



Lymphatic Education
& Research Network

LE&RN Fact Sheet

Lymphatic Education & Research Network
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Leading the fight against lymphatic disease and lymphedema.

The Lymphatic Education & Resource Network (LE&RN) is an internationally recognized 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. Since its founding as the Lymphatic Research Foundation in 1998, LE&RN has grown from its roots funding lymphatic research into a broader organization. While still heavily committed to lymphatic research, LE&RN also provides education, outreach, and advocacy for patients, families, and the medical community.

LE&RN's collaborations and partnerships with the scientific and medical research communities and with government, academia, and industry are accelerating research and helping to make progress not only in lymphatic science, but in the closely related areas of immunology, cancer metastasis, obesity, digestive disorders, and more. LE&RN's efforts give lymphedema and lymphatic disease patients a voice and a vision for a more hopeful, healthful future.

HIGHLIGHT OF LE&RN'S ACHIEVEMENTS

- Secured ongoing Congressional and National Institutes of Health (NIH) support for lymphatic research and lymphatic diseases (including the expanding role of the Trans-NIH Coordinating Committee for the Lymphatic System) that have resulted in the creation of and progressive increases in national programmatic and funding initiatives for lymphatic biology and disease.
- Established the first-ever Endowed Professorship of Lymphatic Research and Medicine (at Stanford University School of Medicine)
- Launched *Lymphatic Research and Biology*, an international, peer-reviewed, scientific journal published by a leading biomedical publisher and indexed in MEDLINE (United States National Library of Medicine)
- Responsible for the establishment of the premier, biennial Gordon Research Conference Series entitled, **Molecular Mechanism in Lymphatic Function and Disease**
- Offers grants and awards programs that attract scientists and clinicians from distinguished research centers around the world, expanding the pool of investigators and encouraging research that will lead to therapeutic advances
- Created the National Lymphatic Disease and Lymphedema Patient Registry at The Feinstein Institute for Medical Research at North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System to stimulate research, support clinical trials, and accelerate drug development
- Hosts educational symposia and a National Walk, which provide patients and families affected by lymphatic disease with empowering opportunities to support and help to advance the field of lymphatic research

WHY IS THE LYMPHATIC SYSTEM IMPORTANT?

The lymphatic system is integrated into virtually every tissue and organ in the body and its multiple functions are essential to optimal health. It provides a means of draining waste materials and impurities from cells and tissues and transporting them for removal from the body. It plays an essential role in immunity, in the body's vigilance against cancer metastasis, and in regulating the body's fluid balances. Yet, historically the lymphatic system has been one of the least understood and least studied aspects of human biology. The result has been a tragic lack of effective treatments for the painful, disfiguring, disabling and potentially fatal lymphatic disorders that affect millions of people throughout the world.

Thanks to the efforts of LE&RN, the lymphatic system is now recognized for its critical importance and lymphatic science has become a dynamic and growing field of biomedical research. For the first time, this essential element of human health is attracting significant resources to support the work of research scientists and the needs of lymphatic disease patients.