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SCLERODERMA FOUNDATION

SUPPORT • EDUCATION • RESEARCH

eLetter #610 | June 5, 2015

June is Scleroderma Awareness Month



The Scleroderma Foundation is honored to partner with the Scleroderma Society of Canada and the Scleroderma Research Foundation on an awareness campaign during Scleroderma Awareness Month in June. The organizations have come together for a second year as a strong voice with a unified message to advance awareness about scleroderma throughout North America and globally.

Building on the success of last year's collaboration, the 2015 awareness campaign continues with the theme "Hard Word. Harder Disease." At the heart of the campaign is a social media effort that we hope will have a significant impact and reach new audiences to generate greater awareness about scleroderma.

This year, we are engaging with professional bloggers who write about life, medical and healthcare issues. These writers have international followings, so people around the globe will be introduced to the disease and learn about scleroderma for the first time.

Throughout the month of June, you will see blog posts, Twitter messaging and Facebook posts on the three organization's sites. We hope you will spread these stories on your own networks to advance our cause and outreach. We also ask that you take the pledge at hardword.org to tell at least one other person about scleroderma this month, either through conversation or social media.

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Join our fight to spread scleroderma awareness. Learn more about the "Hard Word. Harder Disease" campaign at www.hardword.org today.

Free Webinar - The ABC's of Scleroderma Lung Disease



As part of "Scleroderma Week at ATS," and in conjunction with the Scleroderma Foundation, the American Thoracic Society is hosting a live webinar on Thursday June, 11th at 3:00 pm EDT. The webinar is entitled "*The ABC's of Scleroderma Lung Disease*" and will be presented by Virginia Steen, MD, professor at Georgetown University and

director of the Rheumatology Fellowship Program.

[Register for the webinar now >>](#)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. [View system requirements for this webinar >>](#)

Free Online Class - Applying for Disability: The When, Why, and How



Having increasing difficulty keeping up with job demands? Already forced to quit work because of your illness? Consider applying for Social Security Administration disability benefits.

Not sure where to start? Join the Caring Voice Coalition's Senior Patient Advocate, Lauren Patrizio, for a

discussion on how to best prepare (financially, emotionally, and medically) for filing, what to expect from the application process and how CVC can help. Hosted by the Pulmonary Hypertension Association, this free, online class will be help on Wednesday, June 17, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. EDT.

[Learn more and register for this class >>](#)

Having Surgery? What You Need to Know - Brochure

Having Surgery? What You Need to Know is a brochure for patients who are facing surgery that is not an emergency. Some of the questions in this document may help you and your family understand more about your surgery, whether it has to be done right away or can be done later. Your doctor or nurse also can help you understand what is being done and why. Don't be afraid to ask questions!

To obtain print copies of *Having Surgery? What You Need to Know*, call the AHRQ Publications



Clearinghouse at 1-800-358-9295 or send an email to AHRQPubs@ahrq.hhs.gov.

[Read more about the brochure at ahrq.gov >>](#)

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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