Department of Health and Human Services • National Institutes of Health

# National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
Leading research to understand, treat, and prevent infectious, immunologic, and allergic diseases.

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# Autoimmune Diseases

More than 80 diseases occur as a result of the immune system attacking the body's own organs, tissues, and cells. Some of the more common autoimmune diseases include type 1 diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis, systemic lupus erythematosus, and inflammatory bowel disease. The chronic and debilitating nature of these diseases, which can lead to high medical costs and reduced quality of lif is a burden on patients and also affects their families and communities. Although the causes of autoimmune disease remain unknown, a combination of a person's genes together with infections and other environmental exposures are likely to play a significant role in disease development. Treatments are available for many autoimmune diseases, but cures have yet to be discovered.

## Understanding Autoimmune Diseases

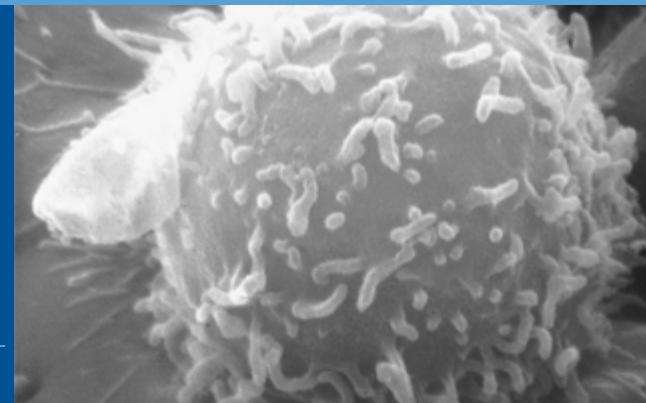Quick Facts

Autoimmune Diseases Studied by NIAID

## Research

NIAID's Role

NIH Autoimmune Diseases Coordinating Committee

Funded Programs

Research in NIAID Labs

## Immune System Mounts Response to Gut Commensals

NIAID findings suggest that infection-induced responses to good bacteria in the gut may lead to Crohn's disease

Read More ▶

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### What's New in Autoimmune Diseases Research

NIH Launches Effort to Define Markers of Human Immune Responses to Infection And Vaccination—Aug. 11, 2010

After 40 Years, NIH-Supported Researchers Identify Possible New Treatment for Severe Vasculitis—July 14, 2010

All Autoimmune Diseases News Releases

News from NIAID-Supported Institutions

### Additional Information From NIAID

▸ Autoimmune Lymphproliferative Syndrome (ALPS)

▸ Immune System

▸ Lupus

▸ Women's Health

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