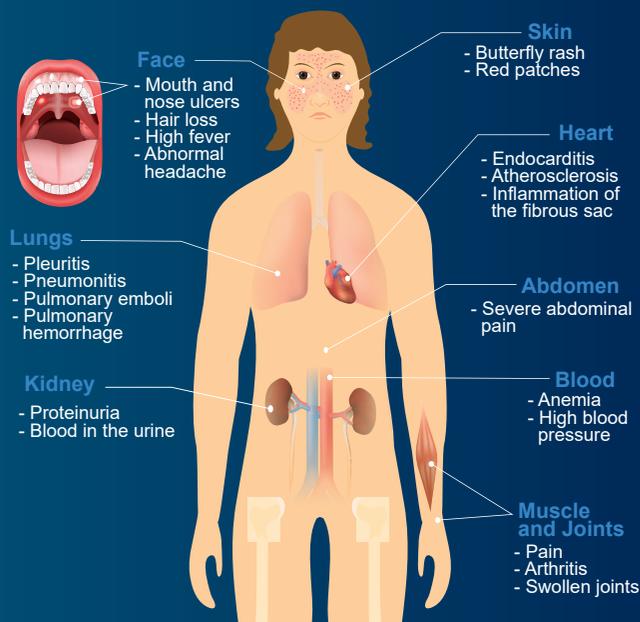


## KNOW THE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS:

Lupus can affect many parts of the body such as skin, joints and internal organs causing an onset of many different symptoms that vary from person to person.



The cause of lupus remains unclear, but both environmental and genetic factors likely contribute.

Symptoms usually develop between the ages of 15 and 44.

Lupus is 2x's more prevalent in Asian-American and Latina women than it is in Caucasian women.



For more information on our lupus research program and how to support our science at MMRI, please contact:

### Development Team

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# Envisioning, Creating, Living with Lupus



## WHAT IS LUPUS?

Lupus is a chronic autoimmune disease that can cause inflammation and pain in any part of your body. Symptoms vary but can include fatigue, joint pain, rash, and fever. Most people with lupus have mild episodes or flare-ups, then improve or go into remission. While there is no cure for lupus, lifestyle modifications and disease management improve quality of life by minimizing flare-ups.



### DIAGNOSIS:



Lupus is difficult to diagnose because symptoms come and go, mimic other diseases, and there is no single laboratory test that can identify the disease.

“My mother’s 26-year long battle with lupus motivated me and inspired me to pursue this investigation,” said Kontaridis. “Our findings, and others like this, give great hope that one day soon there will be newer and better treatment options available for the millions of patients that suffer with this disease.”



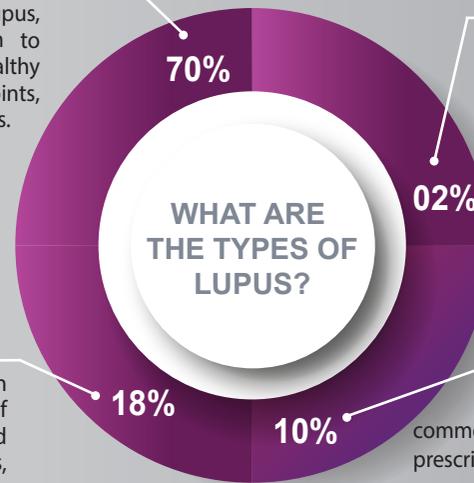
**- Maria I. Kontaridis, Ph.D.**  
Executive Director, Gordon K. Moe Professor and Chair  
Biomedical Research and Translational Medicine  
Director of Research

## SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS (SLE)

is the most common form of lupus, causing the immune system to attack a patient’s own healthy tissue. It can affect the skin, joints, kidneys, brain, and other organs.

## CUTANEOUS LUPUS

only affects the skin. It can cause red, scaly rashes, most of which appear on sun-exposed areas, including the face, ears, neck, arms, and legs.



## NEONATAL LUPUS

is a rare acquired disorder that affects infants of women who also have lupus. It may cause systemic complications, including rashes and heart conditions such as congenital heart block.

## DRUG-INDUCED LUPUS

is a rare medical condition that is caused by exposure to certain prescription drugs. It is more common in men due to their predominant taking of prescribed drugs such as Hydralazine for high blood pressure, Procainamide for treatment of ventricular arrhythmias and Isoniazid an antibiotic to treat and prevent tuberculosis.



of individuals with lupus say chronic pain is the most difficult part of having the disease.

76% say they have had to cut back on social activities due to chronic fatigue.



Lupus primarily affects women of childbearing age.

**9 IN 10**  
diagnosed with lupus are women.

Lupus is 3x's more prevalent in women of African American or Asian descent.



# Lupus research at MMRI

MMRI researchers are studying the effects of elevated protein activities in patients with lupus. For example, we believe that increased protein activity in one particular enzyme called SHP2 may cause progression of lupus and induce subsequent organ damage. One of the most important elements of our research will be to develop targeted drugs and therapies for the treatment and prevention of lupus.