



**THE SCLERODERMA FOUNDATION  
INVITES ALL MEMBERS AND STAFF TO A CONGRESSIONAL  
LUNCHEON ON**

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7<sup>TH</sup>  
12:00 PM – 1:15 PM  
“THE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS ROOM”  
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS- JEFFERSON BUILDING**

Please join the Scleroderma Foundation on Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup> at 12 p.m. in the Members of Congress Room of the Library of Congress Jefferson Building for a congressional luncheon briefing. The luncheon will provide an opportunity to learn more about scleroderma and legislation designed to increase federal research on this devastating disease.

The word “scleroderma” means hardening of the skin, which is one of the most visible manifestations of the disorder. Scleroderma can affect many areas of the body including the heart, lungs, kidneys, and gastrointestinal system. There is no known cause and no cure for this chronic and disabling connective tissue disease resulting from an overproduction of collagen. African Americans are at a higher risk of developing the disease, and women account for 80 percent of all diagnoses. The estimated total economic impact of scleroderma in the United States is \$1.5 billion annually. The direct cost of treatment for patients is more than \$460 million annually. Despite these burdensome figures, the federal investment in scleroderma research is only \$20 million a year.

Speakers at the October 7<sup>th</sup> luncheon will include scleroderma researchers, patients, and congressional friends of the scleroderma community. The briefing will provide an opportunity to learn more about H.R. 2408/S. 1545, the “Scleroderma Research and Awareness Act.” This important legislation, sponsored by Rep. Lois Capps (D-CA), Rep. Vernon Ehlers (R-MI), and Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) is currently before the House Committee on Energy and Commerce and Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Please RSVP to Roger Brechner at the Scleroderma Foundation at [rbrechner@scleroderma.org](mailto:rbrechner@scleroderma.org) or (978) 463-5843 ext. 19. We look forward to seeing you on the 7<sup>th</sup>!