LUPUS
Foundation of America
Georgia Chapter, Inc.

LUPUS HORIZONS

VOLUME 30-3 - FALL 2006
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE LUPUS FOUNDATION OF AMERICA, INC. - GEORGIA CHAPTER

SO MANY OWE SO MUCH: A BRAVE GIRL'S LIFELONG STRUGGLE

Thousands of people with lupus in Georgia owe so much to a very brave and remarkable young woman, Tomica Gill, who at the young age of 32, passed away from heart disease related to lupus. Tomica left her entire life insurance policy of $50,000 to the Georgia Chapter when she died on July 27th. Her large family, including her wheelchair-bound mother, Margaret Gill, drove from Detroit, Michigan, to take Tomica home for her funeral. She was laid to rest on August 8th with more than 450 friends and family attending the funeral and over 100 from Atlanta and her sorority, Delta Sigma Theta.

When Tomica was diagnosed with lupus at the age of five, the prognosis for people living with the disease was not as good as it is today. When doctors told Tomica she would not live beyond 10, Tomica spiritedly responded, "Yes I will, I have things to do!" Her accomplishments are a testament to her immense courage and determination. As a child and a teenager, she endured many months in the hospital with debilitating drugs and procedures and huge weight fluctuations caused by medications used to treat lupus. Due to the weight gains, she was often teased in school. Tomica completed her final exams for high school and college with a pen between her toes, an art she perfected after years of school work in hospitals, unable to use her hands due to the effects of lupus on the joints.

In Atlanta, Tomica was the student coordinator at the Art Institute of Atlanta for six years where she was loved and will be missed by many. Atlanta's warmer climate provided comfort for Tomica's symptoms. She was very active in her sorority and volunteered to help babies with cancer. In May 2006, she received her masters in Psychology (pictured left) and was about to begin her doctorate in September.

Upon hearing about Tomica's generous gift to the Georgia Chapter, her mother cried "if she can save one life, Tomica's sacrifice and pain will all have been worth it!" Margaret hopes Tomica's legacy will help raise awareness and funds to improve the lives of all people with lupus.

INSIDE

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770-333-5932 (Fax)

INTRODUCING THE NEW GEORGIA CHAPTER PRESIDENT AND CEO...MARIA MYLER

I am honored to join the Georgia Chapter of the Lupus Foundation of America. I am overwhelmed at the enormity of lupus, and the often severe, life long and life threatening effects on women, men, and children. On my third day with the chapter in August, I met Tomica Gill's family and learned of her courage and her gift to our chapter.

Lupus affects over 55,000 Georgians and 1.5 million Americans and yet despite its prevalence, remains one of the least recognizable and most misunderstood diseases in both medical and lay communities. While most cases develop among women in their crucial childbearing years, ages 15 to 40, children, men and women of all ages can suffer, devastating many families. Awareness of lupus is lowest among women aged 18-24, those most at risk. Women with lupus have a five-to-ten fold increased risk of cardiovascular disease. More than one in five patients are permanently disabled and unable to work and most shocking, is that it has been 40 years since the approval of a new drug to treat lupus.

The Georgia chapter serves thousands of patients each year with information, referrals, literature, educational seminars and support groups. Over 25,000 visit our website annually. As lupus continues to rise, we must work harder to continue to support all those who need our programs. I am privileged to join our Chapter Board leadership, the hundreds of volunteers statewide and the exciting national advocacy and research efforts, all working together to change the future for lupus patients.

We are pleased to present new and exciting opportunities to raise awareness and funds. Our inaugural city wide Walk for Lupus Now on April 21st, at the lovely Piedmont Park, will be a wonderful fun-filled event for family and friends to raise funds for all those touched by lupus.

We are also honored to partner with the ING Georgia Marathon and Half Marathon, where you can run in either race on Saturday March 21st and raise funds for our mission.

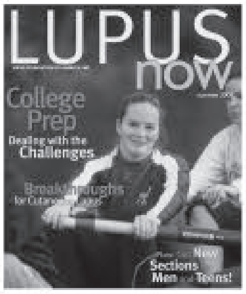
Please visit our redesigned website at www.lfaga.org for more information on our chapter's programs and events. **90%** of every dollar raised stays here in Georgia.

Thank you for your support of the chapter. Together, we can continue to improve the diagnosis and treatment of our patients, educate the public and health professionals and support efforts to find the causes and cure.

Sincerely

Maria Myler

Maria Myler



Join our new chapter membership program to continue to receive your three copies of the first-ever National magazine for lupus patients, *Lupus Now*!

Sign up online at www.LFAGA.org, complete form on page 7 of this newsletter or call us at 770.333.593.

WE HELP

Our mission is to educate and support the 55,000+ Georgians affected by lupus.

WITH YOUR HELP:

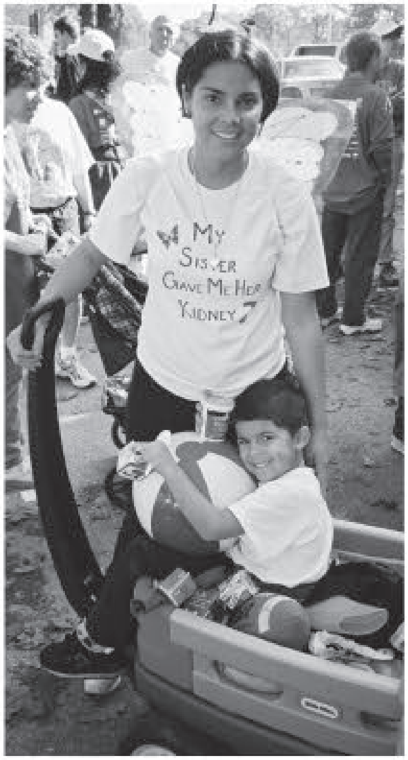
- **We serve 3,000 patients and families statewide**
- **More than 250 attend one of our 19 support groups across the state**
- **Our chapter website receives more than 25,000 visitors annually**
- **3,600 receive our quarterly newsletter**
- **2,000 information and referral calls answered annually with educational materials mailed**

Walk for Lupus Now™
LUPUS FOUNDATION OF AMERICA

SATURDAY, APRIL 21, 2007
PIEDMONT PARK

3:00 P.M. REGISTRATION
4:00 P.M. WALK

Help raise awareness and funds for lupus. Join our members and patients from across the state who are eagerly planning friends and family teams and corporate teams, all joining together for an exciting walk and entertainment to honor all those touched by lupus.



Start a team, join a team, or join as an individual and collect donations from family and friends.

To participate in the Walk, PLEASE SIGN UP ONLINE at www.lfaga.org.

You can create and personalize your own web page by signing up now at our new online fundraising company, Firstgiving. www.firstgiving.com/lfaga.

Reach an unbelievable goal by sending personalized emails to your friends and family asking for their support of your efforts and commitment.

Visit our walk page on our website to learn **GREAT TIPS** on **ONLINE FUNDRAISING**, recruiting team members and helping them be successful.

After visiting our web at www.lfaga.org, if you have any questions, call our office at 770 333 5930 or email at info@lfaga.org.

ING | GEORGIA MARATHON AND HALF MARATHON

The Georgia Chapter is honored to become a partner with the ING Georgia Marathon and Half Marathon. The LFAGA Chapter joins other distinguished Atlanta charities participating in the races.

This Inaugural event will take place on Sunday, March 25, 2007 and will showcase many historic and beautiful neighborhoods in Atlanta.

You can run in either race and raise funds for lupus with your own personal fundraising pages online.

Sign up for the ING Georgia Marathon at WWW.LFAGA.ORG.
or email us at INFO@LFAGA.ORG or call 700.333.5930.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

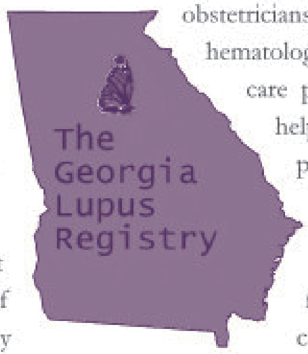
LUPUS FOUNDATION OF AMERICA PROVIDES $1MILLION TO SUPPORT LUPUS RESEARCH

The Lupus Foundation of America Board of Directors, through its five-year research program, Bringing Down the Barriers, has this year awarded research grants to 23 investigators at 22 institutions in the United States, adding nearly $1 million to LFA's on-going commitment to lupus research.

Since its inception, the LFA and its chapters have provided more than $16 million to support lupus research.

THE GEORGIA LUPUS REGISTRY

The Lupus Foundation of America's national advocacy efforts significantly contributed to the successful Congressional appropriation of $1 million to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to fund two registries, one in Georgia and one in Michigan. Dr. Sam Lim MD, MPH, Assistant Professor of Medicine at Emory and chair of the LFA Georgia Chapter's Medical Advisory board, is the Principal Investigator and leads the Georgia Registry efforts



Each of the registries represents a different geographic area and contains large numbers of people at risk for lupus. The Georgia registry is led by the division of Rheumatology at Emory University in partnership with the Georgia Department of Human Resources (DHR).

The Georgia Lupus Registry (GLR) aims to develop, implement, and support a population based disease registry to determine the prevalence and incidence of systemic lupus within Fulton, DeKalb, and Richmond (Augusta) counties. Acting as public health agents under the auspices of GA DHR, the registry will identify as many hospitals and practitioners as possible who are providing care to potential lupus patients. These are rheumatologists, nephrologists, dermatologists, obstetricians, cardiologists, neurologists, and hematologists, as well as internists and primary care physicians. The LFA Georgia chapter helps identify patients and their healthcare providers.

The results of the Georgia Lupus Registry and biomarker research funded by the Department of Defense could help accelerate the introduction of new therapies and treatment of lupus patients. There has not been a new FDA approved drug for lupus for over 40 years.

Dr. Sam Lim MD, MPH, Assistant Professor of Medicine at Emory and chair of the LFA Georgia Chapter's Medical Advisory board

PREVENTION OF HEART AND BLOOD VESSEL DISEASE IN WOMEN WITH LUPUS

Women with lupus have a five- to ten-fold increased risk of cardiovascular disease compared to women in the general population. The LFA has Awarded to research grants to address this serious manifestation of lupus. Funding has been provided to:

- Betty P. Tsao, Ph.D., University of California, Los Angeles, Effects of Statin an ApoA-1 Mimetic Peptide in a Mouse Model of Heart Disease in lupus.
- James C. Oates, M.D., Medical University of South Carolina, Biomarkers of Reactive Nitrogen and Oxygen Stress as Risk Factors for Cardiovascular Disease in African Americans with lupus

COME FOR EDUCATION AND ENCOURAGEMENT

LUPUS SUPPORT GROUPS

GROUP	LEADER
ALBANY Palmyra Medical Center - Meets 2nd Sunday monthly - 3:00 PM	Gwen Collins 229-434-2106 Trellis Cuffie-Co-leader Vanessa Mosley 229-874-7226 Yvonne Perry 229-436-0553
ATLANTA Grady Lupus Clinic Conference Room; Asthma/Allergy clinic; meets 2nd & 4th Tuesday monthly- 11:30- 1:00	Barbara McGee 770-909-7619 Janis Upshaw 404-627-8776
ATHENS Athens Regional Medical Center, Medical Services Bldg. 3rd floor, Classroom B; meets quarterly (October, December, April & June), 1st Tuesday at 6:00 PM	Shelby Lacey 706-475-5620 Chloris Blount, Founder
BUCKHEAD Phone Contact Only	Mary Claire Montilus 404-234-8161
CAIRO Phone Contact Only	Carolyn Clark 229-377-4390
COASTAL EMPIRE AREA (HINESVILLE) Call Leader for more information	Rosaline Smith 912-368-5637
DALTON Phone contact only	Carol Goforth 706-673-5528
DECATUR Wesley Chapel-William C. Brown Library, 2861 Chapel Hill Road, Decatur 30034 meets 2nd Wednesdays monthly from 7:00 – 8:00 PM	Kim Schofield 404-627-3834
DOUGLASVILLE AREA Douglasville Church of Christ on Big B Road, 2nd Sunday monthly 2:00 PM	Kit Richie 770-845-0008
ELBERTON Phone contact only	Petrea Richardson 706-283-1452
GRIFFIN Lupus Fibromyalgia, Arthritis & Related Diseases Group; Oak Hill Baptist Church; meets 3rd Tuesday monthly at 6:45 PM. Call for more information	Myrna Evans 770-228-8090
GWINNETT (GLARDES) Gwinnett Medical Center, Education Building, Classroom 2, Meets quarterly, 7-8:30 PM. Call for details.	Claudette Robinson-Henry 770-925-1221
HARTWELL CONNECTIVE TISSUE SUPPORT GROUP Phone Contact Only	Mary Haulk 706-213-6506
LAGRANGE AREA Griggs Recreation Center, 916 Glenn Robertson Drive, LaGrange 30241. Meets the 1st Tuesday of the month from 6:00-7:00 PM.	Jarvis Jones 706-884-7592
MARIETTA/SMYRNA Men's Group, Call for details.	George Gibbs 770-438-0809
MOULTRIE Colquitt Regional Medical Center, Ferguson Room; meets 1st Tuesday Monthly at 6:00 PM	Stephanie Lowe 229-985-9384
ROSWELL/COBB AREA Roswell United Methodist Church, Building B Rm 234 - Meets 2nd Sunday monthly - 2-4 PM (except May)	Kathy Baker 770-218-9088
SAVANNAH African-American Health Center, 1910 Abercorn Street, Savannah 31401, Meets on 4th Thursday monthly from 5:30-6:45 PM	Ella Williamson 912-447-6605 Rose Morgan 912-447-6605
SOUTH FULTON South Fulton Medical Center; meets 4th Saturday monthly at 10:30 AM in the Nursing Conf. Room (Next to Elevator) in the Main Hospital Bldg., Main Floor (Doesn't meet June, July, August or December)	Donna Jones 770-819-5796
ST. MARY'S Camden Hospital, Meets 2nd Friday monthly at 6:00 PM	Teresa Epps 912-673-8174
STOCKBRIDGE New Group Forming (Henry Medical Center), Contact Leader for Information	Salita Gray 678-432-0353
WARNER ROBINS AREA Houston County Pavilion, 233 N. Houston Road, Suite 14-D; the 1st Thursday of each month 6:00-7:00 PM.	Shanika Jones 478-335-2316
MONTGOMERY, AL Frazer Memorial United Methodist Church, Meets on 2nd & 4th Thursdays monthly from 6:00 – 7:30 PM.	Ruth Gordon-Bradshaw 334-288-1537

For more information, or to start a support group in your area, please call the Support Group Coordinator, Carolyn Pearson (770-565-2356) carolynpearson@comcast.net or the LFA-GA office at 770-333-5930 or 1-800-800-4532.

CONTRIBUTIONS

JUNE 1, 2006 - AUGUST 31 , 2006

HONORS

Debra Harkrider
2006 Rotary District 6910 Conference

Mary Anderson Hoyt
Sandra Waller

Aimee Jeffcoat
Deborah Riddle

Harry Maziar
(in honor of being honored
as A Bridge Builder)
Larry B. Greenberg

Robin & Eric Nathan
(in honor of your wedding)
Jeffrey M. Kamin

Dr. Sam Schatten
Katie Moore

MEMORIALS

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Aiken Gem, Mineral & Fossil Society
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LTR Glass Inc.
Beals Lighting & Decorating

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David Skillen
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Maddy Mullin
Muse Salon & Spa
Amy F. Rosten
Wine Corner, Inc.

IN SPEEDY RECOVERY

Kitty Jacobs

To give in memory of someone, please mail your donation to the chapter office or donate online; you will receive a receipt and an acknowledgement will be sent to the family.

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

ALBANY WALK

Gwendolyn Collins,
Palmyra Medical Center
and supporters of the Albany Walk
on Saturday, October 21st
at 8:00 a.m.

LAGRANGE WALK

Jarvis Jones,
the LaGrange Support Group
and the entire community for their
support of the La Grange Walk for
lupus walk on Saturday,
September 30th at 10:00 a.m.

PHYLLIS KEELER

Join us as we honor and
thank Phyllis Keeler, former
Georgia Chapter Executive Director,
for her many years of service.
Email us info@lfaga.org or call
770 333 5930 for more information!

BECOME A MEMBER

GEORGIA CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP

TO CONTINUE TO RECEIVE YOUR 3 COPIES OF LUPUS NOW, BECOME A MEMBER!

ALL CHAPTER MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING BENEFITS:

3 ISSUES OF LUPUS NOW, THE FIRST EVER NATIONAL LUPUS MAGAZINE.

•

QUARTERLY GEORGIA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

•

INFORMATION ON UPCOMING EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS AND SEMINARS

•

FREE ADMISSION TO THE NEW PATIENT PROGRAM, THE LUPUS FORUM, WITH VALUABLE PATIENT INFORMATION, DATE & LOCATION TO BE ANNOUNCED

•

PATIENT INFORMATION AND REFERRAL AND SUPPORT GROUPS

•

ONE PURPLE LUPUS WRISTBAND, TO WEAR TO SHOW YOUR SUPPORT!

SIGN UP ONLINE AT WWW.LFAGA.ORG OR COMPLETE AND MAIL FORM BELOW OR CALL US AT 770.333.5930!

CONTACT INFORMATION

NAME ______________________________

ADDRESS ______________________________

CITY, STATE, ZIP ______________________________

COUNTY ______________________________

PHONE ______________________________

E-MAIL ______________________________

I WOULD LIKE TO CONTINUE TO RECEIVE MY COPIES OF LUPUS NOW AND JOIN AS:

☐ INDIVIDUAL/FAMILY - $35

☐ SPONSOR - $75

☐ I DO NOT WISH TO JOIN, BUT WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A DONATION
PLEASE ACCEPT MY DONATION $______________________

☐ I DO NOT WISH TO JOIN BUT WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE EMAIL UPDATES ON CHAPTER ACTIVITIES, SUPPORT GROUPS AND PATIENT INFORMATION.

MAIL YOUR MEMBERSHIP WITH CHECK PAYABLE TO THE LUPUS FOUNDATION TO:
1800 LAKE PARK DR, SUITE 101, SMYRNA, GA 30080

LUPUS™
Foundation of America
Georgia Chapter, Inc.
1800 Lake Park Drive, Suite 101
Smyrna, GA 30080
770-333-5930
www.lfaga.org
info@lfaga.org

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

The Lupus Foundation of America is the nation's leading non-profit voluntary health organization dedicated to finding the cause and cure for lupus. Our mission is to improve the diagnosis and treatment of lupus, support individuals and families affected by the disease, increase awareness of lupus among health professionals and the public, and find the cause and cure.

The Lupus Foundation of America, Georgia Chapter is a 501c non-profit voluntary health organization working on behalf of the 55,000+ Georgians with lupus.

LFAGA is a proud member of

Community Health Charities of Georgia

CHCG is a workplace giving program that gives employees the ability to support charities of their choice. For more information, go to **www.chcgeorgia.org**.

LUPUS™
Foundation of America
Georgia Chapter, Inc.