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**For Immediate Release.**

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## **Scleroderma Foundation Teams Up with Traitwise to Release Innovative Survey**

DANVERS, Massachusetts & AUSTIN, Texas, February 3rd, 2010 — The Scleroderma Foundation has teamed up with Austin, TX company, Traitwise Incorporated, to launch a unique survey to poll thousands of scleroderma patients and their caregivers. Data from the survey will be shared with researchers nationally and internationally in an effort to improve understanding and treatment of scleroderma.

By gathering answers about everything from symptoms to family history of disease to quality of life – and then comparing every answer to every other answer – the survey mechanism promises to tease out previously unsuspected patterns that can lead to new diagnostics, treatments, and even a cure for this chronic autoimmune disease that afflicts approximately one in every thousand people.

"While much has been accomplished by clinicians and researchers over the years to advance treatments and gain greater insight into the cause and cure for scleroderma, much more needs to be done to fully understand this disease," said Scleroderma Foundation CEO Robert Riggs. "The Traitwise survey gives us a chance to assemble and analyze more pieces of the puzzle and make that information available as a tool for researchers."

The unique Traitwise approach to data security allows users to volunteer information without fear that the information will be shared or used to identify them. Once it's made anonymous, data will be made available to researchers through the Scleroderma Foundation. "We understand that the information we seek is sensitive and personal," said Executive Vice President Michael Simpson of Traitwise. "So we answer every user's privacy expectation with an iron-clad commitment to protect their personal information."

**ABOUT the SCLERODERMA FOUNDATION** - The Scleroderma Foundation is the leading non-profit supporter of peer-reviewed scleroderma research in the United States, making available at least \$1 million annually to find the cause of and cure for scleroderma. To help support the 300,000 people living with scleroderma, the foundation facilitates health and professional seminars, offers peer counseling, mutual support programs, and physician referrals. More information about the Scleroderma Foundation is available at [www.scleroderma.org](http://www.scleroderma.org)

ABOUT TRAITWISE - Based in Austin, TX, Traitwise provides its partner organizations innovative health-focused online surveys that are compelling and interactive while protecting user data. Built-in analytic tools allow researchers to immediately see patterns that can suggest new directions for research and treatments.

Information is available at <http://www.traitwise.com>.

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