

## MEMBERSHIP

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Please accept this tax deductible donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of

\_\_\_\_\_

In honor of

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**To help Support SFDV's work**



# SCLERODERMA FOUNDATION

SUPPORT • EDUCATION • RESEARCH  
DELAWARE VALLEY CHAPTER



“It’s a lot easier to talk to someone when they know what you’re going through... You need someone to listen.”

—Rafael Valentin

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## What is Scleroderma?

Scleroderma is a chronic, often progressive, autoimmune disease in which the body's immune system attacks its own tissues. Symptoms may be visible, as when the skin is affected, or invisible, when only internal organs are affected. The symptoms of scleroderma vary greatly from individual to individual and the effects range from mild to severe. For some, scleroderma can be life threatening due to the severity of organ involvement.

## What Causes Scleroderma?

The exact cause of the disease is not known. Scleroderma involves an overproduction of collagen and can cause thickening and tightening of the skin and in some cases serious damage

**“Scleroderma is a treatable disease.”**

-Joseph H. Korn, MD

to internal organs including lungs, heart, kidneys, esophagus and gastrointestinal tract. While there is no known cure, physicians can treat troubling symptoms.

## Who Has Scleroderma?

Anyone can develop scleroderma. Overall, females outnumber males and the average patient is diagnosed in her/his 40's. It is a disease that affects how they live their daily lives. It is estimated that 300,000 people in the U.S. have some form of scleroderma.



## The SFDV is Here To Help

The Scleroderma Foundation Delaware Valley Chapter (SFDV) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization serving the needs of people with scleroderma in central/ southern New Jersey, eastern Pennsylvania and Delaware.

## Our Mission

- To help patients and their families cope with scleroderma through mutual support programs, peer counseling, physician referrals and educational information.
- To promote public awareness and education through patient and health professional seminars, literature and publicity campaigns.
- To stimulate and support research to improve treatment and ultimately find the cause and cure of scleroderma and related diseases.



The SFDV can help patients cope with the disease by building a strong support network that includes health professionals, family and friends. The Chapter hosts large patient meetings where renowned doctors, researchers and other professionals provide up-to-date information regarding scleroderma treatment and research. The chapter provides information, literature, resources, referrals and connects people to one another, thereby helping to empower the person dealing with the disease.

## Support Groups

Support groups are essential in helping people feel less alone in dealing with their illness. Patients, their families and friends can share their feelings, coping strategies, personal experience and knowledge in a supportive atmosphere. There are support groups throughout the Delaware Valley Chapter territory.

## Membership

Annual member dues provide a vital pathway of communication with the scleroderma community. Members receive the national newsletter, “The Scleroderma Voice,” the chapter newsletter, “The Pursuit” as well as notices of educational meetings and special fundraising events. It helps defray the administrative costs and therefore more of the chapter's income from donations and fundraisers can be applied to research and awareness.

## Fundraising and Awareness

SFDV is involved in many fundraisers and awareness initiatives. We are proud to host several walks each year and various other events in the chapter territory. We are available to assist you with your own ideas for fundraising and awareness.