

Scleroderma Facts

- Scleroderma is an autoimmune disease whose symptoms typically include some or all of the following: sensitivity to cold in extremities, thickening of the skin, shortness of breath, difficulty swallowing, joint stiffness and pain, and damage to internal organs.
- Autoimmune diseases, which affect more than 50 million Americans, are the third leading cause of death in the United States.
- 300,000 cases of scleroderma are estimated in the United States.
- 80% of scleroderma patients are female.
- Scleroderma typically strikes between the ages of 25 and 55.
- 95% of scleroderma cases begin with Raynaud's Phenomenon (hands and feet abnormally sensitive to cold.)
- Federal research funding for scleroderma lags behind other diseases of similar prevalence.
- Misdiagnosis is common. It can take three years or more for an individual to be diagnosed and receive appropriate treatment, often due to lack of familiarity with the disease among medical professionals.

The Scleroderma Foundation is here to help!

- The Scleroderma Foundation is a 501(c)(3) national non-profit organization serving the interests of persons with scleroderma. The Foundation's 21 Chapters and more than 175 Support Groups nationwide help carry out its three-fold mission of support, education, and research. The Scleroderma Foundation is the leading non-profit support of scleroderma research.
- The Scleroderma Foundation has granted of \$14.7 million in research grants since 1989 and will continue to give new grants annually at a minimum of \$1 million annually.