

Subject: Annual Awards Honor Astounding Work in the Scleroderma Community

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SCLERODERMA FOUNDATION

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Annual Awards Honor Astounding Work in the Scleroderma Community



Awards were presented last month at the National Patient Education Conference in Anaheim. These awards recognize the achievements of several outstanding individuals and chapters for their distinguished work in the previous year, including this year's Lifetime Achievement Award recipient, Virginia D. Steen, M.D., of Georgetown University Medical Center in Washington, D.C. She is recognized internationally as a leading expert in scleroderma, and has been a longtime ally of the organization.

Pictured above: Dr. Virginia Steen receives her award from CEO Robert J. Riggs at the awards dinner in California.

We are grateful to all the honorees for their commitment to help eradicate this scleroderma and offering their unwavering support and dedication to the Scleroderma Foundation's mission.

[Read more about this year's award recipients >>](#)

State Health Insurance Program Sites



The state health insurance assistance program (SHIP or SHIIP) is a federally funded health advisory program that provides grants to all 50 states and some territories to provide health insurance counseling to Medicare recipients and their families.

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SHIP provides free one-on-one telephone counseling and advice services, personal face-to-face counseling sessions, public education programs and media presentations. Most SHIP counselors are volunteers who have received extensive training and are well versed with all facets of the Medicare program (including Part D), Medicaid, health insurance benefits, fraud and abuse.

[Find your state's SHIP at Needymeds.org >>](http://Needymeds.org)



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Disability Benefits: What Caregivers Should Know



If you are entitled to disability benefits through an employer-provided or private plan, you may be surprised to find that your plan has provisions that allow the insurer to deduct from your benefits other types of income you receive or are eligible to receive for your disability. These deductions are called "offsets," and are permissible under state and

federal law.

The rationale behind offsets is that if you were allowed to keep the full amount of all of the various disability benefits to which you might be entitled, it would be possible for you to earn more money on disability than you would by working. Disability benefit programs, both public and private, are designed to avoid that result.

[Learn more at Caregiver.org >>](http://Caregiver.org)

ATS Patient Health Series - How to Prepare for an Emergency When You Have Lung Disease



If you have lung disease, there is a good chance that you will be at increased risk during an emergency or disaster. This risk will vary depending on the type of lung disease you have. Your increased risk can be from a loss of access to health care, medication refills, electrical power, and/or an oxygen supply. Therefore, your planning for an emergency is important. The American Thoracic Society offers this downloadable pamphlet to help prepare you.

[Download the pamphlet from the ATS website >>](#)

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.

