Sickle Cell Information Center Web Site Update for May 2004
The Latest Information about Sickle Cell Disease and The Georgia Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center in Atlanta, GA at http://www.SCInfo.org

News
5/12/04 - Sickle Cell Treatment Act Passes the Senate (S. 874) U.S. SENATE PASSES TALENT’S BILL TO TREAT PATIENTS WITH SICKLE CELL DISEASE

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) The U.S. Senate today passed Senator Jim Talent’s (R-Mo.) Sickle Cell Treatment Act of 2003 (S. 874) to help treat and expand services for patients with the blood disorder that primarily affects African-Americans. Sen. Talent’s legislation passed as part of an amendment to the JOBS Act, FSC/ETI (S. 1637), which was approved by the Senate tonight.

“This is great news for the tens of thousands of Americans with Sickle Cell Disease,” said Talent. “I want to thank Senator Charles Schumer who has been my bipartisan partner in this effort. This is comprehensive health care legislation that will increase funding for treatment and research efforts, expand awareness about the disease and provide additional services for sickle cell disease patients.”

The Sickle Cell Treatment Act would increase health care access for patients by providing federal matching funds for Sickle Cell Disease-related services under Medicaid making it easier for doctors to treat patients with the disease and increasing state funding for physician and laboratory services.

The legislation also enhances the number of services available to Sickle Cell Disease patients by allowing states to receive a federal 50-50 funding match for treatment expenses such as genetic counseling, community outreach and education.

Additionally, the bill creates 40 Sickle Cell Disease Treatment centers across the country and establishes a National Sickle Cell Disease Research Headquarters through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. This National Coordinating Center will coordinate the research conducted by health professionals and universities to help educate patients with the goal of finding a comprehensive cure for Sickle Cell Disease.

Sen. Talent’s bipartisan, bicameral Sickle Cell Treatment Act (S. 874/H.R. 1736) currently has 49 Senate and 49 House co-sponsors as well as the support of the American Medical Association, the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), the NAACP, the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America and many other groups.

The FSC/ETI bill with Sen. Talent’s legislation now goes to a conference committee where members will work out differences with the House legislation. To see the latest news go to http://www.congress.gov and type the bill number (S.874)

It is time to contact your House of Representatives members
Harvard's Tuition Announcement Highlights Failure of Prestigious Universities to Enroll Low-Income Students ... March 1, 2004, Harvard University announced over the weekend that from now on undergraduate students from low-income families will pay no tuition. See this and all scholarship information at http://www.scinfo.org/scholarship.htm

4/30/04 - UAB scientists have transplanted the sickling gene in mice bred with human hemoglobin genes to successfully cure sickle cell disease.

10.9 million Nigerians have been identified as carriers of Sickle Cell (AS) trait while over 240,000 adults are presently battling the disease. http://allafrica.com/stories/200405030303.html

Professional Football player with sickle cell trait http://washingtontimes.com/sports/20040430-112640-1767r.htm

Sickle Cell Video to play in New York 5/30 - Health Choices, a national public television health series, will be featuring a 60-minute documentary titled Sickle Cell Anemia Battling Pain on public television stations around the country, including WNYE/25, New York on Sunday, May 30th at 2:00pm See the streaming video version online at http://www.scinfo.org/prodvideo.htm

Prevnar Vaccine reduces medical care gap -
http://www.nynewsday.com/news/health/ny-hsvac123798448may12,0,2704146.story?coll=ny-health-headlines

Articles in the Medical Literature for May 2004
Brendan Flannery, PhD; Stephanie Schrag, DPhil; Nancy M. Bennett, MD; Ruth Lynfield, MD; Lee H. Harrison, MD; Arthur Reingold, MD; Paul R. Cieslak, MD; James Hadler, MD, MPH; Monica M. Farley, MD; Richard R. Facklam, PhD; Elizabeth R. Zell, MStat; Cynthia G. Whitney, MD, MPH; for the Active Bacterial Core Surveillance/Emerging Infections Program Network: Impact of Childhood Vaccination on Racial Disparities in Invasive Streptococcus pneumoniae Infections JAMA. 2004;291:2197-2203.
http://jama.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/full/291/18/2197


See NLM- Medline articles about sickle cell disease for the past 3 months

New Web Links:
Medline Plus Sickle Cell Anemia page at  

Medline Plus Medication Information page at  

The American Society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation is a national professional association that promotes advancement of the field of blood and bone marrow transplantation. ASBMT members are both in clinical practice and in research.  
http://www.asbmt.org/
Conferences of Interest to the Sickle Cell Community

Sponsored by: the New York Methodist Hospital Sickle Cell/Thalassemia Program.  
Contact: Rita Bellevue, MD. Program Director  
New York Methodist Hospital  
Sickle Cell/Thalassemia Program  
506 Sixth Street  
Brooklyn NY 11215  
718-857-5643  
Fax 718-857-6798  
e-mail: bellevuer@aol.com

New York City - June 20, 2004 The Sickle Cell Thalassemia Patients Network will hosts its Annual Scholastic Achievement Award Program at The Brooklyn Hospital Center starting at 3:00 pm. High School graduates can apply for a scholarship and all ages can participating in the essay competition.

Walk for Education -- September 11, 2004 in Central Park

For more information on both events call (877) 812-4216

Miami FL - 5/21/04 8:30 AM - North Shore Medical Center 1100 Northwest 95th Street-Auditorium - Lecture on Sickle Cell Pain Management - Allan Platt PA-C  305-835-6000 ext 7593

The Medical College of Georgia presents Transcranial Doppler Ultrasound and Imaging in Children with Sickle Cell Disease  Presented Thursday, July 8 – Saturday, 10, 2004 at KiawahIsland, South Carolina

This course will enable participants to:  · Perform TCD examination using the protocol from the "STOP" (Stroke Prevention Trial in Sickle Cell Disease) study  · Perform TCD on children with sickle cell disease and cerebral arterial pathology and optimize high velocity and turbulent signals.  · Interpret TCD examinations to accurately estimate stroke risk.  For further information contact: Division of Continuing Education, Medical College of Georgia, Augusta, Georgia 30912  
Office phone: (800) 221-6437 or (706) 721-3967 Fax: (706) 721-4642 Website:  
http://www.MCG.edu/ce  
This activity has been approved for AMA PRA Credit.

Atlanta, Georgia - Wednesday, September 29 through Saturday, October 2, 2004. The Sickle Cell Disease Association of America, Inc. and the Local Host Chapter - Sickle Cell Foundation of Georgia 32nd ANNUAL CONVENTION For Sponsorship & Exhibit Information: Ralph D.
Sutton 800.421.8453 web Call for abstracts at http://www.scinfo.org/news.htm
SCDAA : http://www.sicklecelldisease.org

If you wish to be removed from this update news, Please send an email request to aplatt@emory.edu with the email address that the newsletter was addressed to. If you know of others that would like to receive an email update about the Sickle Cell Center Web site, have them write an email to aplatt@emory.edu

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