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SCLERODERMA FOUNDATION

SUPPORT • EDUCATION • RESEARCH

eLetter #547 | March 21, 2014

"Ask Stanford Med" Google+ Hangout on Scleroderma - Wednesday, April 2



To foster conversation about scleroderma, Stanford Medicine is partnering with the Scleroderma Foundation and Inspire for a Google+ Hangout about scleroderma research and progress being made to enhance patients' quality of life. Among the panel of special guests are Lorinda Chung, MD, director of the Scleroderma Center and co-director of the Multidisciplinary Rheumatologic Dermatology Clinic at Stanford, and Karen Gottesman, patient services director for the Scleroderma Foundation of Southern California.

Audience members are welcome to submit questions during the live video discussion via Twitter using the hashtag #AskSUMed. Please save the date and join us on Wednesday, April 2 at 4:30 p.m. Pacific Time. More information about how to view the event will be coming soon via the weekly eletter.

[Read more about the hangout at Stanford.edu >>](#)

Reminder: Scleroderma Advocacy Summit on Capitol Hill May 5 - 6, 2014

The Scleroderma Foundation's Advocacy Program provides scleroderma patients/activists from across the nation the opportunity to meet with their U.S. Senators and Representatives to educate policy makers about scleroderma and generate awareness of the "Scleroderma Research and Awareness Act" – a scleroderma-specific

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bill before both Houses of Congress that increases funding for scleroderma-related research at the NIH through already-appropriated spending.

Of critical importance in 2014 is our drive to have scleroderma re-listed as an approved condition that is eligible for research funding through the Department of Defense's Peer-Reviewed Medical Research Program. In spite of the scleroderma community's tremendous efforts, scleroderma was not included as an approved condition in the Department of Defense's budget for Fiscal year 2014.

If you are a person living with scleroderma, and are a good listener and speaker, have an interest in the political process, and are willing to tell your story to our lawmakers on Capitol Hill, please submit an application to join us!

[Download the summit and scholarship applications >>](#)

Social Security Launches New Expedited Disability Process for Veterans



Carolyn W. Colvin, Acting Commissioner of Social Security, announced the launch of a new disability process to expedite disability claims filed by veterans with a Department of Veterans Affairs disability compensation rating of 100% Permanent & Total. Under the new process, Social Security will treat these veterans' applications as high priority and issue

expedited decisions, similar to the way the agency currently handles disability claims from Wounded Warriors.

[Read the full release at the Official Social Security website >>](#)

Understanding Oxygen Therapy

The National Association for Medical Direction of Respiratory Care (NAMDR) provides this informational booklet for physicians and other healthcare providers to use in the education of patients who require long-term oxygen therapy. Patient understanding of the therapeutic benefits of oxygen therapy is important to improve compliance and to encourage appropriate use of this vitally important treatment modality. This booklet is intended to expand patients' knowledge and appreciation of the many therapeutic options that are now available, allowing them to be as active as





possible.

[Download the booklet from homeoxygen.org>>](http://homeoxygen.org)

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