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SCLERODERMA FOUNDATION

SUPPORT • EDUCATION • RESEARCH

eLetter #595 | February 20, 2015

Online Registration Now Open for 2015 National Conference



Stomping Out Scleroderma | Nashville, TN | July 17-19, 2015

We're excited to announce that [online registration](#) for the Scleroderma Foundation's 17th annual National Patient Education Conference now is available! This one-of-a-kind patient education event will be held July 17-19,

2015, in Nashville, Tennessee.

The registration cost to attend the conference is:

- Early bird, Scleroderma Foundation members: \$200
- Early bird, non-members: \$250
- Meals only attendee: \$135
- Child or teen attendee (17 or younger): \$50

The early bird rate is good through Friday, May 15, 2015. **(Note: If you are unsure of your membership status, please call the Foundation at (800) 722-4673.)**

[Register for the conference online >>](#)

[Download a printable registration form >>](#)

Conference Scholarship Program

We are grateful that we will again be able to help individuals attend the National Patient Education Conference in Anaheim, thanks to the generous support of many donors and chapters. Conference scholarships are intended for first-time attendees and those individuals who would be otherwise unable to attend the event without outside financial assistance.

[Learn more about the scholarship program and how you can help >>](#)

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[Apply for a conference scholarship now>>](#)

About the Sheraton Music City Hotel

We have worked with the Sheraton Music City Hotel to provide our conference attendees with discounted room rates. The group room rates are:

- Single Rate: \$160
- Double Rate: \$160
- Triple Rate: \$170
- Quadruple rate: \$180

These special rates are available July 10 to July 23, 2015. Space is limited, so reserve early! The discounted room rate is not guaranteed if the room block has sold out or after Friday, June 12th.

[Make your hotel reservations online now](#), or you also can call the Sheraton Music City Hotel directly at (877) 622-3056 to reserve your room. Just reference "Scleroderma 2015 Conference" to complete your reservation.

Stay Up-to-Date About the Conference

To stay up-to-date with all of the 2015 National Patient Education Conference information, [sign up to receive our special conference e-blasts >>](#) Our periodic email updates will notify you about this year's speakers and workshops, special events and programming, and things to do while you're in Tennessee.

Also, be sure to bookmark www.scleroderma.org/conference. This will be your online destination for the latest conference information and resources to help you plan your trip.

We look forward to seeing you in July!

Clinical Trial of Adipose Derived Regenerative Cells for Hand Impairment from Scleroderma



Cytori Therapeutics, Inc. has received FDA approval to conduct a clinical trial designed to test whether Adipose Derived Regenerative Cells (ADRCs), prepared using the investigational Celution device, can improve hand function in patients with impaired hand function from scleroderma. The study, referred to as the STAR Trial, is being

conducted at multiple sites across the United States and will enroll 80 patients. Approximately 40 patients will receive the investigational ADRC treatment and about 40 will receive placebo. However, all patients who receive placebo who continue to qualify for treatment will be able to receive ADRCs at the end of the trial. Clinic visits will occur over 48 weeks and at these visits several measurements will be made to assess hand symptoms and function. These include questionnaires about hand function, pain, Raynaud's phenomena and how hand impairment is affecting health-related quality of life. Simple tests will also be performed to measure the strength and mobility of your hand and fingers. The study is planned to begin in next 3-4 months.

The major qualifications to participate in this study are:

- Hand problems from scleroderma
- Symptomatic Raynaud phenomenon despite medical treatment
- Age between 18 and 70 years old
- Able to undergo a small volume liposuction procedure (a procedure to remove approximately 1 cup of fat tissue)

ADRCs are prepared on the same day using Cytori's Celution System in approximately one hour. After preparation of ADRCs is complete, the study treatment (ADRCs or placebo) are injected subcutaneously (just under the skin) into the fingers with a small needle.

The entire procedure from start of the liposuction through to completion of the finger injections will take approximately 3 to 5 hours. Patients will be able to return home the same day.

[Learn more about the STAR Trial >>](#)

Yoga in Rheumatic Diseases



Yoga may be well suited to some individuals with specific rheumatic disorders. Regular yoga practice can increase muscle strength and endurance, body awareness, and balance, with emphasis on movement through a full range of motion to increase flexibility and mobility. Additional beneficial elements of yoga include breathing, relaxation, and meditation, which can reduce stress and anxiety and promote a sense of calmness, general well-being, and improved quality of life.

[Read the clinical article at mdlinx.com >>](#)

Organization Tips for Parents of Children with Medical Conditions



As most parents know, organization can be a great help in keeping your home together, children on track, and sanity intact. For the parent of a medically-complex child, this can be a bit more complicated. Keeping everything organized doesn't end at putting blocks in a bin and keeping a calendar for lessons – it can include dozens of appointments, storage for and tracking of equipment and supplies, a nursing schedule, and a variety of other day to day tasks involved in caring for a child with a medical condition.

[Read the entire article at Pediatric Home Service >>](#)

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.

