

SCLERODERMA F.A.Q.

WHAT IS SCLERODERMA?

- Scleroderma is an autoimmune disease that causes an overproduction of collagen in connective tissue such as the skin, digestive system and other internal organs.
- It is painful and debilitating and in some cases fatal.
- The symptoms and severity of the disease vary from patient to patient. Depending on the subtype of illness, Scleroderma can damage the skin, lungs, kidneys and gastrointestinal tract. Scleroderma can also result in loss of digits or limbs.
- Although Scleroderma affects all ages and genders, 80% of the people diagnosed with Scleroderma are women.

RESEARCH AND FUNDING:

- Autoimmune diseases like Scleroderma affect over 50 million Americans and are the leading cause of death in America.
- Over 300,000 diagnosed cases of Scleroderma in the U.S. and as many as 10,000 disease-related deaths annually.
- Many cases go undiagnosed and misdiagnosis is common. It can take several years for an individual to be diagnosed and receive critical treatment, often due to lack of familiarity about the disease among medical professionals.
- Federal research funding for Scleroderma sadly lags behind other diseases.

ABOUT THE SCLERODERMA FOUNDATION:

- The Scleroderma Foundation, a national 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit organization, was established in 1998. Since then, the Foundation has grown to include a network of 20 chapters in the U.S. including the Southern California Chapter.
- The Scleroderma Foundation has a three-fold mission: Support, Education and Research.
- Our work includes nationwide patient support programs, educational events, and peer-reviewed research.
- The Foundation is a member of the National Organization of Rare Disorders, the Coalition Skin Disease Research, the National Coalition of Auto-Immune Patient Groups, and the Women's Health Research Coalition.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER:

The Southern California Chapter extends from The Central Coast and Bakersfield all the way down to the Mexican Border. Some of the amazing annual events conducted by the Southern California Chapter include:

- Santa Barbara Stepping Out (March)
- The Vertical Cure Ski Event in Mammoth, CA (March)
- San Diego Padres Scleroderma Awareness Day (May)
- The Valley Stepping Out (May)
- La Mirada / Los Angeles Stepping Out (June)
- San Diego Stepping Out (Aug.)
- Anaheim Angels Scleroderma Awareness Day (Sep.)
- Annual Key to a Cure Gala in Los Angeles (Oct.)



**THE
GLOVES
ARE OFF!**

LET'S FIGHT SCLERODERMA TOGETHER

The Scleroderma Foundation of Southern California helps those with Scleroderma and their loved ones with support programs, education, referrals and research. We cannot do it alone. We need your help. Please consider giving at one of the below levels. Together we will beat Scleroderma!

\$5,000 =  1 EDUCATION DAY	\$500 =  1 MONTH OF SUPPORT GROUPS
\$2,500 =  1 OUTREACH EVENT	\$250 =  3 MONTHS OF CLINIC VISITS
\$1,000 =  1 PATIENT TO WASHINGTON D.C. TO ADVOCATE FOR SCLERODERMA RESEARCH	\$100 =  1 SET OF PRINTED LITERATURE

WWW.SCLEROSOCAL.ORG

YOU ARE THE KEY TO THE CURE!

Visit <http://donate.sclerosocal.org> to make a donation or call: 424-227-6475 to learn more.

Your donation, however large or small, will help the Scleroderma Foundation of Southern California's three-fold mission of providing patient **SUPPORT**, public **EDUCATION** and funding medical **RESEARCH**.