WHAT IS LUPUS?

Lupus is a:
- Chronic
- Incurable
- Uncommon autoimmune disease.

SLE is driven by immuno-inflammation, instead of producing normal antibodies to protect the body from infection, patients with SLE, "auto-antibodies" are produced and attack healthy cells.

SLE principally affects women (9 in 10 patients are female), with the highest risk for onset of SLE during childbearing age.

The incidence and prevalence of SLE are higher in African-Americans, among other ethnic minorities, compared to Caucasians.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

SLE can affect any of the major organs and symptoms can vary greatly in severity and intensity. Some of the most common symptoms include:
- Desaturating fatigue
- Hair loss
- Fever
- Butterfly-shaped facial skin rash
- Joint pain and swelling

DIAGNOSIS

An early SLE diagnosis is difficult due to the non-specific symptoms. External visible signs of the disease may be low. Classification is based on evidence of 4 or 11 diagnostic criteria developed by the Systemic Lupus International Collaborating Clinics.

It can often take years before a lupus diagnosis is made.

In the U.S., 60% of people living with Lupus reported having difficulty communicating their symptoms and 61% reported that they tend to minimize their symptoms to their physician.

OVER 3/4 of physicians believe their lupus patient have difficulty communicating their support needs.

People living with lupus are the experts on their lupus. Patients and caregivers can visit www.usinlupus.com for online support, information, and inspiration.

Everyone in the lupus community desires improvements in self-management of lupus and its symptoms.

References:
2. plugs into your laptop or computer and runs on Adobe Reader or other PDF reader software. For more information, please visit www.usinlupus.com.