

Subject: Two Chapters Merge to Enhance Support, Education in Southern California

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SCLERODERMA FOUNDATION

SUPPORT · EDUCATION · RESEARCH

eLetter #574 | October 3, 2014

Two Chapters Merge to Enhance Support, Education in Southern California



The Scleroderma Foundation's national Board of Directors approved the merger of the Southern California Chapter with the Greater San Diego Chapter at a meeting in September. The two chapters proposed the merger as a way to enhance support and education services to members. Effective Oct. 1, the merged chapters operate under the name of the Scleroderma Foundation of Southern California, under the Chapter

Charter Agreement of the Scleroderma Foundation national organization, to advance the Foundation's three-fold mission of support education and research within the 13 counties in the Southern California region.

"The merger of these two successful chapters will only advance the mission of the Foundation further and help to fulfill our vision of a cure for scleroderma," said Joseph P. Camerino, Ph.D., the national organization's board chair.

Southern California Board President Christopher Pettit will continue in his role and lead the chapter's Board, which will be comprised of members from both predecessor chapters, including Bill Martin, who was president of the Greater San Diego Chapter at the time of the merger. Kelly Davidson, former executive director of the Greater San Diego Chapter, became the Southern California Chapter's executive director Oct. 1. Jerold Kappel, who has served as the interim executive director of the Southern California Chapter, will remain on board through the end of the year to assist with a smooth transition.

The Foundation's CEO Robert Riggs said, "We are all impressed with the collaborative and cooperative spirit that has driven this merger forward. Everyone involved shares my enthusiasm and looks forward to doing even greater things in the Southern California region."

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Video: 2014 National Patient Education Conference Opening Keynote by Dr. Carol Feghali-Bostwick



Carol A. Feghali-Bostwick, Ph.D., opened the 2014 Scleroderma Foundation National Patient Education Conference by answering patient questions about research through an informative and interactive keynote address. Dr. Feghali-Bostwick is the Kitty Trask Holt Endowed Chair and Professor of Medicine in the Division of Rheumatology and Immunology at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston, S.C. She also serves as vice chair of the Scleroderma Foundation's National Board of Directors and chair of its Research Committee.

[Watch the video of the opening keynote on YouTube >>](#)

[Go to the Scleroderma Foundation's YouTube channel to view more Conference videos >>](#)

Stay tuned to the weekly eLetter as we share more videos from this year's Conference!

Tips About Blood Testing

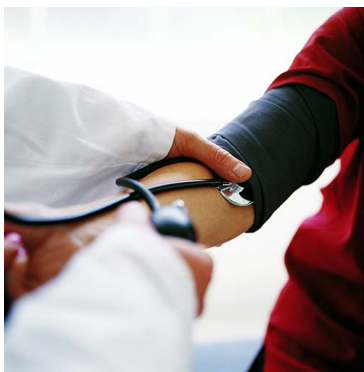
The blood needed for a diagnostic test is generally easy to obtain via a procedure called venipuncture, a term literally meaning, "puncturing the vein." A patient may have many questions about this procedure; what will happen? Will it hurt? What if I feel faint? Lab Tests Online offers some handy information about venipuncture and how you can prepare yourself for this common procedure.



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Do-It-Yourself Designs for Daily Living



The term "life-hack" refers to creative solutions to every day problems, including simplifying household chores and organization tips. There are also many life-hacks to make life easier for people who have medical conditions. Check out this handy infographic of useful life-hacks researched and compiled by Professor Glen Houghan at the *Wall Street Journal*.

[See the list of inventive life-hacks frin the *Wall Street Journal* >>](#)

Disclaimer: *The Scleroderma Foundation in no way endorses any drugs, treatments, clinical trials, or studies reported in the eLetter. Information is provided to keep the readers informed. Because the manifestations and severity of scleroderma vary among individuals, personalized medical management is essential. Therefore, it is strongly recommended that all drugs and treatments be discussed with the reader's physician(s) for proper evaluation and treatment.*

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