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Catherine J. Markin MD to Lead Presentations at Oregon Scleroderma Education Seminar

9th Annual Public Event Set for Hillsboro's Tuality Health Education Center on March 13, 2010

New Insights and Treatment Options for Lung Disease In Systemic Sclerosis will highlight free day of awareness activities



Catherine J. Markin MD



Anna A. Bar MD



Justin Elson DMD

(December 21, 2009, Portland, OR) --- The Oregon Chapter of the Scleroderma Foundation announced today that Dr. Catherine J. Markin – a noted specialist in pulmonary disease and critical care medicine at Legacy Good Samaritan Medical Center, and Director of the Legacy Pulmonary Hypertension Program – will present the 9th Annual Cheri Woo Education Seminar's keynote address scheduled for Saturday, March 13, 2010 at Tuality Health Education Center in Hillsboro. The free public seminar runs 10am through 3pm.

Dr. Markin will offer "Lung Disease in Systemic Sclerosis: New Insights and Treatment Options" as part of the chapter's daylong line-up of expert presentations and interactive panel discussions intended to increase overall education and raise regional awareness of scleroderma, also known as systemic sclerosis.

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In addition to Dr. Markin, the seminar is scheduled to present Dr. Anna A. Bar, an Assistant Professor of Dermatology and Dermatologic and Cosmetic Surgery at Oregon Health & Science University, along with Justin Elson, DMD, of Gentech Dentist Hillsboro.

Scleroderma [pronounced sclare-a-derma], or systemic sclerosis, is a chronic connective tissue disease generally classified as one of the autoimmune rheumatic diseases. The term comes from two Greek words: “sclero” meaning hard, and “derma” meaning skin. Symptoms can range from extreme sensitivity to heat and cold to hardened skin to diminished lung capacity and disfigured face and limbs. Scleroderma can be fatal, and there is no known cause or cure. An estimated 300,000 people have scleroderma, of which 80,000 to 100,000 people in the US have the systemic form of the disease. Scleroderma affects four times as many women as men, usually between the ages 46 to 65.

The annual spring education seminar by the Oregon Scleroderma Chapter is always free and open to the public. Breakfast and lunch are provided with every registration.

“To the general public, scleroderma is only now coming into wider awareness,” group President Liz Orem-Bedel remarked. “For the ninth straight year the all-volunteer Oregon Chapter of the Scleroderma Foundation and its Support Group has worked tirelessly to raise that awareness in the Pacific Northwest through the annual free spring education seminar. For the 2010 edition, we’re incredibly fortunate to present doctors Markin, Bar and Elson, all leaders in their fields.”

Advance registration is encouraged and available several ways: online through the chapter’s Web site at www.scleroderma.org/chapter/oregon ; by phone at 503-245-4588; or via email at orchapter@scleroderma.org . On-site registration prior to the 10am start also is available.

The annual event is named in honor of the event’s founder Cheri Jo Woo, who died in 2007 after a long struggle with scleroderma and cancer. Cheri served the Oregon Scleroderma chapter with distinction for more than a decade as a board officer, awareness advocate, fund-raising specialist, patient supporter, and education promoter. She began the first chapter education seminar in 2001.

Catherine J. Markin, MD

Catherine J. Markin MD, a pulmonologist and critical care physician, has a special interest in pulmonary hypertension, interstitial lung disease and scleroderma-related lung disease. She also sees patients with other pulmonary disorders.

Dr. Markin worked at OHSU for six years and transitioned to Legacy Health System in May 2008. She is the director of the Legacy Pulmonary Hypertension Program and is the principal investigator for several clinical research trials for patients with pulmonary hypertension.

She is an adjunct assistant professor of medicine at OHSU and she is a member of several professional societies, such as the Oregon Thoracic Society, American Thoracic Society, American College of Chest Physicians, and the Pulmonary Hypertension Association.

Dr. Markin received bachelor’s degrees in biology and microbiology with highest honors from Oregon State University in 1987. She graduated from medical school at OHSU in 1992. From 1997-2000, she completed fellowship training in pulmonary and critical care medicine at OHSU. She is married and the mother of two school-aged boys.

Anna A. Bar MD

Anna A. Bar MD is an Assistant Professor of Dermatology and Dermatologic and Cosmetic Surgery at OHSU. Dr. Bar specializes in skin cancer surgery, lasers, and cosmetic surgery, including Mohs micrographic surgery. For primary skin cancers, the cure rate of the Mohs technique is about 98%, making it the most effective cure for skin cancer today.

Dr. Bar has lectured and taught courses for physicians at the American Society of Dermatologic Surgery and American College of Mohs Micrographic Surgery and Cutaneous Oncology national meetings. She regularly instructs residents and medical students in dermatologic surgery and cutaneous oncology.

She is board certified in Dermatology and is a member of the American College of Mohs Micrographic Surgery and Cutaneous Oncology, American Academy of Dermatology, the American Society for Dermatologic Surgery, and the Oregon Dermatology Society.

Dr. Bar received her medical degree from New York University medical school in New York City, followed by an internal medicine internship at New York's Lenox Hill Hospital. After completing dermatology training at OHSU, she pursued specialized training in Mohs surgery and cosmetic and laser surgery with Dr. Greg Morganroth in California, a leader in local anesthesia cosmetic rejuvenation.

Justin Elson, DMD

Justin Elson, Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD), is a former submarine officer with the SSBN 733 USS Nevada. He is a member of the Academy of General Dentistry, and the Omicron Kappa Upsilon Dental Honor Society, along with the Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society.

Dr. Elson graduated from the School of Dentistry at OHSU, after earning a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering from California State University Sacramento.

He is a hike leader and mountaineering instructor for the Mazamas group, as well as an avid hiker and photographer.

Tuality Health Education Center

The 9th Annual Cheri Woo Education Seminar will be held at the Tuality Health Education Center in Hillsboro, Oregon, located at 334 Southeast 8th Avenue, Hillsboro, OR 97123-4201 (503) 681-1700. [Map and directions](#). Free parking is available, and the site is easily accessible by public transportation via the MAX Blue Line to the Tuality Hospital/SE 8th Ave MAX Station

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For more information, visit www.scleroderma.org/chapter/oregon/ or contact the Scleroderma Foundation Chapter at 503-245-4588, SDForegon@comcast.net, PO Box 19296, Portland, OR 97280.

The Scleroderma Foundation is a 501(c)(3) national nonprofit organization serving the interests of persons living with scleroderma. The Foundation's 24 chapters and 147 support groups nationwide help to carry out its three-fold mission of support, education, and research. The Scleroderma Foundation is the leading nonprofit supporter of scleroderma research—funding over \$1M of new grants each year to find the cause and cure of scleroderma.