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Highlights of the 8th International Congress on SLE

May 23-27, 2007; Shanghai, China

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[Authors and Disclosures](#)

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Introduction

Under the chairmanship of Prof. Chen Shun-le of Shanghai University Medical Center, the 8th International Congress on SLE (systemic lupus erythematosus) met in Shanghai May 23-27, 2007. The conference included over 1000 medical leaders in the field from 5 continents. It was preceded by the Chinese Academy of Rheumatology meeting, which convened rheumatologist from all regions of China.

At the Congress on SLE, lectures by distinguished world experts summarized the "state of the art" for SLE therapy, pathogenesis, and clinical diagnosis. The conference provided an opportunity for rheumatologists to understand the different approaches to diagnosis and therapy in different parts of the world. In addition, the Lupus International Patient Support Group held their meeting concurrently, and patients had a unique opportunity to interact directly with world-class rheumatologists.

For the practicing rheumatologist, this review will focus on data on the therapy of SLE as presented at the Congress. The Congress program may be found [here](#); abstracts for this meeting are not available online but have been published in the journal *Lupus*, volume 16 (abstract supplement for Lupus Shanghai Meeting, 2007). This report will summarize studies presented at the Congress as well as relevant recent publications on the pathophysiology and management of SLE.

The presentations on pathogenesis included studies of cytokine pathways and possible environmental triggers; research focused on the interactions of B cells, dendritic cells, and T cells. The cytokine and chemokine pathways are complex but provide potential targets for therapy. Studies on B-cell depletion with biologic agents (particularly with the anti-CD 20 antibody rituximab), with successful outcomes, were presented by many different investigators.

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