



Group on Women in Medicine and Science *Virtual Seminar*

February 15, 2022 • 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

WebEx Link: <https://uchc.webex.com/uchc/j.php?MTID=m6d0426dc0f9bfc01bd7784089ddadc72>

Co-Moderators:

Marja Hurley, M.D., Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor, Professor of Medicine and Orthopedics Institutional Designee, AAMC, Group on Women in Medicine and Science, UConn Health

Pamela Taxel, M.D., Professor of Medicine, Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism, UConn Health



Guest Speaker

Biree Andemariam, M.D.

Professor, Department of Medicine, UConn Health

“Sickle Cell Disease: Healing Old Wounds with New Hope”

Biree Andemariam, M.D. is Professor of Medicine at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine. She earned her undergraduate degree in molecular biology and African studies from Princeton University and her medical degree from Tufts University School of Medicine, graduating with research honors. She completed her medical training in internal medicine, hematology, and oncology at New York Presbyterian Hospital–Cornell University. She is a physician scientist at the University of Connecticut in the Division of Hematology/Oncology, Founding Director of the New England Sickle Cell Institute (NESCI), and Director of the Connecticut Bleeding Disorders Center. Dr. Andemariam joined UConn in 2007 as a physician-investigator and established the region’s only adult sickle cell disease (SCD) program. NESCI’s mission is to provide a medical home for adults with SCD as well as a transition destination for children with SCD. In addition to treating over 300 adults with SCD, the center is also home to numerous clinical and translational research studies. Dr. Andemariam’s research focuses in two areas: defining intracellular signaling pathways between red cell adhesion to endothelial proteins in the genesis of sickle vaso-occlusion and developing / implementing care pathways that lead to improved patient outcomes and health resource utilization. She has extensive global research collaborations as well as clinical and advocacy networks.

Dr. Andemariam is lead principal investigator of 3 national/global early and later phase clinical trials. She is a highly sought-after clinical and scientific advisory board member for both large and small biopharmaceutical companies and has extensive experience in clinical trial design, defining of primary and secondary endpoints, data analysis, patient / community engagement, and post-marketing awareness and educational strategies. Dr. Andemariam is an investigator on several extramurally funded grants that include the American Society of Hematology Research Collaborative, the Health Resources and Services Administration, the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute, and the Connecticut Department of Public Health. In the midst of the COVID-19 global crisis, she mobilized and chaired an international committee of experts in the development and timely worldwide dissemination of guidelines on managing patients with SCD during the pandemic. Dr. Andemariam is the immediate-past Chief Medical Officer of the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America, Inc. and serves now as the Vice Chair of the Board of Directors. During her tenure at the SCDA, she has been awarded the Chairman’s Award twice (2019, 2020) for her outstanding and dedicated board service largely centered around national programmatic development, disease education/awareness, legislative advocacy, corporate fundraising, and media engagement.

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