

January 6,
2023

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Virginia Sickle Cell Awareness Newsletter



Highlights

- The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) has collaborated with four health systems across the Commonwealth to strengthen the infrastructure for adult sickle cell care. The new partnerships are with VCU Medical Center, the University of Virginia Medical Center, Inova Health Care Services, and Carilion Medical Center.
- William Owen presented “Stroke in Sickle Cell Disease” to the Virginia Stroke Systems Task Force (VSSTF) on October 14, 2022. There were 73 attendees in person and virtually.
- Ayana Johnson was crowned Miss Virginia Outstanding Teen. Ms. Johnson is also the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America (SCDAA) 2021-2023 National Teen Ambassador. [Read more](#)
- Florence Neal Cooper Smith was recognized at the 15th Excellence in Virginia Government Awards. She received the Lifetime Achievement Award for her efforts to educate and find a cure for sickle cell disease. [Watch here](#)
- The VA Sickle Cell Data Collection (SCDC) program published newborn screening (NBS) data for 2011-2020. [Read more](#)
- On September 17, 2022, members of the Children’s Hospital of The King’s Daughters (CHKD) participated in the Sickle Cell Summit at the Slover Library in Norfolk and provided education and advocacy for over 60 people in attendance.
- The pediatric and adult sickle cell teams in Northern Virginia collaborated with other community partners to discuss information about sickle cell disease during a

virtual Town Hall gathering for patients, families, and other health care providers. Seventy-five people attended the event

- Living with Sickle Cell, Inc. hosted an event at Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens for sickle cell patients and their families.

Conferences, e-Learning, and Events



- **2023 International Association of Sickle Cell Nurses and Professional Associates (IASCNAPA)**

April 17-21, 2023| Memphis, TN

The International Association of Sickle Cell Nurses and Professional Associates (IASCNAPA) will hold the Sickle Cell Nursing Boot Camp April 17-21, 2023, at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC) in Memphis, Tennessee. This program is geared towards nurses who provide care or develop policy for patients with SCD. Applicants must be a registered nurse actively involved in the SCD patient community. Application deadline: February 1, 2023. [Apply Here](#)

- **2023 Hemoglobinopathy Genetic Counseling Workshop**
April 12-12, 2023|Virtual

The Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center will host the Hemoglobinopathy Genetic Counseling Workshop virtually from April 12-13, 2023. The workshop aims to prepare clinicians and counseling professionals to work effectively with patients, by increasing their knowledge of hemoglobin disorders and variants. [Apply Here](#)

- Researchers at the University of Florida College of Nursing are conducting an online research study focused on informed parenthood in individuals 18 to 35 years with sickle cell disease or sickle cell trait. For more information, contact choices.study@nursing.ufl.edu or visit the screening website at <https://qualifying4choices.ahc.ufl.edu/qualifying/>
- **January marks the 53rd anniversary of National Blood Donor Month.** Please consider donating blood. Donors are encouraged to schedule an appointment by

using the [Red Cross Blood Donor App](#), visiting [RedCrossBlood.org](#), or calling 1-800-RED CROSS.

Save the Dates:

- **4th Annual Sickle Cell Care Coordination for Achieving Patient Empowerment Conference**
March 27-28, 2023 (Days 1 & 2 Virtual)
March 30-31, 2023 (Days 3 & 4 in person at the Larrick Student Center, Richmond, VA)
- **May 6, 2023 - 14th Annual Unity Ride 4 Sickle Cell, RVA**

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