UPMC Scleroderma Center Information

Scleroderma research

Our Scleroderma Center is unique because of its long-term commitment and contributions to scleroderma research. This has led to important discoveries in understanding the natural history of scleroderma and in understanding unique subsets of scleroderma patients, with over 500 publications arising from the research completed at the Center (link to PubMed).

At the Scleroderma Center, you may be approached about participating in research. We view this as an important and necessary part of our mission to improve the care of scleroderma patients. Since 1972, we have collected information on our adult and childhood onset patients at the first visit and have continued to collect disease-related information after the first visit, with the patient’s consent, throughout the course of the illness. We have followed over 4,000 systemic sclerosis, 500 localized scleroderma and 500 Raynaud syndrome patients.

In addition, we have obtained blood samples for scleroderma-related antibody and other testing. It is from this information that we have been able to publish so many papers and textbook chapters on scleroderma and closely related conditions in the medical literature.

At the first visit you will meet our clinical research coordinator, Mrs. Dana Ivanco. We are currently engaged in a number of medication trials, clinical and basic research. A complete listing of our active research studies and the eligibility requirements to participate in them can be found on our research page.

There are also websites describing the University of Pittsburgh’s programs in:

- Pulmonary fibrosis
- Pulmonary hypertension
- Lung transplantation
- Kidney transplantation

Family Members and Friends can also contribute to scleroderma research. We are often in need of “control” subjects with whom to compare our patients. If you are a non-blood related family member, such as spouse, or a friend who does not have a connective tissue disease (for example rheumatoid arthritis or lupus), you can help. Ask about such opportunities!