2022 Ambassador Policy Forum
Event Recap

Sick Cells hosted our **2022 Sick Cells Ambassador Policy Forum** on **March 22nd – 23rd, 2022.**

- **Day One (March 22nd)** hosted the **Advocacy Training Day**. This virtual event offered advocacy workshops and training to equip advocates with tools for state and federal policy efforts.
- **Day Two (March 23rd)** hosted the **Virtual Hill Day**. Ambassadors met with federal legislators and educated them about sickle cell disease issues and policy recommendations.

Key Achievements:

- **53 Ambassadors participated** in the Virtual Hill Day. This was a 120% growth from the previous year's event.
    - **26 advocates** indicated this was the first-time meeting with legislators.
    - Sick Cells offered support through a new mentorship program.
- Sick Cells and Ambassadors hosted **72 meetings with legislative offices** with 20 states represented.
- The Sickle Cell Disease Comprehensive Care Act **added co-signatures from four legislators** (Sen. Van Hollen (MD), Sen. Klobuchar (MN), Representative Titus (D, NV-1), and Representative Cleaver (D, MO-3)).
- Several follow-up **requests for appropriations** were submitted for critical SCD programs.

If interested in getting involved in advocacy with Sick Cells, please sign up for the Sick Cells Ambassador Program.

Sick Cells' shares Monthly Policy Memos to keep you up to date with our policy priorities and activities.

Recap of Advocacy Training Day (March 22nd, 2022):

The Sick Cells' Policy Forum kicked off with a virtual advocacy workshop. **77 participants** joined on Zoom for the following sessions:

- The **Keynote Address** was given by Adam Taliaferro from Bristol Myers Squibb *(Gold-Level Event Sponsor*) who boosted motivation and shared tips on how to engage with policymakers from his expertise as a former legislator.
- A **State-Level Advocacy Session** highlighted strategies to build state-level coalitions, partnerships, and grassroots advocacy movements. Presentations and discussions were provide from:
    - Dr. Titilope Fasipe, Co-Director of the Texas Children's Sickle Cell and Thalassemia Program and Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, TX
    - Levell Strong, Campaign Director at People's Action and Community Organizer and Activist
    - Tracy Meeks Senior Director of Patient Advocacy, Vertex Pharmaceuticals (*Gold-Level Event Sponsor*)
- A **Stretch Break** hosted by Jon Nelson who is a fitness enthusiast and married father of two children with sickle cell disease.
- Sick Cells in partnership with Sickle Cell Disease Association of America, Inc. (SCDAA) released this year's federal advocacy priorities for the SCD community during the **Federal Advocacy Session**.
- The final session hosted **Hill Day Prep and Mock Meeting Breakout Rooms** for Ambassadors to practice and prepare for advocates who were participating in the next day's event.
- Access the full 2022 event brochure here.

Recap of Sick Cells Virtual Hill Day (March 23rd, 2022):

On Day Two, Ambassadors took to Capitol Hill to bring public awareness to the unique needs of the SCD community and advocate for opportunities to improve life for individuals with SCD. The following legislative requests were included in their meetings:

- Co-sponsor H.R.6216/S.3389, the Sickle Cell Disease Comprehensive Care Act (H.R. 6216)
- Support $25M in Fiscal Year 2023 appropriations for the CDC Sickle Cell Disease Data Collection Program (Public Law 115-327)
- Support $15M in Fiscal Year 2023 appropriations for the HRSA Sickle Cell Disease Treatment Demonstration Program (Public Law 115-327)

View the **Sickle Cell Legislative One-Pager: FY 2023** here.

Thank You to Our Sponsors:

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