



PRESS RELEASE
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**Sickle Cell Disease Association of America, Inc. Partners with The Pain Community
to Support the Sickle Cell Community by Providing
Comprehensive Integrative Pain Management Educational Information**

(July 11, 2019 – BALTIMORE) Sickle Cell Disease Association of America, Inc. (SCDAA) and The Pain Community are proud to announce a new partnership that will increase education and awareness information about comprehensive integrative pain management and wellness to support individuals living with sickle cell disease (SCD) and their family members. The partnership will use digital platforms and other collateral to share important resources and to engage those affected by SCD in achieving better health and wellness in partnership with their healthcare providers.

“Pain is the most common complication of SCD, and one of main reasons that people with SCD go to the emergency room or hospital,” said SCDAA President and CEO Beverley Francis-Gibson. “The Pain Community shares with SCDAA the goal of improving the quality of life for individuals living with pain, and SCDAA looks forward to working with them to help empower those living with sickle cell disease by providing education and advocacy information for managing pain.”

SCD is a global health problem affecting millions of people around the world. It is estimated that approximately 100,000 Americans have the disease, and more than 1,000,000 worldwide have sickle cell trait. Each year, approximately 1,000 babies in the United States are born with SCD, and there is no universal cure for this life-threatening disease.

“The Pain Community is thrilled to partner with the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America, Inc.,” said TPC Board Chair Karen Keifer, MSN, APN, NP-C, RN-BC. “This affiliation is a great opportunity to amplify SCDAA’s work and share the educational, coping and advocacy resources available that are free at PainCommunity.org We look forward to ensuring that the sickle cell community has resources to help manage their pain and improve their quality of life”.

About SCDAA

SCDAA’s mission is: To advocate for people affected by sickle cell conditions and empower community-based organizations to maximize quality of life and raise public consciousness while advancing the search for a universal cure. Visit www.sicklecelldisease.org.

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About The Pain Community

The mission of The Pain Community (TPC) is to support an active, energized and diverse community by promoting Comprehensive Integrative Pain Management (CIPM) education, wellness information and advocacy for quality pain care. TPC's overarching goal is to improve the overall health, well-being, and quality of life of people with pain. The Pain "Community" consists of patients, healthcare providers, caregivers and family and friends of those patients, providers and caregivers. TPC provides education and advocacy tools to all website visitors. Free membership provides access to TPC's Pain College and interactive community. Visit <https://paincommunity.org/>

About SCD

SCD, an inherited blood disease, causes red blood cells to have a sickle shape. Because of their stiffness and unusual form, blood flow is blocked to different tissues, ultimately damaging them. These sickle-shaped red blood cells contain an abnormal type of hemoglobin, hemoglobin S; normal red blood cells have hemoglobin A. Hemoglobin is important because it helps carry oxygen throughout the body. There is currently no universal cure for SCD.

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