2014 Conference Schedule Now Available Online

The 2014 Scleroderma Foundation National Patient Education Conference is only a few weeks away! We're looking forward to this year's Conference in Anaheim, CA, and we hope you are too. This year our Conference will hold 79 workshops, of which 48 are being offered for the first time. The Conference schedules - both for the general and juvenile workshops - are now available to view online. Plan your Conference weekend ahead of time!

View the schedules and speaker list >>

Register online for the Conference >>

Neostem Begins Research Collaboration for Treatment of Skin Wounds in Scleroderma

NeoStem, Inc., a leader in the emerging cellular therapy industry, announced that it has signed an agreement for a research collaboration investigating the potential of very small embryonic-like stem cells (“VSELs™”) in treating difficult to heal wounds in an animal model of scleroderma.

The collaboration is funded in part by a previously announced $147,765 grant from the Small Business Innovative Research Program for the “Development of Adult Pluripotent Very Small Embryonic Like (VSEL) Stem Cells to Treat Skin Wounds in Scleroderma” from the National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases. The collaboration will be headed by Denis O. Rodgerson, Ph.D., Director of...
Grants and Academic Liaison of NeoStem, and Dr. Vincent Falanga, M.D., The Barbara A. Gilchrest Professor of Dermatology and Professor of Biochemistry at the Boston University School of Medicine.

Read the entire release at the Neostem website >>

Oregon State University Finds New Compound That Could Treat Autoimmune Disease

Scientists at Oregon State University have discovered a chemical compound that could be a safer alternative for treating autoimmune diseases. Although studies in humans are still needed, the finding could bring hope to people suffering from conditions caused by their immune system attacking their bodies.

"We mostly treat autoimmune diseases with high-dose corticosteroids or cytoxic drugs to suppress the immune response, and the side effects can be very difficult to deal with," said lead researcher Nancy Kerkvliet. "But if this chemical works in clinical studies, it could result in a safer alternative to conventional drugs."

Read the entire release at OregonState.edu >>

NIH Takes Steps to Address Sex Differences in Preclinical Research

An over-reliance on male animals and neglect of attention to the sex of cells can lead to the oversight of key sex differences that should be guiding clinical studies, and ultimately, clinical practice. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) are now taking action to address this shortfall. The NIH plans to address the issue of sex and gender inclusion across biomedical research multi-dimensionally — through program oversight, review and policy, as well as through collaboration with stakeholders including publishers.

Read the entire article at Nature.com >>

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.