SolveSickle

Newsletter

June 2026/ Vol.2

HB 334 SICKLE CELL DISEASE PROTECTION ACT SIGNED INTO LAW

On May 5th Georgia House Bill 334 was signed into law, marking an important step forward in addressing healthcare needs and improving access to services across the state for individuals living with sickle cell disease. House Bill 334, which aims to ensure Georgia Medicaid coverage keeps pace with current and emerging sickle cell treatments.

Honoring World Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Day- June 19th!

2026 SICKLE CELL DISEASE RESEARCH DAY

Join Emory University on September 12th for an exciting day of sickle cell education and research featuring keynote speaker Dr. Wally Smith of Virginia Commonwealth University. The event will include expert presentations, interactive breakout sessions, research exhibits, and a community panel sharing firsthand research experiences.

Space is limited. Reserve your spot today.

SICKLE CELL RESEARCH DAY

Register Now!

We are excited to invite you to The 2nd Annual Emory and Grady SCD Research Day! To learn more and register, please scan the QR code.

Connecting...

Patients, Families, & Researchers

Agenda

8:30am - Breakfast
9:00am - Intro & Keynote Speaker
11:30am - Lunch & Poster Session
12:30pm - Breakout sessions including topics on Women's Health, Gene Therapy, Drug Trials, and More!
2:30pm - Community Panel

SEPTEMBER 12, 2026
8:30am - 3:00pm

Contact us:
scdresearch@emory.edu

EMORY UNIVERSITY

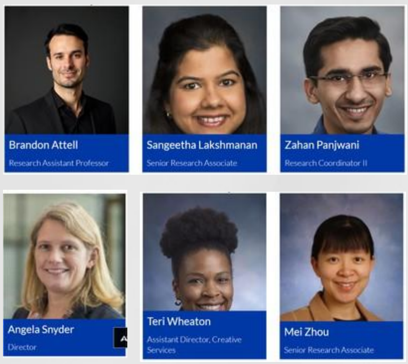
Grady

SICKLE CELL PROVIDER TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

In partnership with Morehouse School of Medicine, the Sickle Cell Foundation of Georgia (SCFG) offers a four-hour training on evidence-based protocols for the management and treatment of sickle cell disease (SCD). The training is also designed to increase understanding of the physiology of SCD and the perceptions and experiences of individuals living with SCD. Participants are provided with resources to build their understanding of SCD. Eligible participants can earn CME credits.

Register Here:
https://tmcgee118.wixsite.com/sickle-cell/providertraining

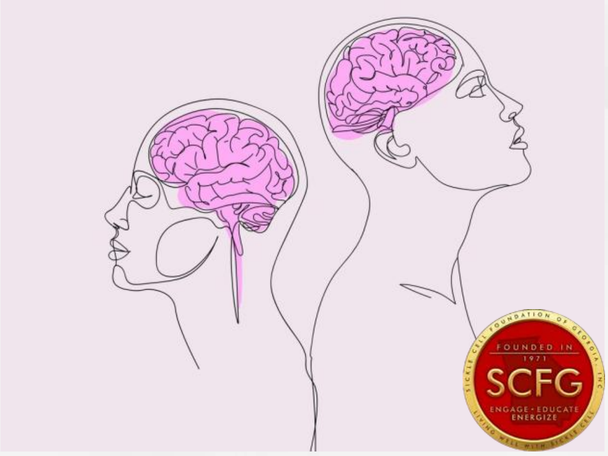
GEORGIA CONTINUES TO LEAD IN DATA COLLECTION EFFORTS



Georgia is one of the CDC-funded states participating in SCD surveillance efforts to better understand patient outcomes, healthcare utilization and gaps in care. Through the Georgia Sickle Cell Data Collection (SCDC) Program, the Georgia Health Policy Center and its partners maintain a longitudinal dataset of more than 17,000 individuals with SCD who lived in Georgia between 2004 and 2023, using data from newborn screening, healthcare systems, insurance claims, hospital records, and death certificates. These data are used to track disease trends healthcare access, and adherence to recommended treatments, helping inform policies and improve care for people living with SCD across the state. The goal is to give stakeholders evidence to shape policy and practice improvements for the well-being of individuals with these blood disorders.

If you have specific data needs kindly email blooddisorders@gsu.edu

Whole-Person Care: New Programs Support Mental Health and Provider Education



The SCFG recently announced a partnership in Richmond County focused on expanding provider education and strengthening mental health support for individuals living with SCD.

Starting Oct. 10, the free program will run at the Richmond County School Transportation Assembly Room. State officials, medical staff, and school workers will join forces to boost patient outcomes through this new approach.

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MAJOR HEALTHCARE INVESTMENT PROPOSED FOR UNDERSERVED ATLANTA NEIGHBORHOODS

The City of Atlanta is partnering with Morehouse School of Medicine to develop “Project Robin,” a proposed hospital aimed at addressing healthcare gaps in Black neighborhoods following the closure of Atlanta Medical Center. City officials estimate approximately $110 million in funding will be needed over the next decade, with potential support coming from Tax Allocation Districts, including the Beltline TAD, as well as a proposed special service district to generate additional revenue for community development.

$3M Breakthrough Prize honors duo whose work changed SCD treatment

On April 26th, Dr. Stuart H. Orkin and Dr. Swee Lay Thein were recognized for their work uncovering how the body transitions from fetal to adult hemoglobin, a key biological switch that is targeted to treat SCD and beta-thalassemia.

Their findings helped lay the scientific foundation for today’s gene therapy approaches and other emerging treatments aimed at increasing fetal hemoglobin to reduce disease severity. The Breakthrough Prize Foundation honored their contributions as major advances with real-world impact, highlighting how decades of research are now translating into new hope for patients living with inherited blood disorders.

WHAT COMES AFTER CRISPR? THE NEXT WAVE OF SICKLE CELL INNOVATION

Tessera Therapeutics presented new preclinical data at the American Society of Gene and Cell Therapy (ASGCT) Annual Meeting highlighting progress in its in vivo programs for SCD and CAR-T therapies. In non-human primates, a single dose of its Gene Writer achieved an average of 85% editing in long-term hematopoietic stem cells, exceeding levels believed to be needed for clinical benefit and showing durable editing for up to 19 months without significant safety concerns.

The company also reported the first successful in vivo generation of CAR-T cells using its targeted lipid nanoparticle delivery system, with CAR-T cells expanding to about 60% of circulating T cells and driving meaningful B cell depletion in blood and lymph nodes. Together, the findings underscore continued progress toward scalable, non-transplant gene and cell therapy approaches for blood disorders and immune diseases.