POETRY COMPETITION

All sickle cell disease clients are asked to submit their favorite, original poem for publication in the September 2013 newsletter.

Your poem should be submitted to Mrs. Brittany Brown at brittanybrown@usouthal.edu in pdf format by July 31, 2013. The top three poems submitted will receive a prize of $50 for first prize, $35 for second prize, and $25 for third prize. Only one poem per client can be submitted.

The Sickle Cell Center faculty and staff look forward to sharing in your creative writings.

Johnson Haynes, Jr., MD
Director, USA Sickle Cell Center

Visit the Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center website at: http://www.usahealthsystem.com/sicklecellcenter
Checking Your to-do List for Transitioning
Brittany Brown, RN, BSN - PACT Coordinator

Do you know the correct way to transfer from pediatric care to adult services? Do you know what paperwork and insurance information are required for successful transfer to adult services? Listed below is a step-by-step approach outlining the transfer process to adult services at the University of South Alabama Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center. The PACT (Pediatric to Adult Care Transition) program begins preparing the pediatric clients for transitioning to adult services starting at age 13 years. The pediatric physicians continue care through the age of 19. Once the transfer process has been completed, clients will be notified at their last pediatric clinic visit) the client has a 30 day grace period to contact their pediatric providers for questions, concerns, and medication refills.

Check List:

1. Define a primary care provider (PCP) if one has not already been established. Please confirm that your chosen PCP sees adult patients. Patients are required to maintain a relationship with their PCP for health issues other than sickle cell disease.

2. Determine if your health insurance requires a prior-authorization or referral to see a sickle cell specialist. Your PCP will provide the necessary paperwork. Please request that prior-authorizations and referrals be faxed to the adult sickle cell clinic at 251-470-5895. Prior-authorizations and referrals are needed prior to an adult clinic appointment being made.

3. Medical Records are required prior to your adult sickle cell clinic appointment. As a transferring pediatric patient from the USA system, medical records will be obtained from the USA pediatric sickle cell clinic prior to your adult clinic appointment by the transitioning nurse coordinator (Mrs. Brittany Brown). Please notify the PACT coordinator if your demographic information, including current mailing address and contact numbers, has changed.

Please contact Brittany Brown, R.N. at the USA Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center at 251-470-5893/470-5875 for questions or concerns regarding a new patient appointment with our adult sickle cell providers, Dr. Johnson Haynes, Jr. and Ardie Pack-Mabien, C.R.N.P. Please be mindful that appointments are not made, until all required paperwork, as listed above, has been received in our office. New clients will be notified by our office with their new patient appointment date, time, and the clinic location. We look forward to seeing you on the adult side!

THE SOCIAL WORKER’S CORNER

The Knights of Peter Claver, Inc. and Ladies Auxiliary award grants to individuals affected by sickle cell disease (SCD) and to institutions or individuals that provide research in this area. The Sickle Cell Disease Association of America-Mobile Chapter, Inc. was successful for the third consecutive year in securing grant funding for a client with SCD that resides within the nine-county service area.

The most recent recipient for the Knights of Peter Claver National Sickle Cell grant is Johnyell Rodgers of Jackson, Alabama. Mr. Rodgers has experienced many complications related to SCD. This grant will assist Mr. Rodgers in covering many of the costs typically associated with managing this type of illness. The Knights of Peter Claver Ladies Auxiliary, Court 1 provided this award to Mr. Rodgers in the fall of 2012. Alisha Grayson and Dexter Jones were recipients of this award in 2010 and 2011, respectively.

The Sickle Cell Disease Association of America-Mobile Chapter, Inc. and The USA Sickle Cell Center would like to thank the Knights of Peter Claver, Inc. and Ladies Auxiliary for their continued support of the sickle cell community.

If you would like more information in regards to this or any of our community service projects or programs, you may contact us at (251) 432-0301. Until next time, so long from the social worker’s corner.

Adrienne Petite, LBSW
Social Worker Case Manager
SCDAA-MC

Graduating Class of 2012

It is with great joy and pleasure that the University of South Alabama Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center take this opportunity to congratulate the graduating class of 2012 on a job well done. These individuals have endured medical challenges associated with their disease in conjunction with the day-to-day academic challenges. They have met their challenges with unrelenting hope and determination and are now graduates. The following individuals have successfully completed high school, college, technical school or a career development program. We encourage all of the graduates to continue your education and/or training as you prepare yourself for the ever competitive and demanding job market.

2012 High School Graduates:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Stanley Barnes, Jr.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kendrae Dennis</td>
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<td>Kenisha Dennis</td>
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<td>DeJuan Edwards</td>
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<tr>
<td>Javares Gebrehiwet</td>
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<tr>
<td>LaClara Peyton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reginald Rodgers</td>
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<td>Tovah Williams</td>
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2012 College and/or Vocational Program Graduates:

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<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Kimberly Burden</td>
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<td>Kathryn Davis</td>
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<td>Joshua Evans</td>
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<td>Essie Jackson</td>
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<td>Jeremy McDonald</td>
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<td>Hiram Wright</td>
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Congratulations from the USA Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center!
USA ANNUAL SICKLE CELL CONFERENCE 2012: A Legacy of Excellence

Johnson Haynes, Jr., MD

Over 70 participants consisting of physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, registered andlicensed practical nurses, pharmacists, social workers, and staff attended the 2012 conference. The 2012 conference was the 12th conference conducted by the USA Sickle Cell Center. The conference theme is geared annually to address practical issues in medicine that impact the care of patients affected with sickle cell disease (SCD). Unique to the 2012 conference was the emphasis on a more holistic approach in the care of sickle cell clients, which entailed discussions on psychosocial, ethical and medical issues involved in effective healthcare delivery. In addition, the 2012 conference was expanded from a one day to a two day conference.

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approaching 70, he thought it was a good time to retire. I in one
ago and would need surgery soon. Because of this and rapidly
some how the excitement was triggering a mild pain crisis. I was
was feeling so many things from nervousness to excitement to an
three years. Today I was not about to let this pain impair, in any way,
on a new medication, Hydroxyurea, I had not had any pain for over

Waiting for time to pass, I sat in bed and watched television. I was
incredibly anxious so I told him I would love to come for an interview but if all
the new director. I am sure I seemed distant during dinner but I
Dr. Diggs. He asked what did I think? I told him I thought this was
Following several more interviews with faculty, the day ended with
the dean of the medical school, the chairman of medicine, Dr. Diggs and myself. It was flattering to be in
the company of such esteemed members of the Harvard faculty,
individually on the interview. It was an amazing evening. It was
clear they truly wanted me to take the position. This was capped off
with a wonderful mentor and to assist in the success of the program.
The evening ended and Dr. Diggs took me back to the hotel. The
day was to be filled with interviews with the faculty and the dean,
was done by a tour of the facilities. With all this in mind I
had better get some rest. That night was a long, restless night. All
I could do was think about the next day. When I arose the following morning,
I felt as if I had been in a wrestling match. After a hot
shower, I felt better and got ready for the interviews.

My first interview was with a young, energetic, associate professor in the
emergency department who felt her research was of primary
importance at this time in her career. Clearly, she would be a major
player containing a strong academic program. He wanted
our interview she introduced me to all of the residents in the program.
They reminded of myself some years ago and were obviously
very bright. From there I met with one of the more senior staff. He
looked me over from top to bottom, as if I saw, I was too young.
As the interview went on, it became clear he loved this place and
was an excellent teacher. I left him thinking, if for no other reason
than his love for the place, we would be able to work things out.
Following several more interviews with various faculty, the day ended with
Dr. Diggs. He asked what did I think? I told him I thought this was
a great place to be a part of and would love to take the job. I knew
ultimately it was up to the dean of the medical school but that
Dr. Diggs could influence his decision. Dr. Diggs and I stopped
and had a quiet dinner. My mind raced with the thoughts of becoming
the new director. I am sure I seemed distant during dinner but I
knew he understood how I felt. After all he was also a little distant
and consumed with the changes that are to occur in his life soon.
We reached the hospital later that night, I was not feeling too bad but felt
the following day. I told Dr. Diggs not to worry and I would just catch
a cab to the airport in the morning. He said okay and to look to hear
from the dean in about two weeks. We said good night and I went to
the emergency room. When I arrived at the emergency room I told
the receptionist I had sickle cell disease and was having a pain crisis. She
was surprised, she had never seen a case before. She said she had heard
of it but did not recognize it. As I entered my office, I could hear them mumbling, most with smiles
on their faces. For some that was their first time seeing me. I think
it was still hard for some of them to believe this five foot- two-inch,
bronze skin woman with an afro, was their new director. I wasn't in
the office for more than an hour before a three-car accident resulted in
seven severely injured people entering the emergency room.
I entered the patient area and began triaging patients based on
severity as the staff broke up into teams. As life would have it,
the resident who cared for me was on my team. The patient we had
was being bagged on 100% oxygen, had a flailed chest and was
hypotensive. The patient’s airway was intubated through the nose,
two large bore IV’s were established and the chest was stabilized.
He subsequently developed a malignant chest pain that required
the patient to be shocked to establish a normal rhythm. After being
cardioverted, the patient was stable but critical and we were able to
transfer the patient to the intensive care unit for further evaluation
and management. Shortly thereafter, things quieted down in the
door room. The resident looked at me with a big smile on his
face and said, “you really are as good as they said you are.” I
smiled and went on. Before I left I told him to come by my office
the following day so we could talk. He said ‘I’ll be there and go
see some of the other patients.”

The following day the resident came by as we had discussed. As
he entered we began by discussing his future plans. He, like I once
was, was ranked as one of the top residents. He someday wanted
to head his own division. Without warning he said I ‘couldnt help
but think we have met before. I said, “We do. You remember a lady who I am a part of and would love to take
the job. I knew what the pain of sickle cell disease was, like, our pain management program was
second to none at Baylor. After this experience I knew I had the job
out for me should I be offered the directors position.

I was able to schedule a later flight home that day. Although not
feeling my best, I thought I could handle the flight. I continued my
pain medicine by mouth and drank lots of water. Thankfully,
the flight home was a direct flight and was uneventful. I arrived home
safely and for a day or so I was back to normal only to wait on the
decision from the dean.

The two weeks passed slowly but finally the letter came. I was
officially offered the position of Division Director of Emergency Medicine at Beth Israel Hospital.
I was happy. This was the beginning of the rest of my life. I was to begin in three
short months. I could hardly wait.

I spent much of the next three months preparing for the move to
Bostom. It is amazing how much stuff one can accumulate over
the years. To my surprise I found myself a little sad about leaving
Houston, leaving Baylor, and leaving many old friends. None-
the-less, that day came and the movers packed my office
apartment. I was on my way to start the next phase of my career at
Beth Israel.

Who Would Have Thought?

From the Director's Desk:

"You've got sickle cell disease?" “Yes.” "Who would have thought?"
"Let this be a lesson, always treat your patients the way you want to be
treated. You never know they may be your doctors some day."

written by:
John Haynes, Jr., MD
August 8, 1999

Note: The characters in this narrative, “Who Would Have Thought?”
are fictional and was written to address attitudes reflected by sickle
cell disease clients experienced globally in healthcare settings.