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Dr. Lauren H. Kim MD to Provide Keynote Address at 10th Annual Cheri Woo Scleroderma Education Seminar, March 12 at SW Washington Medical Center in Vancouver, WA

**A current overview of the autoimmune disease by the region's only
rheumatologist specializing in scleroderma will highlight free day of awareness activities**



Lauren H. Kim MD
Dr. Kathy J. Marshack



Jean Takaesu



(Feb. 15, 2011, Portland, OR) --- The Oregon Chapter of the Scleroderma Foundation announced today that Dr. Lauren H. Kim MD – a clinical rheumatologist specializing in scleroderma – will present the 10th Annual Cheri Woo Education Seminar's keynote address scheduled for Saturday, March 12, 2011 at the SW Washington Medical Center, 400 NE Mother Joseph Pl., in Vancouver, WA. The annual spring education seminar, always free and open to the public, runs 10am to 3pm.

Dr. Kim will offer a current overview of scleroderma as part of the chapter's daylong line-up of expert presentations and interactive audience 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. Kim , the seminar is scheduled to present **Licensed Psychologist Dr. Kathy J. Marshack** on "How Chronic Pain Changes Your Thinking . . . and How Your Thinking Can Change Your Chronic Pain," **Hand Therapist Jean Takaesu** on "Maintaining Function for the Hand with Scleroderma: joint protection, exercise, and splinting," and **Social Security Administration Technical Expert Diane Nerton**.

Audience Q&A with each speaker immediately follows each presentation.

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, hosted by its support group, is always free and open to the public with lunch and light breakfast provided at no cost to all attendees.

"This is a great line-up of presenters for our tenth annual Cheri Woo Scleroderma Education Seminar. Really diverse and first rate," Scleroderma Support Group Leader Donna Stone noted. "Dr. Kim will provide some really expert analysis; Licensed Psychologist Dr. Marshack will offer options on chronic pain, Hand Therapist Takaesu will deal with one of the most common physical manifestations of the disease, and Social Security expert Nerton will be there to answer a lot of important questions. That's an impressive and genuinely helpful array of speakers, all at no cost to the attendees."

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 walk-in registration starts at 9:00am.

"Although we officially are the Oregon Chapter of the Scleroderma Foundation, we also serve the SW Washington region where many of our people live and work, including me," Stone, a long-time Ridgefield, WA resident, commented on the Vancouver seminar site. "We are very grateful to the SW Washington Medical Center for hosting the seminar at their incredible medical meeting venue."

The annual event is named in honor of its founder Cheri J. 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.

Dr. Lauren H. Kim MD is a clinical rheumatologist at Legacy Healthcare in Portland and the only currently practicing rheumatologist specializing in scleroderma in the state of Oregon and SW Washington region. She trained at the Scleroderma Center at Boston University School of Medicine. Dr. Kim's postgraduate training includes both the Boston University School of Medicine and Yale University School of Medicine, with research and lab experience that involved genetic abnormalities in systemic sclerosis, among other areas. She has received past grant support for a Physician Scientist Development Award sponsored by the Arthritis Foundation, and Scleroderma Foundation. Dr. Kim's clinical interests include fibromyalgia, lupus, lyme disease, and rheumatoid arthritis, in addition to scleroderma.

Kathy J. Marshack, Ph.D., P.S. is a licensed psychologist with more than 25 years experience as a marriage and family therapist and business coach. She provides Psychotherapy and Consultation – in her office and onsite, speaking engagements, informative and insightful articles, including a Families in Business Column. Her books include "[ENTREPRENEURIAL COUPLES: Making It Work at Work and at Home](#)" and "[Life with a Partner or Spouse with Asperger Syndrome: Going over the Edge?](#)" She has a Master of Social Work from the University of Hawaii, and a Ph.D. in Psychology from The Fielding Institute. Dr. Marshack is a Certified Practitioner in Neurolinguistic Programming, Ericksonian Hypnosis, and Thought Field Therapy. She has an Emphasis in Marriage and Family Therapy including Entrepreneurial Couples, Dual Career Couples, Asperger/NT Couples, Adoption Families, and Co-dependency.

Jean Takaesu OTR/L, CHT is a licensed occupational therapist and certified hand therapist working at Hand Therapy Specialists, a privately owned practice specializing in the rehabilitation of the entire upper extremity. Her focus is orthopedic injuries while also treating trauma, overuse, arthritis, and pain conditions. Prior to her concentration on the upper extremity, Jean worked at Southwest Washington Medical Center in acute care. She did neurological, post-surgical, cardiac, pulmonary and orthopedic rehabilitation. She also administered cognitive evaluations and driver's assessment on a simulator. She received her bachelor's degree from Loma Linda University.

Diane Nerton is a Technical Expert with Social Security Administration. She has been with the agency 35 years having worked as a Claims Representative. Diane has extensive knowledge of many of the Social Security Administration's wide-ranging programs."

This outstanding education event will be held at the Auditorium in the Health Education Center, 400 NE Mother Joseph Pl., Vancouver, Wa. 98664. However, the best entrance is on 92nd Ave, either open parking or in the covered garage (written & map directions available at <http://www.swmedicalcenter.com/body.cfm?id=141>) .

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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 chapters and 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.