

Degos Disease Support Network

The [Degos Disease Support Network Website](#) was established about 30 years ago by Judith Calder, a person with Degos Disease from England. It stands as a beacon of hope for people with Degos Disease and their caregivers around the world. The Steffens Foundation and its' international medical team of experts keeps the website up to date with the latest research and treatment options essential to the person with ultra-rare Degos Disease, their physicians, and loved ones.



Celeste Freeman receives ASHT Paul Brand Award

The American Society of Hand Therapists (ASHT) and the 2022 ASHT Awards Committee, selected our board member Celeste Freeman, OTR/CHT for the ASHT Paul Brand Award to be bestowed at the ASHT Annual Meeting in Washington, DC on October 13-16, 2022. Ms. Freeman was



nominated by her colleagues at Albany Memorial Hand Center, with additional support from Dr. Shapiro. This award was established in recognition of Dr. Paul Brand's significant contributions to excellence in hand surgery, hand rehabilitation and humanitarianism. This award recognizes individuals who have exemplified humanitarianism in their work as a hand therapist in addition to providing clinical and professional excellence in several facets of practice. Ms. Freeman will attend the meeting in person to accept this award, raising Scleroderma awareness and Steffens on a national platform. Please learn more about Paul Brand by clicking [here](#).

Mogil's Mobcast!

Recently members of the Steffens Foundation have become aware of, and quick fans of, Mogil's Mobcast, developed and hosted by Ann Mogilevsky, a woman who has been battling Scleroderma for over 20 years, an educator for over 39 years, and is now retired. Ms. Mogilevsky currently has over 30 podcasts posted. Dr. Jessica Farrell, one of our Steffens medical officers, was featured in episodes 21 and 22. At least 3 other board members are slated to be featured in the near future. We'll keep you in suspense for that development!

Her content is excellent as well as diverse. It is pertinent for people with Scleroderma, as well as families, and healthcare providers at any level of experience. We heartily endorse it, and are embedding a link to it on our website as well as our Facebook page.



The Cruise for a Real Cure was very colorful with our Hawaiian theme. Thank you for all who came aboard and thank you to all our Sponsors.

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steffens-scleroderma.org

Dr. Michael Allen joins Steffens Medical Advisory Board

Dr. Michael Allen recently joined the Steffens Medical and Scientific Advisory Board. Dr. Allen is a board certified Rheumatologist who earned his bachelor's degree in biology from The College of Saint Rose and his medical degree from The Sackler School of Medicine, New York State/American Program in Tel Aviv, Israel. He completed his internal medicine residency at The Mount Sinai Hospital and fellowship in rheumatology at Columbia University. Dr. Allen's interest in Scleroderma arose from having trained with Dr. Elana Jaye Bernstein, director of the scleroderma program at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center. He has particular expertise in pulmonary complications of connective tissue diseases. He is already involved in teaching medical students, medical residents and rheumatology fellows at Albany Medical College. Welcome Dr. Allen!

Amy Geitzen presenting at the American College of Rheumatology

Amy Geitzen, a board member of the Steffens Scleroderma Foundation, will be presenting, "The Journey to Collaborative Care and Patient-Centric Educational Opportunities for a Scleroderma Patient" virtually, at the American College of Rheumatology Convergence 2022 Patient Perspectives Program in November. We greatly appreciate Amy's ongoing passion and commitment to Scleroderma awareness.



Giovanna Fichera, OTD, Research Update

Giovanna Fichera, OTD, conducted her doctoral capstone project, "Implementing a Novel Splinting Technique using 3D Models for Patients with Scleroderma and Arthritis" this summer, and successfully completed her doctoral degree. Dr. Fichera had been given financial support for her research materials from the Steffens Foundation in the spring of 2022 which was featured in our spring newsletter. This summer, the American Hand Therapy Foundation,

(AHTF), supported by the Doris Ann Slack Endowment Fund, awarded Dr. Fichera, the Burkhalter New Investigator Award for Clinical Research in Hand & Upper Limb Rehabilitation for her research work. This grant was established in honor of Dr. William Burkhalter, a longtime advocate and promoter of hand therapy. The purpose of this award is to support scientific clinical research in the field of hand and upper extremity rehabilitation. This grant allowed Dr. Fichera to return the funds which had been provided by Steffens. This is the first time a student applied for the Burkhalter Award, and Dr. Fichera was the first student to receive the award. In addition to this wonderful development, she has had a poster accepted on her research at The New York Society of Occupational Therapy Association's Annual Conference, (NYSOTA), October 23, in Saratoga Springs this fall. The Burkhalter Award opens the door for the poster to be presented at the 2023 ASHT meeting as well. We are pleased to see the evolution of this research and Dr. Fichera's continued success, as well as the remarkable awareness it brings to Scleroderma research and Steffens at the state and national levels. Congratulations, Dr. Fichera!

**We would like to introduce
2 new board members:
Janet Sloan-McGonagle
Abigail Martinez
Full bios available on our
[website](#).**



**Please join us for our
2022 Annual Fall Event
"Masquerade Ball"
October 28, 2022
Invitations being mailed.
You can always check our
website for all the details.
www.steffens-scleroderma.org**

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