



Scleroderma Society of Ontario  
136 Kenilworth Avenue North, Hamilton, Ontario, L8H 4R8  
Toll Free: 1-888-776-7776  
[www.sclerodermaontario.ca](http://www.sclerodermaontario.ca)

### **The Genome-Wide Association Scan Study in Systemic Sclerosis**

The Principal Investigator, Dr. Maureen Mayes, is leading the Genome-Wide Association Scan (GWAS) study in Systemic Sclerosis from the University of Texas-Houston Health Science Center in Houston, Texas. The study, which is funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), will try “to identify genes that influence susceptibility to systemic sclerosis (SSc) as a single disease entity, and to identify those genes that are associated with specific autoantibody subsets, which are correlated with disease expression.” Members of the Canadian Scleroderma Research Group Registry (CSRGR), who express interest in participating in this study, will be invited to donate blood samples. This will be used: (1) to create a bank of DNA, RNA, serum and plasma samples from scleroderma patients for future studies in scleroderma and (2) in tests for autoantibodies, as well as a Genome Wide Association Scan to help determine if there is a genetic link to scleroderma and if so, which genes are involved.