



PATIENT EDUCATION CONFERENCE PRESENTERS

Our **Patient Education Conference** is right around the corner, on **Saturday, October 17, from 10:00am - 2:00pm** at Georgetown University Hospital. We are very excited to have Dr. Virginia Steen, Dr. Laura Hummers, and Dr. Christine DeWitt as our presenters.

In addition, the SFGWDC Support Group, [Pulmonary Hypertension Association](#) and the [American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association](#) will have representatives present to share information and hand out literature. Everyone attending will be able to learn something about scleroderma, whether you are a patient or caregiver! **Call 571.291.1480 to register or you can [register online today, and take advantage of our \\$10 Early Bird Registration Fee.](#)**

MEET OUR PRESENTERS

Dr. Virginia Steen will cover the topic: ***How is Scleroderma Different in African-Americans.*** Dr. Steen is Professor of Medicine with Tenure at Georgetown University Medical Center, Washington, and Consultant in Rheumatology in the Arthritis Division of the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Steen has made contributions to understanding the epidemiology and natural history of the Systemic Scleroderma. She has been on the Medical Advisory Board of the National Scleroderma Foundation for many years.



Dr. Laura Hummers will discuss: ***Updates in Scleroderma Research.*** Dr. Hummers is an Associate Professor of Medicine in the Division of Rheumatology. She graduated from the University of Rochester School of Medicine and trained in internal medicine at Thomas Jefferson University. She has been on the faculty at the Johns Hopkins Scleroderma Center since 2003 where she has been the Co-Director of the Center along with Dr. Fredrick Wigley. She serves as the Deputy Director for Clinical Operations for the Division of Rheumatology. She actively manages a large patient practice focused exclusively on scleroderma at Johns Hopkins.

Dr. Christine DeWitt's presentation will address: ***Scleroderma and Skin of Color: Unique Problems.*** Dr. DeWitt is an Assistant Professor of Dermatology at the Georgetown University School of Medicine and the Washington Hospital Center Department of

Dermatology. She received her medical degree from the University of Missouri- Columbia and completed her dermatology residency at Southern Illinois University. In 2009, she joined the faculty at Georgetown University, where she currently serves as director of the residency training program. She is actively engaged in clinical research and has a special interest in skin manifestations of rheumatologic and connective tissue diseases.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Georgetown University Hospital, Gorman Building
3800 Reservoir Road, NW
Washington, DC 20007

Saturday, October 17, 2015

10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Early Bird Registration Fee: \$10

On-site Registration: \$15 (on-site registration begins at 9:30 a.m.)

[Click here to register](#)

**Parking validated for conference attendees

**Box Lunch Provided

INFORMATION RESOURCE TABLES:

Pulmonary Hypertension Association

American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association

***Event made possible by National Gold Sponsors:
Actelion Pharmaceuticals US and Bayer HealthCare***

2015 ADVOCACY DAY RECAP

What an amazing day scleroderma patients, caregivers, and Scleroderma Foundation and chapter staff members had this week in Washington, DC.

On October 6, the Scleroderma Foundation organized 37 advocates from 19 different states to attend the [2015 Advocacy Day Event](#). Participants attended 27 meetings with senate staffers and 27 meetings with congressional staffers.



The Scleroderma Foundation Greater Washington, DC Chapter was represented by its Executive Director **Carole Bernard** and one of its volunteers **Susan Rae**. Participants were divided into teams to meet with members of congress. Team Maryland, Wisconsin and New



Jersey met with staffers from the offices of Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-MD), Congressman Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), Senator Ron Johnson (R-WI), Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ), Congresswoman Bonnie Watson (D-NJ), and Congressman Reid Ribble (R-WI). In photo: (l-r): Sue Rae, Carole Bernard, Jane Grecsek from New Jersey, and Terry Hertzell from Wisconsin.

Advocacy Day participants also enjoyed a debriefing luncheon where speakers shared important information about research. SF CEO **Robert Riggs** also presented recognition awards to **Senator Roy Blount** from Missouri and **Senator Kirsten Gillibrand** from New York for their ongoing support of the Scleroderma Foundation and its legislative agenda.



Robert Riggs welcomes everyone to the Congressional Luncheon Briefing.



Rosemary Markoff, from the Tri-State Chapter, shared her story.



Dr. Stephen Katz from the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases speaks at luncheon.

Scleroderma Foundation Legislative agenda items:

1. Provide the National Institutes of Health with \$32 billion in FY 2016.
2. Include "scleroderma" as a condition eligible for study through the Department of Defense Peer-Reviewed Medical Research Program.
3. Cosponsor the bipartisan Scleroderma and Fibrosis Research Enhancement Act (H.R. 3666).



Senator Kirsten Gillibrand delivered remarks.

To learn more about these important issues, please visit the Scleroderma Foundation's [website](#).

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Scleroderma Foundation Greater Washington, DC Chapter

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