Since 1998, LE&RN has been dedicated to fighting lymphedema (LE) and lymphatic disease (LD). The World Health Organization estimates that over 250 million people worldwide have secondary lymphedema, while primary lymphedema affects an additional 1 in 300 live births. Nearly 1.4 billion people in 73 countries are threatened by lymphatic filariasis, commonly known as elephantiasis. Over 120 million people are currently infected, with 40 million disfigured and incapacitated by the disease.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) warns that the incidence of secondary lymphedema among cancer survivors is 20–40%. Lymphedema is estimated to affect up to 10 million Americans. This is more than AIDS, Parkinson’s disease, Muscular Dystrophy, Multiple Sclerosis and ALS—combined. The continuum of diseases impacted by the lymphatic system includes heart disease, AIDS, diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis and cancer metastasis. Yet, lymphatic diseases routinely go undiagnosed and untreated, and research is grossly underfunded. Together, LE&RN and its worldwide members are determined to change this through education, research and advocacy.
TO WIN A FIGHT, YOU FIRST NEED TO JOIN IT

“I’m KATHY BATES. I had a double mastectomy and as a result I have lymphedema in both arms. If we want to win this fight against lymphedema and lymphatic disease, we need to stand together and educate the world. Join me. I urge you to become a member of LE&RN.”

We will never cure lymphedema and lymphatic disease if we stay invisible. We need to stand together and we need to have our friends and family in this fight as well. Lymphatic disease and lymphedema need to become an international priority. The days of suffering in silence are behind us.

Join LE&RN in this fight at LymphaticNetwork.org

And plan or join an event for World Lymphedema Day, March 6.
Visit LymphaticNetwork.org/wld/

Learn More About Lymphatic Diseases

Lymphatic Continuum (LC) refers to the continuum of diseases impacted by the lymphatic system including heart disease, AIDS, diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis, and cancer.

Lymphatic Filariasis (LF) threatens 1.4 billion people in 73 countries. Commonly known as elephantiasis, 120 million are currently infected by this mosquito-carrying parasitic disease. Over 40 million of those affected by LF are disfigured and incapacitated by the disease.

Lymphatic Malformations (LM) are rare, non-malignant masses consisting of fluid-filled channels or spaces caused by the abnormal development of the lymphatic system. LM is usually apparent at birth or by two years of age and most commonly affects the head and neck.

Lymphedema (LE) is a chronic, debilitating lymphatic disease that results in disfiguring swelling in one or more parts of the body due to a damaged lymphatic system. WHO estimates over 250 million people suffer from LE worldwide. The swelling is caused by a combination of lymph stagnation and the structural alterations in the tissues. Lymphedema can be genetic or inherited (Primary) or it can occur as a consequence of a surgical procedure, infections, radiation therapy, or other forms of physical trauma (Secondary).

Lipedema (LI) is an adipose tissue disorder or a lipid metabolism disorder that affects approximately 11% of women, often in the hips and legs, but also in the upper arms. Lipedema fat is relatively unresponsive to diet and exercise. Lipedema is both an excess buildup of fat cells in a particular area, and the expansion of those fat cells.

Lymphatic Education & Research Network

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