

Yes! I want to be a member.

Enclosed is my check or credit-card payment for membership dues, which are fully *tax-deductible*.

I would like to join at the following level:

- Regular \$25
 Canada/Foreign \$35 (*U.S. funds, please*)

Membership Benefits include a subscription to *Scleroderma Voice*, the Scleroderma Foundation's award-winning quarterly magazine; discounted registration fee for the Foundation's National Conference; and email news updates.

I'd like to make an additional tax-deductible donation to support the Scleroderma Foundation's three-fold mission of Support, Education, and Research:

Donation amount: \$ _____

Name (*please print*) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

Area Code/Telephone Number _____

Email address _____

Signature (*credit-card orders only*) _____

Date _____

Credit card payments: VISA MasterCard
 American Express

Membership + Donation: \$ _____

Name on card _____

Account number _____

Expiration date _____

You can also call the Scleroderma Foundation toll-free at 800-722-4673, or donate online at www.scleroderma.org.

The Scleroderma Foundation's mission is three-fold:

- ☛ To help patients and their families cope with scleroderma through mutual support programs, peer counseling, physician referrals, and educational information.
- ☛ To promote public awareness and education through patient and health professional seminars, literature, and publicity campaigns.
- ☛ To stimulate and support research to improve treatment and ultimately find the cause and cure of scleroderma and related diseases.

SCLERODERMA FOUNDATION

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Website: www.scleroderma.org

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If you have scleroderma ...

You need not feel alone!



SCLERODERMA FOUNDATION

SUPPORT • EDUCATION • RESEARCH

Help is just a phone call away.

The Scleroderma Foundation (800-722-4673) is dedicated to providing emotional support to people with scleroderma and their families, enhancing scleroderma education and public awareness, and funding the most promising research in pursuit of a cure.

We're here for you.

The Scleroderma Foundation is *your* Foundation. We exist to serve you, by

- *Connecting* you with groups and/or individuals who can give you information about the disease and suggest ways to help you cope with its symptoms in your daily life.
- *Ensuring* that you are kept updated on the latest medical information, including advances in medical research. (New members: Please ask us for the latest copy of our annual summary, "Advances in Scleroderma Research.")
- *Helping* you with referrals to health professionals who are knowledgeable about scleroderma and experienced in treating it. The diagnostic process can be complex, requiring consultation with rheumatologists (arthritis specialists) and/or dermatologists (skin specialists), and involving blood studies and other specialized tests depending on which organs are affected.

Membership benefits

Scleroderma Voice magazine

In addition to joining a national community dedicated to mutual support and the quest for a cure, you will receive a subscription to the Scleroderma Foundation's award-winning quarterly magazine, featuring

- News about advances in medical research.
- Articles by doctors and other health professionals.
- Patient-to-patient sharing stories.
- Practical tips on coping with scleroderma.
- Our list of helpful books, brochures, and other items available for purchase.

Chapters and Support Groups

Membership will connect you with thousands of friendly, caring people who are coping with this disease, just like you. The Scleroderma Foundation has Chapters and Support Groups nationwide.

National Conference

Each summer, members are invited to attend the National Conference. Members receive a discounted registration, and hear about the latest medical breakthroughs, treatments, and other useful information.

Breaking news

Members will receive the latest news and information through periodic email updates.

Awareness, advocacy, and our website

You will support and benefit from our awareness, advocacy, and public outreach efforts.

Scleroderma facts

Scleroderma IS ...

- A chronic, autoimmune disease of the connective tissue generally classified as one of the rheumatic diseases.
- Also known as "systemic sclerosis."
- A disease in which symptoms may be visible—as when the skin is affected—or invisible, affecting only internal organs.
- A highly individualized disease.
- A disease whose symptoms may range from mild to potentially life-threatening.

Scleroderma is NOT ...

- Contagious, cancerous, or—as a general rule—inherited.

How common is scleroderma?

Researchers estimate there are 300,000 cases in the U.S.

What causes scleroderma?

Scleroderma involves overproduction of collagen, but the causes are unknown.

Types of scleroderma:

- *Localized scleroderma*, more common in children; usually found in only a few places on the skin or in the muscles; and rarely, if ever, develops into the systemic form.
- *Systemic sclerosis*, which may affect the connective tissue in many parts of the body including the skin, esophagus, gastrointestinal tract, lungs, kidneys, heart, blood vessels, muscles, and joints.

