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UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland's Dr. Marsha Treadwell to Receive Pioneer Award from Sickle Cell Disease Association of America

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UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland's Dr. Marsha Treadwell to Receive Pioneer Award from Sickle Cell Disease Association of America

Oakland, CA (September 12, 2017) – Dr. Marsha Treadwell, Director of Hematology Behavioral Services at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland, is one of two recipients of this year's prestigious "Pioneer Award" from the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America (SCDAA). She received the award because of her "significant impact on the sickle cell community both nationally and globally as well as her lifelong overwhelming commitment to sickle cell disease." Dr. Treadwell will be honored on October 27th during the 45th Annual SCDAA Convention in Atlanta, GA.

Dr. Treadwell's research has uniquely combined physiologic and psychological aspects of treatments and outcomes for individuals with sickle cell disease (SCD). She has done seminal research in understanding the autonomic nervous system reactivity as a modifier in the relation between family stress, physical and mental health, and functional impairment for children with SCD. As a "trailblazer," Dr. Treadwell has contributed to much of the early work in quality of life, patient reported outcomes, transition from pediatric to adult care, self-management and adherence as related to sickle cell disease.

Dr. Treadwell has received many NIH grants. She was recently funded to establish a network to improve sickle cell disease care, as co-principal investigator for the Pacific Sickle Cell Regional Collaborative (funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration), which covers 13 western states. She is also co-principal investigator for the Sickle Cell Care Coordination Initiative (funded by the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute), that uses implementation science to engage multi-sector/multi-modality interventions to overcome the barriers to health care that youth and adults with sickle cell disease continue to face. These interventions are designed to improve care delivery, as well as to foster a sense of empowerment and collaborative disease management, and improve global well-being for patients and families affected by sickle cell disease.

She has led formative research with health care providers and health educators in Ghana to understand the best ways to provide support and information to families both prior to and after the birth of an infant identified with sickle cell disease. Her team launched the Genetic Education and Counseling for Sickle Cell Conditions in Ghana (GENECIS-Ghana) a program for nurses and health educators that provides them with the knowledge and skills to counsel and provide support to families, as the national Newborn Screening Program for sickle cell disease is rolled out in Ghana. Dr. Treadwell provided a leadership role or member in large scale, high-impact sickle-cell related projects funded by the NIH Common Fund, including the Human, Heredity and Health (H3) in Africa initiative and the consensus measures for Phenotypes and exposures (PhenX).

Dr. Treadwell received her PhD in Clinical Child Psychology from the University of Washington in Seattle, and completed a post-doctoral fellowship in Pediatric Psychology at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland. She joined the Department of Psychiatry at UCSF Benioff Oakland upon completion of her fellowship and began to specialize in consultation-liaison psychology with a particular focus in hematology/oncology. Her emphasis on pain management and family systems therapy led her to the care of children and adolescents with sickle cell disease. Dr. Treadwell quickly recognized the need to extend her clinical work in sickle cell disease to encompass a broader commitment to reducing disparities in research, policies and care for the population. She became a leader and integral part of the Northern California Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center, providing psychological services, and fostering relationships between the Center and the community, and supervising the sickle cell counselor training program in collaboration with the California Department of Public Health. Over the years, Dr. Treadwell has served as a research mentor to numerous undergraduate and post-graduate students, and to faculty engaged in sickle cell disease research, teaching and clinical care. Over 80% of those mentored have been underrepresented minorities as Dr. Treadwell embraces the importance of a diverse scientific workforce as essential to addressing health care disparities.

Past recipients of the Pioneer Award include: Dr. Elliott Vichinsky, Director of Hematology/Oncology at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland, Clarice Reid, MD, Marilyn Gaston, MD, Congressman Danny Davis (IL), Congressman Bill Young (FL) and Michelle Puryear, MD.

About UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland

UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland (formerly Children's Hospital & Research Center Oakland) is a premier, not-for-profit medical center for children in Northern California, and is the only hospital in the East Bay 100% devoted to pediatrics. UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland is a national leader in many pediatric specialties and is one of only five ACS Pediatric Level I Trauma Centers in the state. The hospital has one of largest pediatric intensive care units and pediatric rehabilitation units in Northern California. It is also a leading teaching hospital with an outstanding pediatric residency program and a number of unique pediatric subspecialty fellowship programs. UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland's research arm, Children's Hospital Oakland Research Institute (CHORI), is internationally known for its basic and clinical research. CHORI is at the forefront of translating research into interventions for treating and preventing human diseases.

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About SCDAA

The vision for a national coordinated approach to addressing issues related to sickle cell disease was unveiled in 1971 when representatives of 15 community sickle cell organizations met at "Wingspread," a Racine, Wisconsin conference center, as guest of the Johnson Foundation. Out of that meeting, the National Association for Sickle Cell Disease was created. The name was changed to Sickle Cell Disease Association of America, Inc. in 1994. Our mission, however, remains the same: "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."

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