



**PRESS RELEASE**  
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## **Sickle Cell Disease Association of America, Inc. Partners with the National Baptist Convention, USA**

*~ National Walk Increases Awareness and Raises Critical Funds for Sickle Cell Disease Research ~*

**Baltimore, MD-** There are over 100,000 individuals who are affected by sickle cell disease in the United States. There is no cure, and the disease affects predominantly people of color. The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Walk With The Stars is one of the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America, Inc.'s (SCDAA) largest events dedicated to finding better treatments and a cure for sickle cell disease. Every dollar raised goes towards preventing the complications of sickle cell disease through awareness, education, advocacy and research. SCDAA to-date has raised over \$540,000 for better treatments and improvements in the quality of health for individuals, families and communities affected by sickle cell disease. This year, SCDAA seeks to raise \$300,000.

The National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc.'s (NBCUSA) Health and Wellness Initiative is partnering with SCDAA in the fight against sickle cell disease, and will host a Walk event at the NBCUSA's National Baptist Congress of Christian Education in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma on Wednesday, June 20, 2018. NBCUSA will work with one of SCDAA's member organizations, the Supporters of Families with Sickle Cell Disease, Inc., and is encouraging NBCUSA members to support our Walk.

"Since 2011, NBCUSA and SCDAA have partnered in promoting Sickle Sabbath Sunday (Third Sunday in September) as a call to conduct sickle cell awareness and education activities," says Dr. Michael O. Minor, EdD, National Director, H.O.P.E. Health and Human Services Partnership. "This partnership now includes a Walk-a-Thon during the NBCUSA's National Baptist Congress of Christian Education on Wednesday, and we are excited to lend our efforts to raising funds for this important cause."

"SCDAA is so excited to join together with the pastors and its members from the nation's oldest and largest African American religious convention," says Beverley Francis-Gibson, SCDAA President/CEO. "SCDAA thanks NBCUSA for its ongoing partnership, and we look forward to its members joining us in our efforts to raise awareness about sickle cell disease."

To register for the National Walk With the Stars event, visit [www.sicklecellnationalwalk.org](http://www.sicklecellnationalwalk.org).

**Hashtags:** #WalkWithTheStars #MoveForSickleCell #SCDAA #NBCUSA #SCD #SCT #sicklecelldisease

### **About the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America, Inc.**

Sickle Cell Disease Association of America, Inc.'s mission is: To advocate for and enhance our membership's ability to improve the quality of health, life and services for individuals, families and communities affected by sickle cell disease and related conditions, while promoting the search for a cure for all people in the world with sickle cell disease. Visit: [www.sicklecelldisease.org](http://www.sicklecelldisease.org).

### **About the National Baptist Convention, USA**

The National Baptist Convention, USA is a collaborative effort of National Baptist churches, medical professionals, and health related organizations committed to health outreach and prevention education (H.O.P.E.). Visit: [www.hopenbc.com](http://www.hopenbc.com).

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**About Sickle Cell Disease**

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

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