ABOUT DR. GIROIR

Brett Giroir, M.D. is a physician-scientist and innovator whose career has been dedicated to improving public health and medicine. He is a pediatric critical care specialist by training and a physician-scientist who has served in a number of leadership positions in the federal government, as well as in academia. Formerly, Dr. Giroir served as the 16th Assistant Secretary for Health in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and as an admiral in the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps. In that role, he led the development of HHS-wide public health policy recommendations and oversaw several of the Department's core public health offices, including the Office of the Surgeon General. His office led many critical national initiatives, including a historic new plan to end the HIV Epidemic in America, the Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans, the revised Common Rule, and a cross-agency effort to improve outcomes for patients living with Sickle Cell Disease. Dr. Giroir also served as Senior Adviser to the Secretary for Opioid Policy, responsible for coordinating HHS's efforts across the Administration to fight America's opioid crisis. He also served as Acting FDA Commissioner.

Dr. Giroir has authored or co-authored more than 100 scientific publications, editorials, and book chapters. He is the recipient of numerous honors and awards, including the U.S. Secretary of Defense Medal for Outstanding Public Service, the American Heart Association's President Lyndon Baines Johnson Research Award, and the American Society of Nephrology's President's Medal. He received a bachelor's degree in biology magna cum laude from Harvard University and a medical degree from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center.

DR. GIROIR'S SICKLE CELL DISEASE WORK

Dr. Giroir has a strong record as an advocate for better access to care and treatment for Sickle Cell Disease patients. He did his medical training in Dallas, Texas, where there was a large population of people with Sickle Cell Disease. At the time, there was no universal screening for Sickle Cell Disease, and he diagnosed many cases of Sickle Cell Disease in children that had not been diagnosed at birth. Sickle Cell Disease caused many children to suffer, so he became personally involved as he and his wife mentored children with Sickle Cell Disease.

During his time at HHS, Dr. Giroir advocated for a unified approach across government agencies to providing high-quality, comprehensive care for Sickle Cell Disease patients. Dr. Giroir's work and advocacy in the Administration helped spur government action, including in 2020, the National Institutes of Health provided $20 million in funding for the Cure Sickle Disease Initiative. Since his departure from the Administration, Dr. Giroir continues to advocate for Sickle Cell Disease patients in his role within the Sickle Cell Disease Partnership.

DR. GIROIR INTERVIEWS ON SICKLE CELL DISEASE

As a leader and expert in the Sickle Cell Disease space, Dr. Giroir has shared his perspective in several articles, podcasts, and interviews. He has discussed his work on Sickle Cell Disease and provided his recommendations on Congressional and Administrative action to ensure Sickle Cell Disease patients receive the comprehensive, high-quality, equitable care they need to live a normal life. What follows is a selection of some of the interviews and articles in recent years in which Dr. Giroir has shared his perspective.

BRINGING AWARENESS TO SICKLE CELL DISEASE

In March 2022, Dr. Giroir joined Congressman Michael C. Burgess, M.D in a podcast to discuss and raise awareness about Sickle Cell Disease. To listen to the podcast, click here.

SICKLE CELL DISEASE: ADM GIROIR AND SURGEON GENERAL INTERVIEW

In 2018, Dr. Giroir and the then Surgeon General, Jerome Adams, sat down to discuss Sickle Cell Disease and the Administration's efforts to help patients, and the quest to bring the disease to an end. To watch the full interview, click here.

CLEARING THE PATHWAY TO A CURE: INTERVIEW WITH ADM. BRETT GIROIR

In an *HCPLive* interview, Dr. Brett Giroir spoke about his personal experiences caring for children with Sickle Cell Disease and top-down efforts to address healthcare disparities in affected communities. To watch the full interview, click here.

ADM BRETT GIROIR, MD: THE MOMENTUM OF SICKLE CELL CARE

In an *HCPLive* interview, Dr. Brett Giroir spoke about his personal experiences caring for sickle cell children and top-down efforts to address healthcare disparities in affected communities.
To watch the full interview, click here.

DR. GIROIR'S SICKLE CELL DISEASE PUBLICATIONS

What follows is a selection of some of Dr. Giroir's recent publications on Sickle Cell Disease.

IGNORED NO MORE: REIMAGINING PRIMARY HEALTH CARE TO COMBAT SICKLE CELL DISEASE IN AFRICA

Published on **Investing in Health**

Ignored no more: Reimagining primary health care to combat sickle cell disease in Africa

MUHAMMAD ALI PATE & ADM BRETT P. GIROIR, M.D. | SEPTEMBER 23, 2019

This page in: English

A genetic mutation that is believed to have occurred 7,300 years ago continues to kill thousands of persons every year in Africa. Researchers studying historical records and analysis of the genomes of close to 3,000 people with some genetic history of Sickle Cell Disease, or SCD, believe that it originated over 250 generations ago in the Green Sahara, somewhere in West-Central Africa.

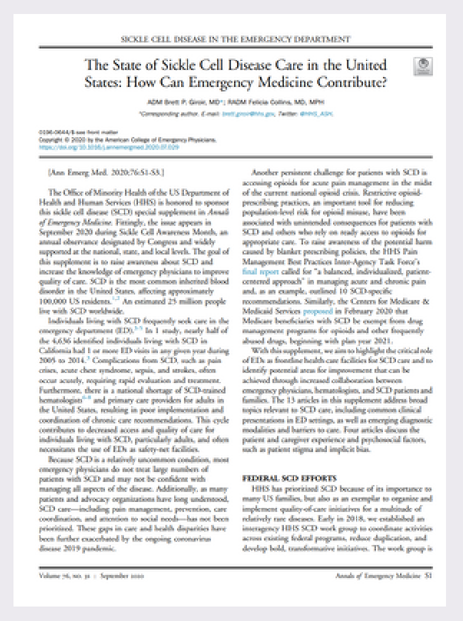
Sickle Cell Disease is a group of inherited red blood cell disorders, caused by a single gene mutation, resulting in red blood cells that become hard and sticky and look like a "sickle". The sickle cells die early, which causes a constant shortage of red blood cells, or anemia. The sickle cells get stuck in small blood vessels and impede blood flow, causing severe pain, chronic inflammation, and organ damage. Nearly every organ in the body can be adversely affected by SCD, which ultimately results in multiple organ failure and premature death, occurring mostly in children under five years, adolescents and pregnant women.

A hundred and twenty million people worldwide are estimated to have SCD, of which two-thirds live in Africa. Between 300,000 and 400,000 babies are born with SCD every year in Africa, more than half of which die very young. In countries such as Cameroon, Republic of Congo, Gabon, Ghana and Nigeria the prevalence of SCD is between 20% to 30% while in some parts of Uganda it is as high as 45%. Despite being the most prevalent genetic disease in Africa, SCD, along with its serious health and socioeconomic impacts, is a largely neglected "orphan" disease in global health. Beyond its impact on health, SCD poses significant economic and social costs for those affected and their families.

In September 2019, Dr. Giroir and Muhammad Ali Pate, the Global Director, Health, Nutrition and Population (HNP) Global Practice of the World Bank, published a piece on the origin of Sickle Cell Disease, its prevalence in African Countries, and the need for universal diagnosis, genetic counseling, strengthened primary health systems and access to treatments for Sickle Cell Disease patients in African countries.

To read the full publication, click here.

THE STATE OF SICKLE CELL DISEASE CARE IN THE UNITED STATES: HOW CAN EMERGENCY MEDICINE CONTRIBUTE?



SICKLE CELL DISEASE IN THE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

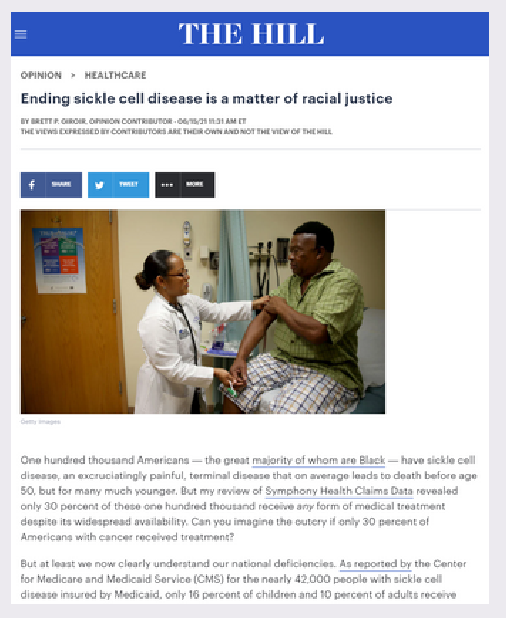
The State of Sickle Cell Disease Care in the United States: How Can Emergency Medicine Contribute?

[Ann Emerg Med. 2020;76:S1-S3.]

In September 2020, Dr. Giroir and Dr. Felicia Collins, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Minority Health at HHS, published an article in the *Annals of Emergency Medicine* to raise awareness about Sickle Cell Disease and increase the knowledge of emergency physicians, who often care for individuals with Sickle Cell Disease, to improve the quality of care they receive. In the article, Dr. Giroir and Dr. Collins also call for increased communication, collaboration, and coordination of care among physicians caring for individuals with Sickle Cell Disease.

To read the full publication, click here.

ENDING SICKLE CELL DISEASE IS A MATTER OF RACIAL JUSTICE



Ending sickle cell disease is a matter of racial justice

BY BRETT P. GIROIR, OPINION CONTRIBUTOR - 06/15/21 11:31 AM ET
THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY CONTRIBUTORS ARE THEIR OWN AND NOT THE VIEW OF THE HILL

Getty Images

One hundred thousand Americans — the great majority of whom are Black — have sickle cell disease, an excruciatingly painful, terminal disease that on average leads to death before age 50, but for many much younger. But my review of Symphony Health Claims Data revealed only 30 percent of these one hundred thousand receive *any* form of medical treatment despite its widespread availability. Can you imagine the outcry if only 30 percent of Americans with cancer received treatment?

But at least we now clearly understand our national deficiencies. As reported by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Service (CMS) for the nearly 42,000 people with sickle cell disease insured by Medicaid, only 16 percent of children and 10 percent of adults receive

In June 2021, Dr. Giroir published an opinion piece in *The Hill*. In the article, Dr. Giroir describes his time at HHS and his and his team's accomplishments on Sickle Cell Disease, including the creation of an interagency task force and improved data collection at the Centers for Disease Control Prevention and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Dr. Giroir also calls on the Biden Administration and Congress to continue this progress and take further action to prioritize assistance to those with Sickle Cell Disease.

To read the full publication, click here.