

Subject: ACTION ALERT! Please Contact Your Senators

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# SCLERODERMA FOUNDATION

SUPPORT • EDUCATION • RESEARCH

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## ACTION ALERT! Please Contact Your Senators



**Ask them to continue to support the inclusion of “scleroderma” as a condition eligible for study through the Department of Defense Peer-Reviewed Medical Research Program during the FY 2016 appropriations process!**

Last year, grassroots scleroderma advocates engaged in a successful congressional outreach effort, which led to the recognition of “scleroderma” as a condition eligible for study through the DoD PRMRP in FY 2015. This action will allow scleroderma medical researchers to compete for nearly \$250 million in federal funding during FY 2015.

Senators are currently working on the FY 2016 DoD appropriations bill and deciding which conditions will be included on the next PRMRP eligible conditions list. **Being included on the list one year is no guarantee of being included again in the next year!**

At this critical juncture, please reach out to the offices of your Senators and ask that they “once again support the inclusion of scleroderma in the DOD PRMRP’s eligible conditions list in FY 2016.”

[Send a letter to your senator >>](#)

## National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute Strategic Visioning Forum

We are pleased to announce that the NHLBI Strategic Visioning process has been launched. Through the Strategic Visioning effort, the Institute is gathering ideas for the most compelling scientific

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priorities to address over the next decade. Patients are encouraged to participate by submitting Compelling Questions and Critical Challenges. Your

input will help us identify the most promising opportunities in heart, lung, blood, and sleep research, as well as the challenges that pose significant barriers to the progress of this research. If you haven't done so already, please submit your ideas to the Strategic Visioning Forum between now and May 15, 2015

[Submit your ideas at the Strategic Visioning Forum >>](#)

## Dry Mouth (Xerostomia)



Dry mouth, also called xerostomia, is the condition of not having enough saliva, or spit, to keep the mouth wet. Dry mouth can happen to anyone occasionally. However, when dry mouth persists, it can make chewing, eating, swallowing and even talking difficult. Dry mouth occurs when the salivary glands that make saliva don't work properly. Dry mouth also increases the risk for tooth decay because saliva helps keep harmful germs that cause cavities and other oral infections in check.

[Learn more about dry mouth at NIH.gov >>](#)

## 7 Things You Should Know About Autoimmune Diseases



Still highly misunderstood by medical professionals and the public alike, autoimmune diseases are characterized by nebulous symptoms that can make diagnoses difficult to come by. Treatments vary, and in some cases rely entirely on behavior changes.

In an effort to making living with - or loving someone with - an autoimmune disease just a little bit easier, here are seven important things to know about these health conditions.

[Read the article at the Huffington Post >>](#)

**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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