

FACTS ABOUT LUPUS:

Lupus is one of the cruelest, most mysterious diseases on earth—an unpredictable and misunderstood autoimmune disease that ravages different parts of the body. It is difficult to diagnose, hard to live with, and a challenge to treat.

The Lupus Foundation of America, Lone Star Chapter (formerly North Texas) is working to engage all citizens in the fight to end lupus by revealing the true nature of the disease—mysterious, complex, debilitating, and potentially fatal. Through education, support, advocacy, and research, we are helping the community to better understand the health effects of lupus and rallying support for those who suffer from its brutal impact.

Help Us Solve the Cruel Mystery™.

Lupus Facts

- Lupus is a complex disease that is hard to define. It strikes without warning, affects each person differently, and has no known causes or cure.
- Lupus symptoms can be severe and highly unpredictable and can damage any organ or tissue, from the skin or joints to the heart or kidneys.
- Living with lupus can be battling and isolating, as symptoms mimic other illnesses and often do not cause people to look sick.
- While lupus can be disabling and potentially fatal, in many cases the most serious health effects can be managed through aggressive medical treatment and lifestyle changes.

Lupus in America

- An estimated 1.5 million Americans have lupus.
- Lupus can strike anyone at any time, but 90 percent of the people living with lupus are women. Women of color are at especially high risk.
- Lupus usually develops between ages 15 and 44, and lasts a lifetime.
- Despite the widespread prevalence of lupus, research on the disease has remained underfunded, relative to its scope and devastation.
- Only one drug has ever been developed and approved specifically to treat lupus.

The Lupus Foundation of America, Lone Star Chapter is working to cut through the widespread confusion surrounding lupus, so the disease can be recognized for its devastating impact, openly confronted, and cured.

- Awareness about lupus among Americans of all ages is extremely low, with 61 percent of Americans reporting they have never heard of lupus or know little or nothing about the disease, beyond the name.
- Among Americans ages 18-34, 72 percent have either not heard about lupus or know little or nothing about lupus beyond the name. This is particularly disturbing because this is the age group at greatest risk for the disease.
- Overall, 42 percent of Americans do not believe that lupus is a disabling disease, underscoring the lack of understanding about the serious nature of lupus.

We need your help to solve the cruel mystery of lupus. Get involved by **learning more** and **advocating** on behalf of all people with lupus, urging lawmakers to provide more funds for lupus research and education services that are needed to support the millions of Americans affected by lupus.

About the Lupus Foundation of America, Lone Star Chapter

We are affiliated with the Lupus Foundation of America, the only national force devoted to solving the mystery of lupus, one of the world's cruelest, most unpredictable and devastating diseases, while giving caring support to those who suffer from its brutal impact. Through a comprehensive program of research, education, and advocacy, we lead the fight to improve the quality of life for all people affected by lupus.

Visit www.lupuslonestar.org to learn more about lupus and how you can show your support.

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