Lupus Pulse: Research, Resources & Community at UMass Chan Lupus Center
Quarterly Newsletter – Spring 2026

Dear Lupus Community,

We're delighted to share the first edition of Lupus Pulse, a quarterly newsletter created for you by your UMass Chan Lupus Center team. Our aim is to keep you informed, engaged, and connected with the latest research, clinical opportunities, patient resources, and events. Together, we're building progress in lupus care and research—one step at a time.

Upcoming Events

Lupus Day 2026—Save the Date!
Mark your calendar for our annual Lupus Day! Meet researchers, hear expert talks, and engage in sessions designed just for you.
When: **Thursday, May 7th, 2026, 11am-6pm**
Where: The Beechwood Hotel, Worcester, MA
Register at: https://lupusne.org/lupus-day-2026/

Free admission, registration required.

Patient Community & Support

LupUs Support Group
Join our monthly lupus support group, offered virtually through Zoom. Connect with others, share stories, gain helpful insights, and find encouragement as you navigate your journey to better health. The group meets every **3rd Wednesday of the month at 6pm**. To RSVP, please email: Ruth.Wilson@umassmed.edu

Topics for 2026

March – *Lupus-Related Fatigue and Cognitive Dysfunction (Brain Fog)*
April – *The Complex Problem of Pain in Lupus*
May – *Complementary Therapies: Acupuncture & Massage*
June – *Managing Arthritis, Osteoporosis, and Bone Health*
July – *Nutrition, Exercise, and Building Healthy Habits*
August – *Cutaneous Lupus, Eye Problems, and Oral Health*
September – *Pulmonary Issues, Vasculitis, and Organ Involvement*

October – *Understanding Your Lupus Care: Blood Tests, Infusion Therapy, and Treatments*
November – *Clinical Research and Communicating With Your Healthcare Team*
December – *Managing Uncertainty and Holiday Stress With Lupus*

Spotlight on Research

Clinical Trials & Studies Now Open

The Lupus Center at UMass Chan is actively recruiting for clinical trials and observational studies. These include promising new treatments for patients with active or refractory lupus. Find out if you're eligible and how you can contribute by reaching out to our team at lupus@umassmed.edu.

The Lupus Center is a LuCIN (Lupus Clinical Investigators Network) site. LuCIN is an academic-based clinical trials network comprised of some of the most prestigious medical research centers and experienced lupus physician-scientists throughout North America.

Clinical Trials at the UMass Chan Lupus Center

A. For clinically active systemic lupus

1) AbbVie SELECT-SLE Phase III: upadacitinib by mouth daily vs placebo, 1:1 randomization, 52-week treatment

2) Zenas BioPharma SunStone Phase II: obexelimab subcutaneously weekly vs placebo, 1:1 randomization, 24-week treatment

B. Cell therapies for active or refractory lupus nephritis:

1) Cabaletta Bio RESET-SLE: A Phase 1/2 Open-Label Study to Evaluate the Safety and Efficacy of CABA-201 (CAR T) in active systemic lupus

2) Nkarta Ntrust-1: Open-label, multi-center, non-randomized Phase 1 study to determine the safety and tolerability of NKX019 (allogeneic CAR NK cells targeting CD19) in participants with active lupus nephritis

3) Kyverna KYSA-1: A Study of Anti-CD19 Chimeric Antigen Receptor T-Cell (CD19 CAR T) Therapy in refractory lupus nephritis

Active Registries Recruiting Patients
We are currently enrolling in several registries for lupus and antiphospholipid syndrome.

Your participation helps researchers discover better treatments and understand lupus and antiphospholipid syndrome more deeply.

Lupus Landmark Study

Lupus Landmark Study (LLS) is a groundbreaking initiative designed to accelerate the development of personalized treatments for people living with lupus. Led by the Lupus Research Alliance, the LLS is the most unique observational study of its kind in lupus. The LLS will follow and collect longitudinal data from 3,500 patients over time, enabling major breakthroughs in the treatment of lupus.

APS ACTION Registry

APS ACTION is an international network of physicians and scientists who study patients with persistently positive antiphospholipid (aPL) antibodies and/or antiphospholipid syndrome (APS). The APS ACTION clinical database and repository (Registry) was created to study the natural course of persistently antiphospholipid (aPL) antibody-positive patients with or without autoimmune disorders over at least 10 years. The Registry allows us to perform large-scale, cross-sectional, and prospective analyses, which will eventually help us better understand the clinical characteristics of patients with APS.

Bacterial Curli

This study looks into blood and urine of patients with lupus to find whether bacterial curli (a type of protein made by certain bacteria strains) correlates with disease severity and lupus flares.

Why should I participate in research?

Learn more at: https://www.lupus.org/resources/frequently-asked-questions-about-participating-in-clinical-trials

For more information contact us at:

lupus@umassmed.edu

Follow us on Instagram:

@UMassLupusCenter

Center Updates & Resources

- Meet our newest team member, **Dr. Anna Korogodina, MD**, specializing in the care of patients with lupus. Dr. Korogodina joined our group from Beth Israel Deaconess

Medical Center in Boston. Her clinical and research interests focus on understanding patients' perspectives through patient-reported outcomes, and on advancing quality improvement in the care of individuals with rheumatologic diseases.

- Learn more about our UMass Chan Lupus Center and access reliable lupus education through the links below:

  https://www.umassmed.edu/lupuscenter/

  American College of Rheumatology – Lupus
  https://www.rheumatology.org/I-Am-A/Patient-Caregiver/Diseases-Conditions/Lupus

  Lupus Research Alliance
  https://www.lupusresearch.org/

  Lupus Foundation New England
  https://lupusne.org/

  National Institutes of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases – Lupus
  https://www.niams.nih.gov/health-topics/lupus

Closing & Contact Information

Thank you for your ongoing partnership. We're here to support you and would like to hear from you. Please reach out with thoughts, questions or suggestions for future newsletter topics at lupus@umassmed.edu.

With warm regards,

Elena Gkrouzman, MD
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