



## Lupus Research Alliance announces the 2021 Lupus Innovation Awards

Teodora Staeva

The Lupus Research Alliance proudly announced today the 2020 Lupus Innovation Awards. The projects represent a wide breadth of scientific exploration in lupus, probing the development and progression of lupus while pointing to potential treatment approaches. Dr. Caielli has found that different cell populations in patients with lupus have dysfunctional mitochondria structures in the cell that break down nutrients and create energy-rich molecules. He plans to investigate if those abnormalities might be important for lupus disease severity and if targeting these abnormalities may be helpful in creating new therapies.

Dr. Furie addresses the results of the phase three Bliss lupus nephritis (BLISS-LP) clinical trial. The results of the trial, which began in the late 1990s, showed that after 104 weeks of treatment with belimumab for lupus nephritis, 43 percent of patients in the treatment arm had a primary efficacy renal response as compared to 32 percent of patients in the placebo group. And, 30 percent of treated patients had a complete response as compared to 20 percent in the placebo group.

During the American College of Rheumatology annual meeting last month, Juana Mata shared her story of a life living with lupus. Getting an accurate diagnosis wasn't easy, but eventually she found a doctor and treatment that's working for her. In today's interview, Kim Gorgens, a psychologist and Rheumatology Network board member interviews Juana and her sister, Estela, who describe turning a lupus diagnosis into a positive force for change through advocacy. The sisters have created a non-profit group called Looms for Lupus in which they embrace art therapy to relieve stress.

The Young Scientist Awards make every effort in providing a strong professional development opportunity for early career academicians by meeting experts to exchange and share their experiences on all aspects. In previous studies of belimumab, which was approved in March 2011 as a treatment for lupus, Dr. Furie and his team tracked the impact of belimumab on renal disease. Collectively, these seven projects explore multiple components of lupus from its impact on the skin and the kidneys to the cardiovascular and cognitive manifestations

Collectively, these seven projects explore multiple components of lupus from its impact on the skin and the kidneys to the cardiovascular and cognitive manifestations. Approaching the disease from different vantage points can maximize the chances of homing in on viable treatment options that can be developed further. Elena Wen-Yuan Hsieh, M.D., University of Colorado, Anschutz Medical Campus; Children's Hospital Colorado Looking at the Kidney Cells of Children with Lupus Dr. Hsieh will make two-dimensional maps of children's kidneys, showing which immune cells are present and where they live. She wants to see how the structure of lupus kidneys differs from healthy kidneys and how this architecture drives kidney disease in pediatric lupus.

Coronavirus is an irresistible illness brought about by SARS-CoV-2, a newfound Covid. In March 2020, the WHO pronounced the COVID-19 episode to be a pandemic and starting at 17 November 2020, the WHO had detailed in excess of 54 million affirmed cases and more than 1 million affirmed passings inferable from the disease<sup>1</sup>. Zahi Touma, MD, PhD, University Health Network, Toronto, Canada

Predicting Cognitive Deficiencies in People with Lupus Dr. Touma will assess the cognitive abilities of lupus patients over time to try to find markers to predict which of them is at risk of developing cognitive impairments such as problems with thinking and memory, so they can be prepared and have an optimal quality of life.

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These equivalent difficulties can be promptly identified with immune system illnesses, in which the rate and components of COVID-19 transmission have raised numerous worries among researchers and patients, particularly considering the notable powerlessness of these patients to contaminations attributable to their adjusted invulnerable frameworks and to the utilization of immunosuppressive.

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