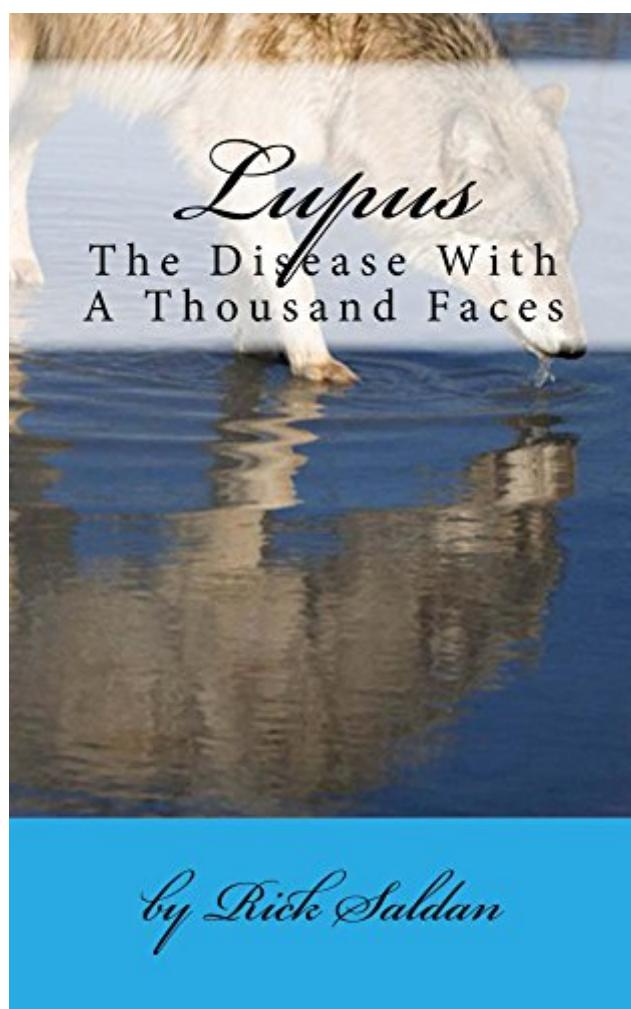


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Lupus, The Disease With A Thousand Faces: Why This Dreadful Disease Continually Goes Unrecognized, Undetected And Untreated By The Medical Community





Synopsis

This book examines several of the reasons why a disease as dreadful as Lupus continues to remain unrecognized, undiagnosed and untreated at a time when incredible breakthroughs have been made with countless other diseases. Lupus is often a debilitating disease that silently destroys the lives of its victims, dismantling every aspect of their lives block by block. In many ways, Lupus can be viewed as a modern-day form of Leprosy. Its sun sensitive victims often have to hide in darkness because the sunlight causes them such extensive pain and a number of other symptoms. Their social calendars go haywire because they never know when the Lupus flare-ups will strike and all plans have to suddenly be canceled. They agonize when so many around them make comments like, "Oh, she looks absolutely fine. I don't think anything is wrong with her. It's probably all in her head." Lupus is a chronic, inflammatory disease in which the body's immune system fails to serve its normal protective functions and instead forms antibodies that attack healthy tissues and organs. Up to 2 million people have been diagnosed with Lupus, making it more prevalent at that time than sickle cell anemia, cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis and cystic fibrosis combined. Lupus affects 1 in every 185 Americans, and although it can occur at any age, and in either sex, 90% of people with Lupus are women. There is no cure for Lupus. Lupus symptoms may include achy joints, frequent fevers, prolonged or extreme fatigue, skin rashes, anemia, kidney involvement, pleurisy (chest pain), abnormal blood clotting and nervous system effects such as difficulty concentrating, seizures, memory loss and personality changes. Because most of the symptoms of Lupus are internal, Lupus patients often appear strong and healthy in spite of their very poor health. They can look fine on the outside, but are tormented and agonizing on the inside. The debilitating effects of Lupus are sometimes multiplied by symptoms of overlapping syndromes. Lupus can be accompanied by other autoimmune disorders such as fibromyalgia, CREST syndrome, autoimmune hepatitis and Sjogren's syndrome. The combination of these disorders can be extremely debilitating, as they affect all systems of the body. What can be done to start making a change for the people who are so heavily victimized by Lupus?

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