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## 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 and licensed 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.

The Dr. Cecil L. Parker, Jr., Sickle Cell Disease Distinguished Lectureship was presented by Dr. Robert "Bob" Adams from the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston. He lectured on how the early identification of children at risk for stroke using the transcranial doppler and implementation of chronic red blood cell transfusions have resulted in a falling rate of childhood stroke in SCD. The 2012 conference featured a second guest lecturer, Dr. Alan Sanders, Director of Ethics at Catholic Health East in Newton Square, Pennsylvania who spoke on "Ethics in pain management, fears, realities and needs." The conference also featured University of South Alabama faculty. Dr. Thomas Butler, Associate Professor, Mitchell Cancer Institute, lectured on "Platelet disorders in sickle cell disease." Dr. Johnson Haynes, Jr., Director, USA Sickle Cell Center, discussed the potential challenges of sickle cell disease in air travel. Dr. Susan Baker, Associate Professor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology,

addressed issues in pregnancy unique to SCD. Dr. Felicia Wilson, Professor of Pediatrics, discussed newborn screening in sickle cell disease. Dr. Juvonda Hodge, Assistant Professor, Department of Surgery, discussed the clinical indications and special considerations involved in performing cholecystectomy in the sickle cell disease client. Dr. Anthony Martino, Professor and Chair, Department of Neurosurgery, lectured on the pros and cons of encephaloduroarteriosynangiosis (EDAS) in managing moya moya in sickle cell disease. Dr. Elise Labbe-Coldsmith, Professor, Department of Psychology, discussed psychosocial issues commonly seen in individuals affected by sickle cell disease. This year's conference included interesting cases that were presented for discussion by Dr. Zakiya Douglas, Fellow, Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine; Dr. Sheryl Falkos, Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Dr. Michelle Grier-Hall, Pediatric Medicine, private practice.

Many thanks for the financial support from the USA Medical Center Auxiliary and Center for Healthy Communities. Their support has been vital in keeping the cost of meeting registration affordable and has enabled the Sickle Cell Center to provide affordable continuing education for healthcare providers in the communities we serve.

The next annual conference will be held in the spring of 2014. Congratulations to Mable Barron, LPN, winner of the early bird registration drawing for complimentary admission to the 2014 Annual Regional Sickle Cell Conference. For additional conference information and your chance to win complimentary admission for the 2015 conference, call (251) 470-5893.

## Annual Blood Drive Makes Goal: Youth on the Move and Making Strides in 2012

Ardie Pack-Mabien, CRNP

The USA Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center staff, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc, Franklin Primary Health Center, and the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America, Mobile Chapter 2012 Blood Drive was a great success. This partnership began in 2005 and is conducted during the month of September in recognition of National Sickle Cell Awareness Month. The 2012 blood drive was held on Saturday, September 22, 2012 at the Franklin Memorial Complex Mall located at 1303 Martin Luther King Avenue, Mobile, Alabama.

Many lives in the community have been affected by the local blood drive and each year it has grown in participant numbers and success. There was an enormous amount of support from the youth of this community at the 2012 blood drive. Youth supporting the blood drive included University of South Alabama medical and physician assistant students, the Alpha Elites, and local area, middle, high school, and college students. Community youth volunteer efforts included registering donors, serving refreshments, prize distribution, and blood donation. Blood drive sponsors were extremely proud of the efforts put forth by our youth as they make strides toward a more

positive future. While the goal of this year's blood drive was to collect 44 units of blood, the goal was exceeded with 49 units collected. Sixty-four people presented as possible blood donors; eleven more than the previous year and seventeen were first time donors. Forty-one participants were able to donate. Four donors gave what was equivalent to two units using the ALYX procedure. Each unit of blood obtained was separated into red cells and plasma potentially effecting the lives of 141 individuals.

For the third consecutive year, the Pacesetter Motorcycle Club set the standard of community involvement with the highest group participation

for blood donors; "Job Well Done" goes out to each and every volunteer at the 2012 blood drive. Thank you for your dedication and continued support and for giving the "Gift of Life" through blood donation. The life you save may be yours, your family, or friends. We hope to see you and your organization at the 2013 blood drive.

The 2013 Blood Drive is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, September 21, 2013 at Franklin Primary Health Center located at 1303 MLK Drive, Mobile, Alabama.

L to R: Shernell Mabien, Austin McGrew-Haynes, and Brittany Brown, RN

