Sickle Cell Information Center Web Site Update for April 2005
The Latest Information about Sickle Cell Disease and The Georgia Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center in Atlanta, GA at http://www.SCInfo.org


Sickle Cell Patient Speaks to Congress - http://www.lifenews.com/bio896.html - Keone Penn, an 18 year-old from Atlanta, says the umbilical cord blood contains stem cells -- that he credited with changing his life.

"Believe me, as a teenager, being in the hospital more times than you can count is not a way to live your life," said Penn, a recent high school graduate. "Stem cells saved my life." Cord blood stem cell transplants cured Penn's sickle cell disease, according to a Scripps Howard news service report.


The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has just posted a Call for Proposals related to: Vulnerable Populations.
Local Initiative Funding Partners Program 2006 Application Deadline: Jun 30, 2005 - Local Initiative Funding Partners is a partnership program between RWJF and local grantmakers that supports innovative, community-based projects to improve the health and health care for society's most vulnerable people. For the application in PDF format http://www.rwjf.org/files/applications/cfp/cfp-lifp2006.pdf More information at at: http://www.lifp.org

New Grant RFP - Research on Emergency Medical Services for Children at http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-05-081.html - This multi-agency program announcement is designed to improve the quality and quantity of research related to emergency medical services for children.
EMSC), with the goal of reducing morbidity and mortality in children through improved care delivery. This funding opportunity invites the submission of applications dealing with the following areas of research included under the term EMSC: prevention research to reduce the need for emergency care; clinical research to ensure that children receive high-quality and appropriate medical, nursing and mental health care in an emergency; health systems research, from pre-hospital care, to the emergency department, to in-patient care and return to the community; cost-effectiveness analyses; and methodological studies to improve the quality of research conducted.

SCDAA Post-Doctoral Fellowship Program

The Sickle Cell Disease Association of America, Inc. (SCDAA) announces its post-doctoral research fellowship program 2005 to support young investigators in sickle cell disease related research.

Program Objectives

This is a research-training program. Its primary objective is to encourage young investigators to develop research careers in sickle cell disease. Supported research will be conducted at institutions under the supervision of experienced mentors with a record of research accomplishment in sickle cell related areas.

Mechanism of Support

Each fellowship award is for a total of $25,000 ($20,000 salary, $5,000 supplies) per year. One fellowship will be awarded in July 2005. The award will be for a period of two years. No indirect costs will be provided.

Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible, fellowship applicants must have completed a doctoral degree (M.D., Ph.D., or equivalent), must have completed clinical training, and have no more than a total of five years of post-doctoral research experience by the award date. The applicant must be affiliated with a non-profit institution of higher learning or non-profit research facility in the U.S., and a research mentor must supervise him or her. To be considered for review, the research proposal must address the broad subject of sickle cell disease in basic laboratory, clinical or psychosocial research areas.
Review Considerations

Applications will be reviewed initially by a selected panel of expert reviewers selected based on the area of proposed research of each application. The initial expert reviews will be presented to the Post-Doctoral Fellowship Program Sub-committee of the Medical and Research Advisory Committee of SCDAA who will make the final selection of fellowship awardees and report to the SCDAA Board of Directors.

Award Criteria

Awards will be based on evidence of the applicant’s commitment to a research career in sickle cell disease, the scientific quality and originality of the proposed research, importance of the research to the field, available matching support for the fellow and the quality and expressed support of the research mentor and resources available to the applicant.

Receipt Dates

Applications must be received by May 1, 2005

Award Date: July 1, 2005

Application Procedures

The application will consist of two parts: the candidate’s application and the mentor’s support documents. Eligible applicants should submit an application in the format designated by SCDAA’s Application. This Application may be received upon written request to Willarda V. Edwards, MD, MBA, President/COO via email at wvedwards@sicklecelldisease.org

The research mentor’s support documents must include the following:

1. A letter of commitment describing in detail the plans of the mentor for supervision of the candidate’s research and career development, and the level of institutional support that will be available to the applicant if she/he were successful in this application.
2. The biographical sketch of the mentor as well as a list of names, addresses, and current professional positions of the mentor’s post-doctoral research trainees in the last five years.
The name, address, telephone and fax numbers of the financial officer of the institution, through whose office research budgets are administered, should be included in the budget section of the application.

Policies and Conditions of the Award

Successful applicants will be required to sign a letter of agreement concerning the conditions and policies under which the fellowship is awarded prior to a notice of award being issued.

These conditions include the issue of publications. All publications (as well as posters and/or abstracts at scientific meetings) that result from support provided by SCDAA should acknowledge that support in writing.

Awards will be made to the institutions in the names of the fellow and the mentor. The fellow and mentor are responsible for the scientific conduct of the research, and the institution is responsible for financial and administrative matters.

The entire application (original and 3 copies) should be submitted to:

Post-Doctoral Fellowship Program 2005

Sickle Cell Disease Association of America, Inc.

16 S. Calvert Street, suite 600

Baltimore, Maryland 21203-1956

For more information please contact Sonya Ross, Director, Program Development, at (410) 528-1555

The March Partners Against Pain E - Newsletter is focused on Sickle cell disease -
A summary of news, events and resources available at http://www.partnersagainstpain.com/painadvocacycommunity/05-05/Index.asp

Sickle Cell Anemia Research Study -Collection and Storage of Umbilical Cord Blood for Sickle Cell Disease -
If you are pregnant and expecting a baby that may have sickle cell disease you might be interested in our research study. We are collecting umbilical cord blood from newborns that may have sickle cell disease and
we are freezing the hematopoietic stem cells that are in the cord blood. See http://patientrecruitment.nhlbi.nih.gov/sicklecell.aspx

Sickle Cell Anemia Research Study - Stem Cell Transplant for Sickle Cell Anemia -
If you (or someone you know) is between the ages of 18-65 years and have been diagnosed with sickle cell anemia, you may be eligible for a stem cell transplantation procedure at the Clinical Center of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Under evaluation is the use of low-dose radiation and novel methods of transplant preparation and post transplant therapy to reduce the risk of graft-versus-host disease. http://patientrecruitment.nhlbi.nih.gov/sicklecell.aspx#42

Research Articles for April


New Web Links for April

New look for the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America -- SCDAA at http://www.sicklecelldisease.org/

Bright Futures - Provide valuable information about child development and what to expect, from infancy through adolescence. - http://www.brightfuturesforfamilies.org/materials.shtml

Conferences of Interest to the Sickle Cell Community

April 29, 2005 Tuskegee University, AL - The University of Texas at Dallas (UTD) will join with the Sickle Cell Foundation of Greater Montgomery (Ala.) to hold a conference for medical professionals on sickle cell disease April 29 at Tuskegee University. Anyone interested in attending the one-day conference in Alabama should contact the UTD Sickle Cell Disease Research Center at 972-883-6230. For a PDF brochure click here: http://www.SCInfo.org/sickle505.pdf


April 29, 2005, in Columbus, Ohio - The Ohio Sickle Cell & Health Association will hold it's Annual Yon Armstrong
Walkathon for Sickle Cell Disease on April 29, 2005, in Columbus, Ohio at Wolfe Park. You can get the info from the website 


May 12 -14, 2005 Using TCD and MR to STOP Stroke in Sickle Cell Disease
Presented by The Medical College of Georgia Presented at Kiawah Island, South Carolina This activity has been approved for
AMA PRA credit. For more information, contact Division of Continuing Education, Medical College of Georgia, Augusta, GA 30912. Phone:
800-221-6437 or 706-721-3967. Beginning March 10, 2005, access the brochure on line at http://www.mcg.edu/ce/med.html

June 4, 2005 - Jacksonville FL - The Stamping Out Sickle Cell Disease Walk-a-thon 2005 will be held Saturday, June 4, 2005 at the FCCJ Downtown Campus. Registration is free and begins at 8 a.m. Walk begins at 9 a.m. Proceeds will benefit the Pediatric Sickle Cell Program at Shands Jacksonville/Nemours Children's Clinic and the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America - Northeast Florida Chapter. To register http://www.shandsjacksonville.org/news/coe_event.asp?id=34

Havana, Cuba - V NATIONAL CONGRESS, VII LATINAMERICAN MEETING IN HEMATOLOGY, IMMUNOLOGY AND TRANSFUSION MEDICINE (First Announcement) International Conference Center La Habana, CUBA, May 16-20, 2005 For more information contact: Prof. José M. Ballester, President ORGANIZING COMMITTEE,HEMATOLOGY HABANA’2005 Apartado 8070, Ciudad de La Habana, CP 10800, CUBA Tel (537) 578268, 578695, 2085199, Fax (537) 442334, 202-8382 email: ihidir@hemato.sld.cu or aliciag@palco.cu Web: www.loseventos.cu/hematologia2005


The Sickle Cell Center at The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia and the Sickle Cell Foundation of Ghana would like to invite you to the 5th International African Symposium on Sickle Cell Disease. The Symposium will be held at the International Conference Center, Accra, Ghana.

The Symposium, third in the series to be held in Accra (July 1995; July 2000), will address issues of clinical services and blood safety in the management of sickle cell disease (SCD) in Africa. The main objective of the Symposium will be to explore strategies for adopting practices that have proven successful in programs elsewhere for use in Africa. Conference proceedings will be in English and French with simultaneous translation.

In the 100 years since its modern discovery, major advances have been made in its diagnosis and treatment. It is even possible to cure SCD through stem cell transplantation. However, many of these advances in the management of SCD have occurred outside of Africa, the home of most of the people born with SCD. Most people born with SCD in Africa probably die young without ever being properly diagnosed. Can we improve clinical services for people with SCD born and living in Africa?

This symposium will address issues related to this topic.

Registration fee
- Participants from developed countries $250
- Participants from developing countries (outside Ghana) $100
- Participants from within Ghana $50
- Patients and Parents No Fee

For registration form, or abstract forms contact:
Janet Fithian: Fithian@email.chop.edu or (215) 590-2232
Trudy Tchume-Johnson: Johnsontr@email.chop.edu or (267) 426-5037
Henrietta Enninful-Eghan: Eghan@email.chop.edu or (267) 426-7492

Call for Abstracts (Receipt deadline: April 15, 2005)
Research scientists, clinicians, social and psychological experts are invited to submit abstracts for presentation at the Symposium. Abstracts should be on work that is likely to be informative and applicable to SCD programs in developing countries. The following topics are suggested:
- Screening and follow-up
- Laboratory diagnosis
- Genetic counseling
- Management of clinical cases
- New therapies
- Health education
- Psychosocial case strategies
Travel, Hotel, Tour - Air travel, hotel lodging and tour of Ghana (and other countries in Africa) will be organized by Prestige Tour & Travel Promotion, Inc. http://flyprestige.com

SCDAA 33rd Annual Convention September 8 - 11, 2005 Baltimore, Maryland Renaissance Inner Harbor Hotel http://www.sicklecelldisease.org/