

Sickle Cell Disease Coalition Meeting

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AAEM is a member of the Sickle Cell Disease Coalition (SCDC). The SCDC was formed to amplify the voice of the sickle cell disease (SCD) stakeholder community and to improve outcomes for individuals with SCD. There are over two dozen organizations in the coalition includes public health, research, and provider organizations, patient groups, faith-based organizations, federal agencies, industry

representatives, and foundations. The goal of the coalition is to ensure that patients with sickle cell disease receive state-of-the-art care by involving the stakeholder community and to use multi-disciplinary and co-ordinated efforts to produce the greatest impact. The goal of the coalition is to advance faster, more economical and more efficient care to patients suffering from this debilitating disease in the United States and around the world. I recently attended their meeting as the AAEM representative.

The organization has four current goals:

1. **Access to Care in the U.S.** — SCDC believes that individuals with sickle cell disease should be able to access quality care regardless of age, location, and socioeconomic status.
2. **Training and Professional Education** — SCDC set its sights on improved standards of care and greater availability of providers with SCD expertise.

3. **Research and Clinical Trials** — SCDC are advocates for the development of clinical trial networks, increased pain research, and the exploration of curative therapies.
4. **Global Issues** — One of the greatest priorities of SCDC is designing, testing, and implementing sustainable care and pain management approaches for countries with limited resources.

One of the member organizations of the collaboration, the Emergency Department Sickle Cell Care Collaborative funded by ACEP, presented a report on the role of the EDs at meeting. They recommend that EPs be educated on the full spectrum of SCD complications and change the perception of SCD as drug seeking. They also recommend the development of easy-to-use tools for ED, programs to bridge the continuum of care and the integrating the importance of the patient voice in their care.

AAEM continues to contribute not only to the coalition but also push to be involved in the Emergency Department Sickle Cell Care Collaborative. Although AAEM was not part of this meeting, I did emphasize the need for all EM groups including AAEM be involved in this collaborative. Please let me know if you wish any more information about the coalition. Contact info@aaem.org. ●



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