



SCLERODERMA FOUNDATION

SUPPORT · EDUCATION · RESEARCH

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER



20TH ANNIVERSARY Imagine CAMPAIGN

As we celebrate the Chapter's 20th anniversary in 2021, the Imagine Campaign endeavors to raise \$100,000 to launch the SFRMC into the future. Just three months into 2021 we have already met some of the campaign's IMPACT goals by adding new support groups serving Utah and Wyoming. Patient education events are scheduled for Grand Junction, Denver and Salt Lake City. We have also pledged 1/3 of all funds raised through the Imagine Campaign directly to fund scleroderma research.

In January, Cyndy Besselievre announced that she and her husband Craig were donating **\$20,000** towards the Imagine Campaign. "I have been a part of the chapter for 20 years and having an insider's perspective, I have seen how support groups have helped newly diagnosed patients find their way. I have met researchers who have dedicated their careers to better understanding the disease, leading to improved treatments. I have seen the commitment of staff, support group leaders and volunteers who work hard for this cause everyday. For these reasons and more, I am proud to support the Imagine Campaign."

Cyndy Besselievre was introduced to the Scleroderma Foundation when she called information looking for help when her mom Harriet was diagnosed with scleroderma back in the mid 80's. A few years later, Cyndy joined her family in running the annual Stroll and Roll fundraiser in Lancaster, PA to benefit the Foundation. Cyndy has volunteered with the Rocky Mountain Chapter since its inception in 2001. In addition to serving as treasurer she has filled in every possible volunteer role from packing up a truck after a walk, to leading support group meetings and education events. Cyndy also served as the first Executive Director for the chapter and while she has retired from that role, she continues on as Chapter treasurer and also volunteers on the board of the National Scleroderma Foundation. Thank you Cyndy for all of your contributions to the scleroderma community!



Contact & Follow Us

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Scleroderma Treatment & Research Centers

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University of Colorado
Anschutz Medical
Campus
Division of Rheumatology
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A Cure for Scleroderma

Interview with Dr. Carol Feghali-Bostwick, Ph.D.

Professor at the Medical University of South Carolina
Vice Chair of the Scleroderma Foundation Board of Directors



What exciting developments are happening in the field of scleroderma research?

There are a lot more drugs in the development pipeline now that scleroderma is considered an “orphan disease.” There have been many scleroderma and fibrosis related studies published in the top journals in the past few years from all over the world. New techniques, assays, and equipment have also really sped up the research process. We can now look at thousands and thousands of genes and cells at once vs. one at a time. We have great momentum right now. We need to continue to accelerate the pace of discovery in scleroderma.

How can the findings in scleroderma research be applied to other fibrotic diseases?

Because fibrosis is a multi-organ feature of scleroderma, if we can solve the fibrosis puzzle in scleroderma, it will likely be applicable to these other diseases, where you can get fibrosis in one organ, such as kidney, eye, or liver disease.

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SUPPORT GROUPS

Meet Our New Support Group Leaders



Michele Thompson is heading up the Northern Utah support group. This group will meet on the third Saturday of each month at 10:00 a.m. MT.



Rachel Lando will be hosting the Greater Salt Lake City support group on the first Saturday of each month at 10:00 a.m. MT.

The Rocky Mountain Chapter is seeking support group leaders to help us support people living with scleroderma in MT, NM and Southern UT.

Contact rmchapter@scleroderma.org if you are interested in learning more.

For more information about all of our connection group offerings, and Zoom meeting IDs, contact the chapter at 303-806-6686 or rmchapter@scleroderma.org.
<http://bit.ly/COSupport>



Scleroderma Research

RESEARCH



How can the scleroderma community increase the development of scleroderma specific treatments and find a cure?

The only way to find the cause and ultimately a cure for scleroderma is to continue to fund research at academic centers. In addition to fostering new discoveries, researchers need funding for clinical trials to identify drugs that are already approved through the FDA for another indication and determining if they are effective for scleroderma. The key to doing that is to support research through the Scleroderma Foundation's Peer-Review Grant Funding Program.

The Scleroderma Foundation has an unbiased, fair, peer-review system to ensure we are selecting the best and most promising science for funding the grants. The Foundation offers new and established investigator grants. These grants support researchers to create data that enables them to apply for the bigger grants. This year for the first time, the Scleroderma Foundation will be awarding grants to graduate students working on scleroderma research with the hope that they will develop an interest in scleroderma.

Hear more from this interview and from other scleroderma researchers by following our Facebook page. We will be posting new videos throughout the month of March.

Make a Donation to help support scleroderma research.



Double Your **IMPACT!**

Rocky Mountain Chapter board members have pledged to match all Imagine Campaign donations up to \$8,000 during the month of March!

All Donations Matched Up To \$8,000

STEP 1 CHOOSE YOUR GIFT

Sustaining monthly gift of:

\$10 \$_____per month

Or, a one time gift of:

\$1,000
 \$500
 \$100
 Other _____

STEP 2 CHOOSE THE AREA TO SUPPORT

- Unrestricted
 Research
 Other: _____

In Memory or In Honor of:

STEP 3 CHOOSE YOUR PAYMENT METHOD

Make your gift online at:
www.2021Imagine.givesmart.com

Name: _____

Address: _____

Check payable to:
Scleroderma Foundation
Rocky Mt. Chapter
5403 E. Evans Ave.
Denver, CO 80022



5403 E. Evans. Ave. Denver, CO 80222

2021 HIGHLIGHTS

March

Sign up for the Stepping Out to Cure Scleroderma Rocky Mountain Adventure. www.scleroderma.org/adventure

June

June 29th– Our Rocky Mountain Adventure comes to a close on World Scleroderma Day.

September

September 11th – 20th Anniversary Picnic and Walk (Tentative)

September 25th – Patient Education Day, Salt Lake City, UT

October

October 2nd – Patient Education Day, Denver, CO

November

November 13 – Patient Education Day, Grand Junction, CO

**For more information visit
www.scleroderma.org/RockyMountain**