

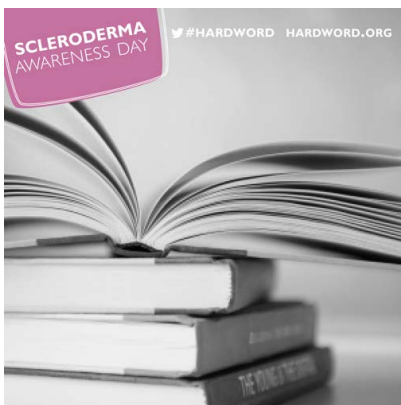
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SCLERODERMA FOUNDATION

SUPPORT • EDUCATION • RESEARCH

eLetter #613 | June 26, 2015

World Scleroderma Day - June 29, 2015



For more than 20 years, the Scleroderma Foundation, its chapters and support groups have recognized June as Scleroderma Awareness Month, marking it with annual awareness and fundraising events, as well as obtaining presidential, state and local proclamations. Each year, the Foundation also joins the Federation of European Scleroderma Associations (FESCA), and other international scleroderma organizations in recognizing June 29 as World Scleroderma Awareness Day.

This year, show your support of people all over the world fighting scleroderma. Take the pledge to tell at least one other person about scleroderma at www.hardword.org today.

Rapid Skin Improvement Seen After Treating Systemic Sclerosis Patients with Fresolimumab



A major treatment breakthrough for total body scarring of the skin that occurs in patients with systemic sclerosis (SSc) may soon be available for the estimated 300,000 Americans who suffer with this condition. Currently, no treatment is available.

Boston University School of Medicine researchers worked with two groups of SSc patients who were treated with either one or two doses of fresolimumab, a new, unapproved drug therapy that targets a chemical mediator in the body known as TGF-beta. After seven weeks of treatment, the researchers examined the effect on skin scarring and on expression of molecular markers in the skin. In both clinical and molecular

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evaluations these patients showed profound decreases in skin scarring.

The researchers found that TGF-beta plays a critical role in skin scarring in patients with SSc. Although TGF-beta has been long implicated in causing scarring, this is the first clinical study to clearly show its impact on humans.

[Read the entire press release at our website >>](#)

Victory for the Affordable Care Act at the Supreme Court



On Thursday, June 25th, the Supreme Court decided that the Affordable Care Act's premium tax credits will continue to be available in all states. This decision has means that the Affordable Care Act will stand as a critical fixture of America's health care system.

The ACA has provided coverage to 16 million Americans who did not have it before. This ruling allows consumers like these peace of mind knowing that their coverage will not be taken away and that they will continue to receive financial help to keep premiums affordable.

[Learn more at FamiliesUSA.org >>](#)

Protecting Your Skin



Too many people forget to take important steps to reduce their exposure to the sun. Skin cancer is the most common cancer in the United States and, tragically, most cases are preventable. The US Department of Health and Human Services has compiled this handy list of facts and tips you should know to best protect your skin from the sun.

[Read the entire article at HHS.gov >>](#)

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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