



**GLOBAL LUPUS PATIENT GROUPS ISSUE WORLDWIDE CALL
TO MAKE LUPUS AN INTERNATIONAL HEALTH PRIORITY**

May 10 is World Lupus Day

Nearly 250 nonprofit lupus patient organizations around the globe have joined together for the fifteenth annual observance of World Lupus Day on May 10. The observance is held to elevate lupus on the international stage and deliver a global rallying cry to bring greater attention and resources to combat this serious and incurable autoimmune disease that affects more than five million people worldwide.

There is no limit to the physical, emotional and economic impact of lupus. The disease affects people of all nationalities, races, ethnicities, genders and ages. Lupus can affect any part of the body in any way at any time, often with unpredictable and life-changing results.

Lupus is potentially disabling, preventing a person from working, and requires lifelong medical care. While there is no cure for lupus at the present time, knowing all one can about lupus can help control its impact.

On May 10, the World Lupus Federation will announce the results of its second global survey of public awareness and understanding of lupus. The survey is being conducted in 16 countries. The nine-question survey seeks to measure the level of understanding of lupus and to identify misconceptions that people may have about lupus.

As part of the 2017 observance of World Lupus Day, the World Lupus Federation (WLF) released an eReport on the Global Impact of Lupus. Developed in collaboration with GlaxoSmithKline, the report provided first-hand stories from individuals directly impacted by lupus and described the emotional support needs of those living with lupus. The e-Report is available on the World Lupus Day website.

A key objective of the WLF is to establish partnerships with global and regional health organizations in order to develop public policies and programs that will support patients, their health care providers, families, and those who care for them. The WLF focuses its efforts on raising global awareness of lupus, empowering people with lupus to take charge of their disease and speak out about their need for health and support services, and elevating lupus before government health ministries, the World Health Organization, and other international bodies that deal with public health issues.

For more information about lupus and World Lupus Day, and to download resources to raise understanding of lupus, visit the World Lupus Day website, www.worldlupusday.org.

About Lupus

Lupus is a chronic autoimmune disease that ravages different parts of the body. It is difficult to diagnose, hard to live with and a challenge to treat. Lupus is mostly hidden from view and undefined, has a range of symptoms, strikes without warning, and has no known cause and no known cure. Its health effects can range from a skin rash to a heart attack. Lupus is debilitating and destructive and can be fatal.

About World Lupus Day

Since 2004, lupus organizations around the globe have conducted activities on May 10 to raise awareness and educate the public about the symptoms and health effects of lupus.

About the World Lupus Federation

The WLF is a coalition of some 250 lupus organizations worldwide that engage in collaborative efforts to raise awareness, empower patients and advocate on behalf of the needs of the more than five million people worldwide who are living with lupus.

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