The mission of LANtern (Lupus Asian Network) is to support, empower, and enhance the quality of life of Asian-Americans with lupus and their families through our bilingual peer health education program. Our goal is to create and expand networks of hope and understanding, which will provide enlightenment concerning this complex illness.

**Call LANtern at 866.505.2253 toll free.**

www.hss.edu/lantern

Hospital for Special Surgery’s LANtern Program, made possible through funding by Rheuminations, Inc., reaches out to the communities we seek to serve in cooperation with the following organizations: The S.L.E. Lupus Foundation, Charles B. Wang Community Health Center, Chinese Community Partnership for Health at New York Downtown Hospital, Hospital for Joint Diseases, and the Center for the Study of Asian American Health at NYU Langone Medical Center.

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What is lupus?
Lupus is an illness where the body attacks itself. Lupus is chronic, meaning it does not go away. Lupus affects both men and women, but mostly women. There is no cure for lupus, but effective treatments can control symptoms and prevent serious complications.

Is lupus common?
Almost 2 million Americans have lupus. Asians are affected by lupus 2-3 times more often than Caucasians.

Is lupus serious?
Lupus affects each person differently. It can be mild or serious. Lupus can be life-threatening if major organ systems are involved. With proper treatment, someone with lupus can lead a long and normal life.

Is lupus contagious?
Lupus is not contagious. You cannot catch lupus or pass on lupus to anyone else.

Is lupus a skin disease?
Lupus can affect the skin, as well as many other parts of the body, including the joints, blood, heart, lungs, and kidneys. Simply having a rash does not mean you have lupus.

What causes lupus?
There is no single cause of lupus. Genetics and environment may both play a role. Nothing you do can cause you to have lupus.

What are the symptoms of lupus?
Every person with lupus has different symptoms that may come and go. Common symptoms include joint pain, unusual fatigue, a butterfly-shaped rash on the face, and unexplained fevers. You may look OK, but only your doctor can determine if you have lupus and if the disease is active (called a flare).

How is lupus treated?
Western medicine can help control your lupus flares. Visiting a rheumatologist (a doctor who specializes in lupus) regularly is important.

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