What is Lupus?

- It is an acute chronic autoimmune disease
- The immune system over-activates and misfires
- It can target any tissue or organ
- It can lead to organ failure & death

Who Gets Lupus?

- Anyone can get it
- It affects about 50,000 Canadians
- 15% develop lupus as children
- Between ages of 15 to 45, 80% are women
- No gender bias in children & those over 45

Winning the Lupus Lottery is No Prize!

- It is difficult to diagnose
- It takes far too long to obtain a diagnosis
- It is complex and involves multi-organs

Lupus Lottery Bonus prizes are ugly!

- Lupus “flares” are unpredictable and random
- Hospitalization is common
- Costs to the health system are high
- There is no known cause or cure!

Treating Lupus

- There is no cure for lupus
- Most recent lupus specific drug is 50 years old
- Current treatments have serious side effects
  - chemotherapy drugs
  - steroids
  - immune suppressants
- It takes about 5 years to diagnose lupus
- Treatment is very expensive
  - Numerous specialists are needed
  - Expensive drugs are used
  - Hospitalizations occur

Lupus Society

Mission

- To support advances in research and treatments
- To create public awareness
- To provide education and support to people affected by lupus

Vision

- That early diagnosis and optimal treatment will be available to everyone with lupus
- That the public at large will be aware of lupus
- To ensure community based support networks and services

Programs & Services

- Website with resource library
- Annual Lupus Symposium
  - world renowned experts
- Lupus Research Funding
  - research scholarship
  - clinical support
  - research project funding
- Lupus Lighthouse newsletter
- Education
  - Lupus Lighthouse
  - Fact sheets
  - Information packages, books, videos
  - Lupus Symposium
- Support Network
  - 33 Provincial Contacts
  - 8 Support Groups

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