγRI and/or huFcγRIIa with huFcγRIIb will attenuate chronic PI3k signaling and restore lysosomal acidification in monocytes from SLE patients.
 - a. Kang, SA, JL Rogers, A Monteith, C Jiang, T Tarrant, R Roubey, M Dooley, R Falk, J Schmitz, M Diaz, G Fedoriw, and BJ Vilen. (2016) *Apoptotic debris accumulates on hematopoietic cells and promotes disease in murine and human SLE*. **J. Immunol** 196:4030-9. PMID: 27059595, PMCID: 4868781
 - b. Monteith, AJ, SA, Kang, E Scott, K Hillman, Z Rajfur, KA Jacobson, MJ Costello, and BJ Vilen. (2016) *Defects in lysosomal maturation facilitate the activation of innate sensors in SLE*. **Proc Natl Acad Sci USA** 113: 2142-51.

PMID: 27035940. PMCID: 4839468

- c. Kang, SA, G Fedoriw, K Kikly, M Diaz, [BJ Vilen](#). (2017) *BAFF induces lupus nephritis by promoting T cell entry into the glomeruli*. **J. Immunol** 198:2602-11 PMID: 28235864. PMCID:5360485
- d. Monteith, AJ, HA Vincent, P Li, TM Claiborne, NJ Moorman, [BJ Vilen](#). *mTORC2 activity disrupts lysosome acidification in lupus by impairing caspase-1 cleavage of Rab39a*. manuscript under review.

D. Patents

1. Issued patent: *Product and method for treatment of conditions associated with receptor-desensitization*. Patent #00914700.0-2116. Issued 2002.
2. Issued patent: *Compositions and Methods for Repressing B cell Autoantibody Secretion and Treating Autoimmune Disease*. Patent # 8,795,653; Issued 2014.
3. Provisional patent: *Method for Treating SLE by Crosslinking Receptors*.

Complete List of Published Work in My Bibliography:

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/myncbi/barbara.vilen.1/bibliography/41141027/public/?sort=date&direction=ascending>

E. Current Research Support

NC Biotechnology Center (Vilen PI) \$120,000 total, 18 months
08/01/17-01/31/2019

Crosslinking Fcγ Receptors to Treat Systemic Lupus Erythematosus

Our goal is to test whether crosslinking FcγRI with FcγRIIb alter the course of disease in lupus-prone mice. This innovation is differentiated from other therapeutics because it targets events that are upstream of multiple endpoints related to disease. This grant has a commercial development component including a Commercial Assessment, a Business Development Plan, and a Preclinical Development Plan. It requires a Commercial Development Advisor and dedicates 20% of the funds towards commercialization.

Lupus Research Institute (Vilen PI) 15% effort \$300,000 total,
\$100,000/yr 01/15/16-01/14/19

Cross Sectional and Longitudinal Studies of Immune Complexes in SLE

Our goals are cross sectional and longitudinal studies that define correlations between surface IgG-ICs, and disease activity. We propose to assess the frequency of active and inactive patients that accumulate IgG-ICs and to correlate this with clinical parameters. Patients who show accumulated IgG-ICs will then be followed longitudinally as their disease remits to assess whether the levels of IgG-ICs decline. Mechanistically we plan to assess the activation state of signaling effector of the PI3k/mTOR pathway, and the ability of MFs to acidify lysosomes to define whether the defects identified in mice translate to human

disease. Overlap-No.

5 U19 AI109784-03 (Ting PI) 20% effort \$12,879,686 total,
\$3,274,915/yr 07/01/14-06/30/19 Role: Core A- Co Leader

Novel Nanoparticle Platform for the Delivery of Vaccines

This multi-PI project proposes to a nanoparticle platform to deliver immunogens and novel adjuvants for more effective vaccination. My role is as Core A- Co Leader to interface with our regulatory consultants. Admin role. No research project. Overlap-No.

F. Pending Research Support

Lupus Research Alliance TIL Award (Vilen PI) \$600,000 total, \$200,000/yr 3 years 01/01/18-12/31/2021

Therapeutically Targeting Fc Receptors to Restore Lysosome Function in SLE

The goals of this project are to understand the molecular events proximal to FcγR1, with focus on SHIP-1 and its dysregulation and mislocalization in lupus-prone macrophages. We also propose to test whether crosslinking FcγRI with FcγRIIb prevents or attenuates disease in mice and whether this strategy changes the phenotype of human blood monocytes from SLE patients in active disease.

LRA William Paul Innovator Award (Vilen PI) \$1,000,000 total, \$250,000/yr 4 years 01/01/18-12/31/2021

Therapeutically Targeting Fc Receptors to Restore Lysosome Function in SLE

The goals of this project are to understand the molecular events proximal to FcγR1, with focus on SHIP-1 and its dysregulation and mislocalization in lupus-prone macrophages. We also propose to test whether crosslinking FcγRI with FcγRIIb prevents or attenuates disease in mice and whether this strategy changes the phenotype of human blood monocytes from SLE patients in active disease.

Overlap:

If any proposal is funded that overlaps with another, we will return proportionally funds to all but one granting agency.

G. Completed Research Support

5 R21 AR064951-02 (Vilen PI) 15% effort \$275,000 total, \$150,000/yr1
08/01/14-07/31/16

The innate sensor NLRC3 in the regulation of autoreactive B cells and

SLE

This project proposes to determine how NLRC3 inhibits TLR-mediated activation of B cells, and to determine whether NLRC3 regulates normal and pathogenic B cell responses to self-antigens.

1 R21 AI105613-01

(Vilen PI)

02/01/14 – 01/30/16

The Role of Recycling Immune Complexes in the Breakdown of Tolerance

This project proposes to identify whether defects in the clearance of immune complexes leads to chronic recycling and the activation of TLRs in the late endosome.

5 R01 AI070984-NIH

(Vilen PI)

04/01/08 –

03/31/13

The Role of Dendritic Cells and Macrophages in Systemic Lupus Erythematosus

This project proposes to identify the molecular basis for dendritic cell/macrophage-mediated tolerance, the redundancy or specialized function of dendritic cells and macrophages on the different B cell subsets, and to define if normal hematopoietic stem cells prevent autoimmunity in lupus-prone mice.

Eli Lilly Collaborative Agreement (Vilen PI)

01/01/13 – 12/31/13

Role of BAFF in lupus nephritis

Alliance for Lupus Research

(Vilen PI)

02/01/13 – 01/30/16

The Role of Immune Complexes and BAFF in Promoting Atherosclerosis in Lupus

This project proposes to address whether the heightened BAFF elicited from immune complexes elevates mTOR and lipid biogenesis leading to atherosclerosis in lupus-prone mice.

Lupus Research Institute (Clarke-PI; Vilen-Colnv)

12/1/10 -

11/30/13

Regulation of Autoreactive B Cells in Human Systemic Lupus Erythematosus

Arthritis Foundation

(Vilen-PI)

07/01/08 -

06/30/10

The Regulation of DC/MF-mediated Tolerance in Tolerance and Autoimmunity

This project investigates the role of antigen display on dendritic cells and macrophages in the dysfunction associated with systemic lupus erythematosus. It also addresses if the dysregulation of autoreactive B cells in autoimmune disease is a consequence of prolonged exposure to apoptotic cells.

5 R01 AI053266-NIH

(Vilen-PI)

06/03 - 06/08

Molecular Basis of Overcoming Tolerance to Smith antigen (Sm)

Establish the molecular basis for B cell tolerance in non-autoimmune mice and assess how BCR-mediated signal transduction is renewed during the onset of systemic lupus erythematosus.

Lupus Research Institute

(Vilen-PI)

02/1/01 - 01/31/04

Molecular Mechanisms of Overcoming Tolerance in Systemic Lupus Erythematosus

The role of apoptotic cells and the mechanisms of renewing signal transduction in Sm-specific B cells.

1 K22 AI01756-NIH

(Vilen-PI)

05/1/01 - 04/31/04

Molecular Basis of BCR Destabilization

Molecular basis of B cell receptor destabilization and its role in desensitizing the BCR.

5 R01 AI070984-02S1

(Vilen-Sponsor)

07/01/09 - 08/31/11

The Role of Dendritic Cells and Macrophages in Systemic Lupus Erythematosus

Predoctoral Minority Supplement for Shannon Jones.

3 R01 AI053266-S1-NIH

(Vilen-Sponsor)

08/31/04 - 09/01/06

Molecular Basis of Overcoming Tolerance to Smith antigen (Sm)

Predoctoral Minority Supplement for Mileka Gilbert.

PF04056

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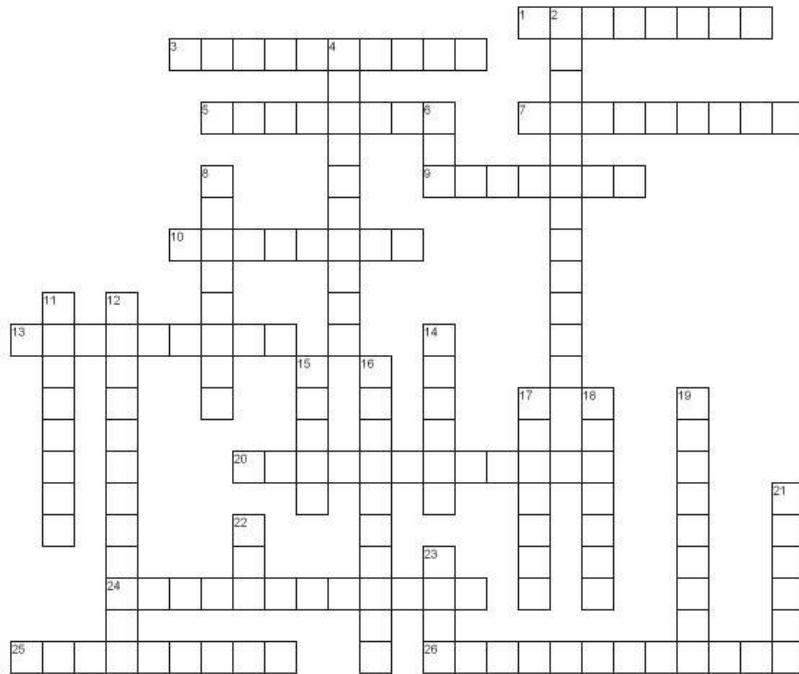
01/1/04 - 12/31/06

American Cancer Society

Mechanisms of Maintaining Tolerance

Postdoctoral fellowship for Michelle Kilmon.

Lupus Crossword Puzzle



www.CrosswordWeaver.com

ACROSS

- 1 2 words - describes the mental clouding that often accompanies lupus and tends to be more pronounced in the mornings
- 3 painful sensation that can result from lupus in the peripheral nervous system
- 5 word that represents the first letter in SLE, that means "all through the body"
- 7 word that means "on the skin"
- 9 2 words - name of a blood test that can indicate level of inflammation in the body
- 10 newest drug to be approved for systemic lupus by the FDA
- 13 method of administering steroids into a swollen arthritic joint
- 20 lupus heart involvement caused by inflammation of the connective tissue surrounding the heart
- 24 symptom of lupus joint involvement
- 25 Shape of the malar rash on many lupus patients' cheeks
- 26 painful condition that sometimes accompanies lupus

DOWN

- 2 medical specialty in treatment auto-immune diseases
- 4 one of the first three drugs to be approved for systemic lupus by the FDA
- 6 abbreviation for the type of lupus that affects the brain
- 8 lupus lung involvement caused by inflammation of the connective tissue surrounding the lungs
- 11 method for administering intravenous medications
- 12 type of physician that often treats lupus kidney involvement
- 14 lesions commonly found in the nose and mouth of some lupus patients, one of diagnostic criteria for lupus
- 15 exacerbation of symptoms
- 16 condition caused by lupus affecting a patient's circulation system
- 17 weakness or weariness often signaling a worsening of lupus
- 18 shape of many lupus rashes found on a patient's skin
- 19 FDA approved lupus drug derived from quinine
- 21 mineral deficiency in the blood sometimes caused by lupus
- 22 abbreviation for the antibody that attacks the nucleus of connective tissue cells
- 23 lupus skin rashes often resemble the shape of this animal's bite



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