

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

Lupus Education Symposium - the Many Masks of Lupus, November 1

Vancouver, BC, September 17, 2008 --The BC Lupus Society is pleased to announce details of the annual education symposium, the "Many Masks of Lupus" to be held on Saturday November 1st, 2008 at the Vancouver International Film Centre.

This signature event runs from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm and features lectures from distinguished lupus medical professionals of world renown.

The organizer of the symposium, Josie Bradley, the Lupus Society Vice President reports "We are thrilled to present the keynote speaker, Dr. Daniel Wallace, MD, FACP, FACR, from Los Angeles. Dr. Wallace is a popular lecturer, author, and respected authority on lupus and his latest book on lupus is considered a 'must-read' for lupus patients, particularly the newly-diagnosed."

Dr. John Esdaile, MD, MPH, FRCPC, the Scientific Director of the Arthritis Research Centre of Canada is also a featured speaker. Dr. Esdaile is a local leading authority on lupus and arthritis research and his knowledge is always a tremendous asset to lupus attendees.

Keith Elkon, MD, Professor of Medicine and Head, Division of Rheumatology, Adjunct Professor of Immunology at the University of Washington will bring to light his research objectives of better defining the molecular and genetic basis for autoimmune diseases such as lupus.

North shore physician and newly diagnosed lupus patient Dr. Jan McCaffrey will also be speaking along with St. Paul's Hospital Lupus Program director, Dr. Jennifer Reynolds, to share insight on how to improve and maximize the physician/patient relationship.

Finally a question and answer panel involving all speakers allows attendees to provoke debate and have personal questions answered.

This full day session allows lupus attendees to gain information about the disease, and gather a better understanding of symptoms, treatments, medication and research. Attendees also have the opportunity to meet other lupus patients and professionals, and get additional support through other groups represented at on-site information booths.

Registration for the day is \$30 and includes coffee breaks and lunch. Please contact the Lupus Society at 604.714.5564 for registration. Volunteers and door prize donations are also needed. The symposium is made possible by an unrestricted educational grant from UCB Pharma Canada Inc.

Following the symposium, a fundraising gala event 'The Music of the Night' starts at 5:30 pm featuring a cocktail reception with tapas and dessert buffet. The Music of the Night cabaret performance occurs at the same venue. Please contact the BC Lupus Society office or the website at bclupus.org for more information. Tickets are \$100.

The BC Lupus Society was founded in 1977 and provides education and support to members across the province.

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