

# The Mary Kirkland Center for Lupus Care (MKCLC): A Multi-disciplinary Specialized Disease Center



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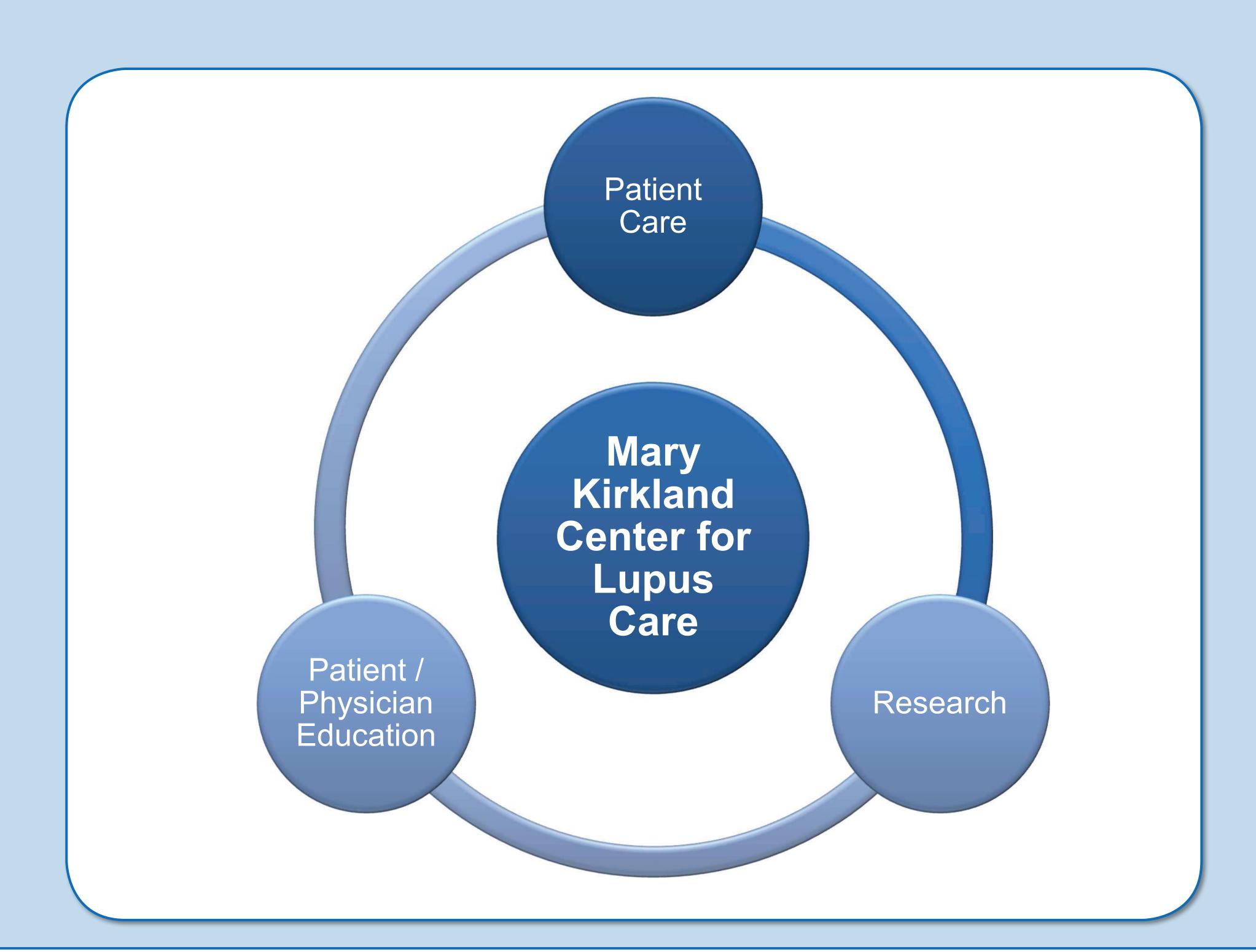
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# Background:

- ► The complexity of disease in Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE) and Antiphospholipid Syndrome (APS) creates management challenges that require a multi-disciplinary approach for optimal patient outcomes.
- ► The increased interest of research in the field has generated the need for better organization in rheumatology practices and clinics in order to more efficiently recruit for research.
- ► We responded to these challenges by founding the MKCLC with the primary goal of integrating patient care, patient/physician education, and research.

# Purpose:

► To report on the organization and growth of the MKCLC over the last year and show that the MKCLC is a candidate model for other multi-disciplinary specialized disease centers at our hospital.



## Methods and Structure:

#### Creation:

► The Center was launched by its current Co-Directors and Steering Committee with the generous support from Rheuminations, Inc.

#### Patient Care and Multidisciplinary Model:

- ► The Center was built around the Friday Lupus Clinic and its corresponding multi-disciplinary conference with participation of fellows, lupus attendings and social workers (SW).
- ► A Center Manager was given the key task to oversee the execution of the Center's goals and its growth.
- ► Additional important support roles have been the Center's Nurse Practitioner, who performs initial pre-visit health assessment and the SW Manager who screens all new patients for their psychosocial needs.
- ➤ Patients also have the ability to take advantage of the Lupus Fast Track Appointment Service which offers appointments for new patients within 3-5 business days (1877-SLE CURE).

# Patient/Physician Education:

- ➤ Formal multi-disciplinary monthly conferences integrate SLE and related fields, embracing all aspects of care.
- The Center has created a unique website within the hospital's main site, which highlights the Center's developments and provides resources for patients and staff (www.hss.edu/lupuscenter).

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# Research:

► Patient access to research has been streamlined through the Center's Manager in order to maximize recruitment for industry or investigator-initiated research.

#### Results:

### Since April 2007:

- ▶ 186 SLE and/or APS clinic patients (87% female, mean age: 40, range: 18-78) have been included in the MKCLC database. Of 186 patients:
  - •161 (87%) have been assessed by the SW Manager and referred to one of the five culturally relevant support and education programs offered by the Department of SW Programs.
  - •99 (53%) have participated in our Autoimmune Disease Registry and Repository.

Cross-Sectional,
Observational, or
Interventional

- •88 (47%) have been referred to the Cardiovascular Disease Prevention Counseling Program.
- •42 (23%) have participated in cross sectional, observational or interventional research studies.

#### Conclusion:

- ► A multi-disciplinary specialized disease center dedicated to SLE and APS has been created to facilitate comprehensive care of patients, physician education, and research.
- Our Center provides the opportunity to examine whether:
  - •(1) specific patient-related education and support initiatives improve clinical outcomes,
  - •(2) our coordinated multi-disciplinary approach improves physician education and patient quality of care,
  - •(3) a structured research database and patient screening improves research participation at our center.

