

REACHING OUT

**SCLERODERMA
FOUNDATION**

GREATER CHICAGO CHAPTER

SUPPORT • EDUCATION • RESEARCH

203 NORTH WABASH STREET, SUITE 2219 • CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60601

T 312.660.1131 • F 312.660.1133 • SCLERODERMA.ORG/CHAPTER/ILLINOIS

SPRING 2010



JOIN US

**FOR THE 8TH ANNUAL
"STEPPING OUT TO CURE"
SCLERODERMA WALK
SUNDAY, JUNE 27, 2010
IN HIGHLAND PARK.**

The walk will start and finish in the parking lot of the downtown Highland Park Metra Station. (St. Johns and Laurel Streets)

Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. and the 1- and 3-mile walks begin at 9:00 a.m. Once again look for a fabulous raffle, fun for the kids, Carol's Cookies and treats from Whole Foods, face painting by Susan Spriggs face painters, music and fun!

Put together a team and raise funds for Scleroderma! Our goal is to have more walkers than ever before and raise our income level up from last year. Watch for more exciting information on this event including our great raffle baskets! Check our Facebook page for updates also! Register on-line at www.first-giving.com/scleroderma-chicago

MY SCLERODERMA STORY: A STORY OF HOPE

I can't remember a life without Scleroderma.

My mother was officially diagnosed in 1993. As she and my father sat us three young children down to tell us this, they struggled to find the right words. "Mommy is sick" seemed to be the best phrase for a 10-year-old, 7-year-old and 5-year-old to understand. Still, being the oldest, I blurted out the toughest question a Scleroderma parent has to face. "Mommy, are you going to die?"

There was a pause before my mother, in her typical quirky way, said very simply, "I'm not planning on it."

But the doctors were planning on it. My mother had a 20 percent chance of surviving the next five years. Her joints were stiff, her arms wouldn't raise and fatigue was constant. She couldn't walk up and down the stairs to do the laundry. She couldn't run to the grocery store without napping first. She couldn't continue her career in real estate. And she couldn't stop praying that she'd be around for her children's college graduations.

Fast forward 12 years.

My mother stood proud at my college graduation. She, along with my father, walked me down the aisle at my wedding several years later. She can now raise her arms and walk up stairs. She is a miracle.

That's why my Scleroderma story is a story of hope.

It's true that I don't know what life would be like without Scleroderma. My mother still can't visit me in frigid Chicago during the five months of winter because of her Reynaud's and she still can't walk far distances without resting. But, for our family, Scleroderma is a part of life. A happy, full life. We know that we're the lucky ones, and we're grateful.

Yet, Scleroderma is still a daily struggle for those who have it, in any form. It is crippling, both physically and emotionally; it is cruel; and it is constant. And for far too many, it is a killer.

It's important that we give Scleroderma patients a voice, especially those who can no longer speak. We must continue to hope, to pray and to support one another, and it's time to rally the outside world to join this cause.

A cure starts with awareness. That is why I share my story today. Stories like mine are few and far between for Scleroderma patients, and successful treatment options are rare. By talking about scleroderma and educating others about the disease, we're all taking

steps closer to making hope more than just a quiet emotion.

We're making it a reality.



Lisa Capretto

LisaCapretto@gmail.com

NATIONAL PATIENT EDUCATION CONFERENCE JULY 30–AUGUST 1, 2010 • BOSTON WHERE REVOLUTIONARY IDEAS BEGIN

Come to historic Boston for the Scleroderma Foundation's 2010 National Patient Education Conference, located in beautiful downtown Boston at the Sheraton Boston Hotel, 39 Dalton Street, Boston, Mass. Discounted hotel rooms are already being set aside at the Sheraton for conference attendees and you can start making reservations within the "Scleroderma Foundation" room block now. Phone: (617) 236-2000.

THIS YEAR'S CONFERENCE HAS SOMETHING IN STORE FOR EVERYONE

—patients, caregivers, family members, and Foundation staff. Expanded workshops will be featured on Pulmonary Hypertension, G.I. Involvement with Scleroderma, and Raynaud's. Special attention will also be given to topics on juvenile Scleroderma.

Kerri Connolly, Programs and Services Manager at the Foundation, has been working to develop a comprehensive program for 2010 attendees. "Scleroderma is a multi-faceted and complex disease that affects each person, their families, and communities in a number of different ways," notes Connolly. "We've designed this conference to address as many needs and interests as possible so that all attendees walk away with a great experience."

Some of the new workshops to be featured at the conference will focus on families and caregivers affected by Scleroderma. "We'll be featuring a workshop hosted by the Murray family on "Families and Scleroderma," which will help parents and children connect with other families and discuss living with the disease," adds Connolly.

In addition to workshops, guests will also enjoy the many exhibits and book signings available throughout the weekend, as well as admission to the Saturday evening awards banquet.

With hundreds of guests estimated to attend, the National Patient Education Conference will surely be an engaging and productive weekend for all. The goal of this year's conference is not only to provide educational and research-related information, but also to provide a supportive, social environment for the national Scleroderma community.

The 2010 National Conference will precede the 11th International Workshop on Scleroderma Research at Boston University. This international gathering, which begins on August 1st, is open only to physicians and researchers and not to the public. This coincidental convergence of both conferences provides a great opportunity for the Foundation to seek out even more medical professionals and researchers from all over the world to speak at the National Conference!

SOME EXCITING SPEAKERS!

The three-day event will feature a variety of workshops and seminars hosted by leading Scleroderma researchers and medical professionals. Keynote speakers include Director of the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases Stephen I. Katz, M.D., Ph.D.

OPENING KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Carol M. Black, DBE, FRCP, FMedSci

Dame Carol Black (UCL Honorary Fellow 2003) is Director of the UCL Centre for Rheumatology and Connective Tissue Disease, where she has been a professor since 1994. Her involvement with UCL began in 1989, as Consultant Rheumatologist at the Royal Free Hospital, where she held the position of Medical Director 2001-2002.

CLOSING KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Stephen I. Katz, M.D., Ph.D.

Dr. Katz has been Director of the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases since August 1995 and is also a Senior Investigator in the Dermatology Branch of the National Cancer Institute. He will be speaking on "Updates in Scleroderma Research."

Dr. Katz has focused his studies on immunology and the skin. His research has demonstrated that skin is an important component of the immune system both in its normal function and as a target in immunologically-mediated disease. In addition to studying Langerhans cells and epidermally-derived cytokines, Dr. Katz and his colleagues have added considerable new knowledge about inherited and acquired blistering skin diseases.

LINDA LEE WELLS MEMORIAL WORKSHOP SERIES

Dental Issues Related to Scleroderma | David Leader, D.M.D.

Scleroderma may contribute to unique problems related to the mouth and the teeth. Managing dental and oral care can be particularly challenging, due to the changes that can occur in your face and mouth. This workshop provides practical tips for managing your day-to-day mouth and dental care and coordinating your care with your dentist.

**CHAT WITH YOUR FRIENDS ON OUR
SUPPORT BOARD, INSPIRE.COM**

Scleroderma 101: An Overview | Maureen Mayes, MD

Receiving a diagnosis of Scleroderma can certainly be a confusing and anxiety-provoking experience. What is Scleroderma? What are the different types of Scleroderma? What can I expect now that I have been diagnosed? These are just a few of the questions you may have. The goal of this workshop is to take the confusion out of the diagnosis by providing a comprehensive overview of Scleroderma, the complications associated with Scleroderma, and current therapies. This workshop will allow you to become a more effective partner in your care by providing a strong base of knowledge.

SO DON'T WAIT—REGISTER FOR THE CONFERENCE AND PLAN YOUR TRIP TODAY!

Visit Boston and attend the conference while enjoying all historical and cultural sights the city has to offer!

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Visit http://www.scleroderma.org/national_conference/2010/national_conference_reg.shtm
Telephone: 800.722.HOPE (4673), 978.463.5843, ext. 40.
E-mail: Lindsey Bergman, lbergman@scleroderma.org

REGISTRATION

Conference workshops are scheduled for Saturday, July 31st and Sunday, August 1st, but all participants are invited to attend a welcome reception, including light hors d'oeuvres, on Friday, July 30, from 6-8 p.m.

All Conference activities and scheduled meal functions, as follows:

- Friday: reception (light hors d'oeuvres)
- Saturday: breakfast, lunch, and Awards Dinner
- Sunday: brunch

Meal Functions Only Fee Includes:

- Friday: reception (light hors d'oeuvres, dinner on your own)
- Saturday: breakfast, lunch, and Awards Banquet
- Sunday: brunch

REGISTRATION FEES:

Now through July 7: \$185 for members and \$235 for non-members

After July 7: \$235 for members and \$285 for non-members

Meal Functions Only (no workshops): \$115

Registration for a child 12 years of age & under: \$20

FOUR CONVENIENT WAYS TO REGISTER

Register Online: Visit www.scleroderma.org.

Mastercard and Visa accepted

Fax: Fax registration form (available at www.scleroderma.org) to: 978.463.5809 (credit card only)

Mail: Mail registration form and payment to:
Scleroderma Foundation, 300 Rosewood Drive, Suite 105,
Danvers, MA 01923

Phone: Call 800.722.4673. M–F, 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m. EST

All Scleroderma informational brochures can be downloaded at www.scleroderma.org, click on “Education and Resources” and scroll down to brochure downloads.

NEWS FROM UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

These are the active Scleroderma Related Projects happening now at the University of Chicago.

DR. PATTI

- Esophageal motility profile among patients with Scleroderma.
- Prevalence of gastro esophageal reflux disease among patients with Scleroderma.
- Effect of antireflux therapy on patients with Scleroderma and ILD.

DR. SWEISS

TRIDOM, translational research in the department of medicine that involves blood collection for cytokine and genetic future studies Anti CD19 a phase one clinical trial to treat progressive systemic sclerosis

NOVARTIS

A 24-week randomized placebo-controlled, double-blind multi-center clinical trial evaluating the efficacy and safety of oral QTI571 as an add-on therapy in the treatment of severe pulmonary arterial hypertension: Imatinib in Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension, a Randomized, Efficacy Study (IMPRES). To investigate a novel drug in combination as a therapy for pulmonary hypertension

GILEAD

A Phase 2, Randomized, Double-blind, Placebo-controlled, Multicenter, Dose-ranging Study of Cicletanine in Subjects with Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension. To investigate a novel drug in phase 2 for pulmonary arterial hypertension

UNITED THERAPIES

A 16-week, International, Multicenter, Double-Blind, Randomized, Placebo-Controlled Study of the Efficacy and Safety of Oral UT-15C Sustained Release Tablets in Subjects with Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension

DR. STREK

Natural history protocol, a prospective data base that allows us to follow patients prospectively with Scleroderma lung disease

VISIT THE SCLERODERMA
FOUNDATION ON FACEBOOK!

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THE GIRL WHO NEVER GIVES IN OR GIVES UP



Hello, my name is Tami and I would like to share my story for others whom either have or know someone with Scleroderma.

I am 31 years old and I have never known a life without Scleroderma. I was diagnosed at age six with Morphea and Linear Scleroderma. My lesions were and still are very widespread, covering most of my legs, causing my left leg muscle to not grow normally through childhood (I like to call it my chicken leg because it's so

skinny), lesions on my arms, chest, back, torso. I grew up knowing I was different and unique I like to say. I grew up being stared at, people's faces kind of freeze for a moment when they see the lesions and normally they don't ask. Children though they ask often why do I look the way I do and to this day it is still hard for -me to chose the right words to explain to a child why I look different. If I had a penny for all the questions I would be rich.

I spent my childhood not feeling good, being the one to catch every cold, see doctor after doctor. Then as high school years approached I began to feel better and was able to enjoy several years without serious problems. I decided after spending my life in hospitals and doctor's offices that I wanted to be in the medical field to help others. Somehow being a x-ray tech is what I chose, though I had never broken a bone, I wanted to be able to comfort those that come in scared, sick, or hurt even if it was just for a chest x-ray. I believe Scleroderma allowed me to have a greater sense of empathy for others.

As time passed my body began to hurt more and more. I began to be short of breath, nauseated, have heartburn, and severe joint and muscle pain. Once again I was back to see doctor after doctor, and have test after test. I began to no longer enjoy my job because at the end of the day on the long ride home I would break down and cry from the pain. It would take me forever to be able to get out of my car and walk to my door, and as each time a test would show a new problem, it meant a new doctor. I began to dislike most physicians within the first five minutes of meeting them. They would be clueless as to what Scleroderma even meant. I had to educate them. Some doctors would flat out tell me "your problems are above me and you need to go somewhere else to see someone". How angry and depressed I would be.

It's not like I wanted to see so many doctors, I just wanted some relief from the pain and not to be told to just go home and deal with it. I would go to the Mayo Clinic and hope for help, but an eight-hour drive and weeks stay in a hotel costs too much so it was very hard to find a caring doctor. I finally had to give up my job that I loved. I knew my job was doing more damage to my body and my quality of life was not good. I was living a life of get up, go to work, come home and go to bed. If I had a day off, I spent it resting and going to bed by 6pm, to get enough rest to make it through the next day of work. And so began the long process of filing for social security disability at 27 years old.

If I thought I felt bad then, boy did I feel worse from the stress of no health insurance, no income and living by myself. It seemed for a time the system wasn't meant to help me, I had no children so public aid is even harder to get being childless, and how am I to take my over \$2500 a month of medicines with no income? A year after I quit work I was finally approved for disability. Public aid would pay only after I met a horrendous spend down each month out of my own pocket until Medicare would kick in.

I thank God every day, that one day while reading my Scleroderma Foundation emails about a clinical trial—though I didn't qualify for the trial because my lungs were too damaged—I met the doctor of my dreams. Finally, a caring and intelligent doctor whom actually had Scleroderma patients. Such a miracle to finally find a doctor that understands Scleroderma, even if it's a 3-1/2 hour drive one way, its still worth the trip to see him.

For some reason I no longer was considered as just morphea and linear Scleroderma, but systemic, which is not suppose to happen, but as I have found in life, nothing is normal with Scleroderma. Each and every patient has different manifestations— we are all connected by one word— Scleroderma. Until someone has or knows someone with Scleroderma, they can never fully understand what a day in our shoes feels like. People do not understand what they can't see. If I had my lesions covered and didn't walk with a limp, people think I am young and healthy, why aren't I working, why do I park in the handicap spots?, etc. Though I have Scleroderma, it doesn't have me, I truly know no life without Scleroderma and I wouldn't change that for anything because I am me, a girl with the funny sounding illness, the girl with the lesions, the girl that is strong mentally, the girl who never gives in or gives up.

Thank you for allowing me to share my story, and hopefully it will allow others like me to know they are not alone.

Tami Prather

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2010

Our event calendar is full of fun, fundraising opportunities for everyone. Be sure to keep up to date by checking our website, www.scleroderma.org/chapter/illinois, or call 312-660-1131 for more information.

SUNDAY MARCH 21ST 2010, MARKED THE FIRST "1,100 STEPS TO A CURE" (48 floors!)

to benefit the Scleroderma Foundation, Greater Chicago Chapter. Although our numbers were small, we were able to make some new friends and supporters of the chapter. We were also able to raise needed funds to support research, and our education programs.

We would like to thank Tishman Speyer, the management company at 161 N. Clark (Chicago Title Building). Everyone who helped with the set up and organization of this event was terrific.

Thanks to Dave Brannigan, Property Manager and Mari Camilo, Assistant Property Manager. Without your help and support we would not have been able to do this event.

Thanks also to over 30 volunteers who came out bright and early to work registration, food, gear check, floor supervision, and timing. Your efforts are much appreciated.

Also, a huge thank you to board members Bob and Jean Kacick who initiated this event and secured the building space for us. Thank you for your support and all of your help getting participants. Thank you also to Board President Mike Robbins, who worked very hard to get participants and volunteered the morning of the climb. We would not have been as successful without everyone who helped out. We will raise about \$10,000 from our first ever Stair Climb. Thanks to all!

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

September 13 – 4th annual, Teeing it up

“Fore” Scleroderma, Golf Outing, Arboretum Club, Buffalo Grove, IL.

September 18 – Brand new location! First annual “Stepping Out to Cure Scleroderma” walk, Dixon, IL

September 19 – Second Annual Germantown Wisconsin, “Stepping Out to Cure Scleroderma” Walk

September 25 – “Stepping Out to Cure Scleroderma” walk, Hanover, IL

Check our website

for further information on these events. www.scleroderma.org/chapter/illinois

PATIENT EDUCATION SEMINARS & EXPO

May Seminar – Saturday, May 22
University of Chicago, Spring Event
Patient Education Seminar

November Seminar – Saturday, November 6
Northwestern University, Fall Event
Patient Education Seminar

August Expo
Saturday, August 7 - Sunday, August 8
Black Women’s Expo. McCormick Place

COOKING UP A CURE 2010

Monday, October 18 – Second Annual “Cooking up a Cure” Celebrity Chef Event. New Location! Salvage One, 1812-40 West Hubbard, Chicago, IL. 60622.

5:30 p.m. doors open. Taste delicious samples and specialties from some of Chicago’s top restaurants, prepared by some of Chicago’s premier chefs. Enjoy a live and silent auction, music, specialty “mixology” drinks, wine, beer and fun! Many returning restaurants from 2009 plus many new restaurants and chefs!

Watch for further information at www.cookingupacurechicago.com or call 312.660.1131. Sponsored by: Salvage One, Pivotal, and City Provisions Catering & Events.



NORTHWESTERN SCLERODERMA PROGRAM RESEARCHERS DISCOVER NEW SCLERODERMA TARGET

Research at Northwestern shows promise in identifying a new target for scleroderma treatment. Scientists at Dr. John Varga's lab are studying a protein called PPAR-gamma that may play a role in regulating fibrosis. They found that PPAR-gamma is active in the skin cells that make collagen (fibroblasts) of healthy people, but its activity is reduced in fibroblasts from patients with Scleroderma. The reduction in activity of PPAR-gamma may help explain why Scleroderma fibroblasts produce excess collagen, leading to fibrosis, or hardening of the skin.

Dr. Varga thinks that PPAR-gamma activation normally suppresses fibrosis, but its disruption in patients with Scleroderma may allow fibrosis to occur. If the activation of PPAR-gamma can be restored, fibrosis may begin to disappear. Dr. Varga's laboratory has already found support for this hypothesis. When Scleroderma fibroblasts in the lab were treated with activators of PPAR-gamma, the cells began to produce less collagen. A mouse model of Scleroderma was also used to determine how mice with fibrosis respond to treatment with PPAR-gamma activators. Both skin inflammation and fibrosis decreased in treated mice. Ongoing research in the Varga lab will investigate the link between PPAR-gamma and fibrosis.

This promising research, supported by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Scleroderma Research Foundation, provides hope for future treatments of Scleroderma. PPAR-gamma is known to be important for increasing sensitivity to insulin, so medications that activate PPAR-gamma are already used to treat type 2 diabetes. These studies of PPAR-gamma's role in fibrosis may potentially reveal these medications to also be useful for treating fibrosis in Scleroderma.

SCLERODERMA TREATMENT CENTERS, ILLINOIS NORTHWESTERN SCLERODERMA PROGRAM

Northwestern Medical Faculty Foundation at Northwestern Memorial Hospital

675 North St. Clair, Suite 14-100, Chicago, IL 60611

<http://scleroderma.northwestern.edu/>

Clinic Information: Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

New Patient Appointments:

Phone 312.503.1137; fax 312.926.2967

Scleroderma Coordinator Contact:

Mary Carns, M.S. at 312.503.1137

University of Chicago, Scleroderma Clinic

5758 South Maryland Ave., Chicago, IL 60637

Clinic Information: Adult patients seen with systemic and localized Scleroderma

Appointments: 773.702.6119

Hours: Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Physician Inquiries: 773.702.5379

University of Illinois at Chicago Outpatient Care Center (OCC)

1801 West Taylor Street, Suite 3A,
3rd Floor, Chicago, IL 60612

Clinic Information: Special Medicine Clinic

Types of Patients Seen:

Adults, systemic and localized sclerosis

Hours: Tuesday, 8 a.m.-12 p.m. and

Thursday, 8 a.m.-12 p.m.

Clinic Registration: 312.355.0900

Appointment Scheduling:

Patricia Cole-Saffold, M.S., 312.996.6614

Physician Inquiries: 312-413.9310 or

312.996.8039 (Dr. Dean Schraufnagel)

Medical College of Wisconsin

Rheumatology Clinic

9200 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53226

www.mcw.edu/rheumatology.htm

Clinic Phone: Front Desk:

414-805-9218, or 414.805.8580

Contact number for appointments:

Scheduling Center: 414.805.6633

Patti Tuccillo, Administrative Assistant

414.955.7029

A SPECIAL THANKS

to Jennifer Bryson and Stephanie Sommers for their fantastic work on our second annual Food Fight Fundraiser, held at the Chopping Block at the Merchandise Mart, April 18, 2010. Congrats also to chef Cleetus Friedman for taking home the trophy!



SUPPORT GROUPS

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Chicago Support Group
40 E. 9th St. #304 (Handicap Accessible)
Support Group Leader: Seth Reagen
P 847.420.5208 E sethnr@gmail.com

Chicago North Support Group
Meetings are held the last Saturday
of the month at 11:00 a.m.
6145 N. Sheridan, 15A, Chicago IL 60660
*The 147 bus stops in front of the location and the
Red-line is one block away. #136 Sheridan/LaSalle
Express #147 Outer Drive Express #151 Sheridan.
Elevator access.*
Support Group Leader: Chris Jimenez
P 312.480.1728
E christinejimenez0@gmail.com

DANVILLE, ILLINOIS

East Central Illinois Support Group
6:30 p.m., the last Tuesday of each
month (except December)
Danville Public Library, First floor
Support Group Leader: Carrie Garlick,
P 217.304.8969
E ecil_scleroderma_supgrp@yahoo.com

KANKAKEE, ILLINOIS

Kankakee County Support Group
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., the last Saturday
of each month. No meeting in May.
Riverside Medical Center, 350 N. Wall St.
Support Group Leader: Lisa Somers
P 815.933.0993 E prinprin76@sbcglobal.net

OAK PARK, ILLINOIS

Support Group of Western Suburbs
10 a.m., the third Saturday of each month.
Our meetings are held at West Suburban
Hospital, One Erie Court. Please check at
the information desk for room location.
There is FREE parking in the garage.
At our meetings, we give and receive
support from one another.
Contact: Monica Geary, P 708.386.7198
E westernsuburbsil@scleroderma.org.
Support Group Leaders: Pauline Geary
P 708.362.0350 E psgeary@yahoo.com.
and Natalie Nemeth

ILLIOPOLIS, ILLINOIS

Central Illinois Support Group
Illinois Library, 6th and Mary St.
Support Group Leader: Debbie Deaton,
P 217.720.2327
E sclerodermasupport@comcast

GREEN BAY, WISCONSIN

Northeastern Wisconsin Support Group.
Meetings 2:00-3:00 p.m.
Harmony Cafe, 1660 West Mason Street
Support Group Leader: Jackie Means
P 920.469.7623
E sclerodermawi@yahoo.com

LAKE GENEVA, WISCONSIN

10 a.m.–12 p.m., first Saturday of each month
(except July and Sept.) Aurora Health Center,
136 E. Geneva Square At Min and Broad go
north for 1.5 miles until you come to the next
stop light. Turn right into the mall area and go
to the end. The Aurora Health center is very
well labeled. Family members are welcome!
Support Group Leader: Shari Lundberg
P 262.245.6212
E lundbergs53191@hotmail.com

GOSHEN, INDIANA

Northern Indiana Support Group/
Northern Indiana Disability Advocacy
Network, Inc. (NI-DAN)
Sunday, June 27, gather friends and family
and head to Highland Park (St. Johns and
Laurel Streets), IL for the Greater Chicago
Chapter Walk. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m.
1- and 3-mile walks begin at 9:00 a.m.
Future meetings: Thurs., Aug. 12 and Fri.,
Oct. 15 (topic and meeting places TBD)
Goshen Public Library (574.533.9531)
601 S. 5th St., Room A/B
Support Group Leader:
Janine Capon P 574.536.8274
E northernindiana@scleroderma.org

SUPPORT GROUPS PROVIDE
A FORUM TO SHARE FEELINGS,
CONCERNS, INFORMATION,
AS WELL AS A PLACE TO
OFFER PEER SUPPORT AND
ENCOURAGEMENT.

Solicitations or research projects are not
conducted at support group meetings.
This schedule is subject to change. Before
attending a group for the first time, please
call to verify date and time. Groups are
free of charge and open to everyone.

PHONE SUPPORT

Phone support available: Please check on line
at www.scleroderma.org/chapter/illinois for
phone group leaders, click on Support Groups

HIGHWOOD, ILLINOIS

Phone/Email Support: Shirl Halpern,
P 847.432.3198 E starkohalpern@comcast.com

PERU, ILLINOIS

Illinois Valley Support Group
Phone or e-mail support only.
Support Group Leader: Lynn Schmidt
P 815-539-5897
E illinoisvalley@scleroderma.org

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

Southeastern Wisconsin Support Group.
No formal meetings. Telephone support with
group members. Share your concerns or just
looking for information we hope we can
support you in your struggle with Scleroderma.
Support Group Leader: Sandra Walter
P 262.338.0980 E sandi_wb@mac.com.

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For information, to contribute articles and suggestions, or to be added to our mailing list, please contact Ann Peterson at:
apeterson@scleroderma.org

T 312.660.1131

F 312.660.1133

Scleroderma Foundation
Greater Chicago Chapter
www.scleroderma.org

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WHAT IS SCLERODERMA?

Scleroderma is a chronic, often progressive, autoimmune disease like Rheumatoid Arthritis, Lupus, and Multiple Sclerosis – in which the body's immune system attacks its own tissues. The disease, which literally means "hard skin," can cause thickening and tightening of the skin, as well as serious damage to internal organs including the lungs, heart, kidneys, esophagus, and gastrointestinal tract. For some individuals, Scleroderma is a nuisance – for others it is a life-threatening disease.

An estimated 300,000 persons in the United States have Scleroderma; Approximately four times more women than men develop the disease. The exact cause or causes of Scleroderma are unknown, and although medications can sometimes help, there is no cure yet.

BRAND NEW
LOCATIONS!
DIXON AND
HANOVER, IL
"STEPPING OUT TO CURE
SCLERODERMA" WALKS
DON'T MISS THEM!

203 NORTH WABASH, SUITE 2219
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60601
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

GREATER CHICAGO CHAPTER
SUPPORT • EDUCATION • RESEARCH
SCLERODERMA
FOUNDATION
