



# Methodist Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center 2024 Impact Report



**Methodist**  
Healthcare  
Foundation

# **YOUR IMPACT IN NUMBERS**

**313**  
active patients

**18**  
new patients  
transitioned from  
St. Jude Children's  
Research Hospital

**2,936**  
patient visits

**108**  
infusions

**10**  
community outreach  
events

**4**  
recent, current or  
pending research  
studies





# METHODIST COMPREHENSIVE SICKLE CELL CENTER

## WHO WE ARE

The Methodist Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center is a preventive outpatient clinic and dedicated emergency infusion unit specifically for sickle cell patients.

We offer lifetime care for adults 18 and older with sickle cell disease, including an on-call physician to answer questions after hours and on weekends, comprehensive preventative care, individualized treatment plans and access to emergency infusion care services for crisis management.

Beyond medical treatment of sickle cell disease, the center is committed to community outreach and education, hosting educational events, health fairs and blood drives throughout the year. We also provide other support to our patients, including transportation assistance, nutrition resources for food insecure patients and behavioral health support.

Memphis has one of the largest populations of adult sickle cell disease patients in the country. Daily life for our patients is often interrupted by pain that can last weeks, threatening their family life, career, education and social life.

We are dedicated to delivering innovative, comprehensive care and developing new treatments through cutting edge, on-site research, helping improve the health and quality of life for sickle cell disease patients across the Mid-South.



**Methodist**<sup>SM</sup>  
Healthcare

**Comprehensive  
Sickle Cell Center**







# YOUR SUPPORT PROVIDES EXPERT CARE

The Methodist Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center's dedicated, multi-disciplinary team provides expert, whole-person care.

## Our Team

**KENNETH ATAGA, MD**

*Methodist Endowed Chair for  
Sickle Cell Anemia*

**MARQUITA NELSON, MD, MS**

*Belz Medical Director*

**CURTIS OWENS, MD**

*Hematologist*

**RUSSELL COLEMAN, PharmD**

*Clinical Investigational  
Pharmacist*

**RANDOLPH POTTS, PhD**

*Psychologist*

**SHEILA ANDERSON, RN**

*Nurse Manager*

**RANA COOPER, MSN, FNP-C**

*Nurse Practitioner*

**JACQUELINE HARRIS**

*Community Health Educator*

**CHEYENNE HENSEY,**

**LMSW, MPH**

*Lead Social Worker*

**JESSICA SHAW, RN**

*Registered Nurse*

**PHYLLIS WESTON, RN**

*Lead Registered Nurse*

**TREKIMA WILKES, MSN, RN**

*Director of  
Practice Operations*

# YOUR SUPPORT DRIVES INNOVATION

We are bringing hope to our patients through new drug therapies, clinical trials and research studies on the long-term health impacts of sickle cell disease.

In collaboration with St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, the Methodist Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center is on the cutting edge of research in the application of bone marrow transplantation and gene therapy to provide an eventual cure.

Recent, current and pending studies led by Kenneth Ataga, MD, Methodist Endowed Chair for Sickle Cell Anemia, include:

**SCREEN:** Seeks to develop and validate a novel equation to estimate kidney function in sickle cell patients, with higher precision and accuracy than current equations, to estimate kidney function in non-sickle cell patients. Currently active and enrolling.

**HIBISCUS:** Seeks to evaluate the efficacy of the etavopivat treatment on hemoglobin response rate and the rate of vaso-occlusive crisis in sickle cell patients. Currently active and enrolling.

**STAND:** Phase III clinical study of the crizanlizumab treatment for sickle cell disease patients with a history of vaso-occlusive crisis. Concluded in late 2024.

**HIBISCUS2:** An extension of HIBISCUS that began enrolling in late 2024.







# VITALANT: A VALUED PARTNER IN SICKLE CELL TREATMENT

Vitalant is the nation's largest independent, nonprofit blood services provider and an appreciated collaborator with the Methodist Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center.

Blood transfusions are an essential part of the treatment of sickle cell disease, helping prevent and manage long-term complications and providing life-saving interventions for stroke, vaso-occlusion and pain episodes.

With multiple donation centers in Memphis and the Mid-South, Vitalant provides essential services, as well as advocacy, across the community. David Williams, Regional Director of Vitalant, commented, "Vitalant is committed to providing life-

saving blood to the Methodist Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center, so they in turn can save the lives of individuals with sickle cell disease."

As a powerful reflection of its commitment to advocacy, Vitalant organized an awareness campaign in September 2024, alongside partners in the Greater Memphis Sickle Cell Partnership. This alliance of nearly 20 organizations has helped host blood drives and lunch and learns and promoted National Sickle Cell Awareness Month activities and events.

"It is critical that more volunteers, particularly volunteers of color, roll up their sleeves and donate



blood through Vitalant. Blood donation is a life-saving opportunity that takes only an hour. Imagine an hour of your day, a pint of your blood, saving up to three lives," Williams said.

We are grateful to Vitalant for its partnership as a blood supplier, community advocate and sponsor of the Methodist Healthcare Foundation's Sips for Sickle Cell event.



# SIPS FOR SICKLE CELL

The third annual Sips for Sickle Cell event, hosted by Carmeon Hamilton, was held at the Dixon Gallery & Gardens on September 19, 2024.

More than 175 guests came out for a lively evening featuring great food and drinks, a signature cocktail-making demonstration by our celebrity host, exciting tasting stations and music from a string quartet.

The event raised more than \$75,000, which helps provide access to underserved patients and behavioral health and social support.

Special thanks to presenting sponsors Vitalant, Mike and Mary Conley and Orion Federal Credit Union.



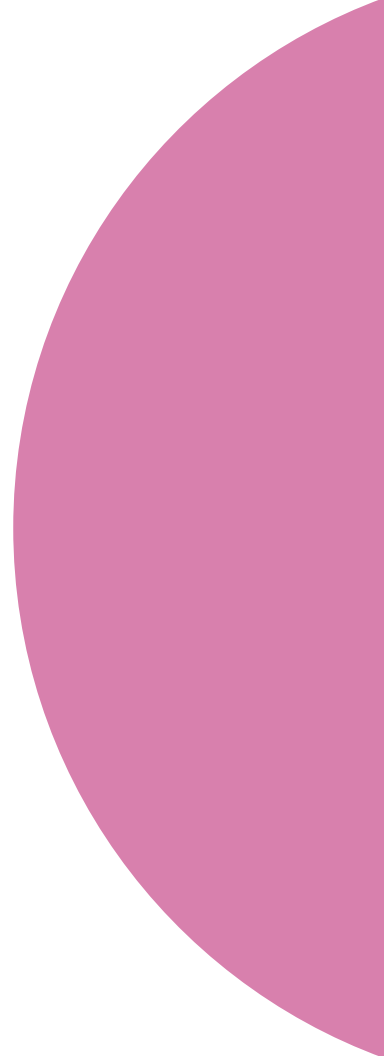


**ZACH PRETZER**

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METHODIST HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION

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YOUR GENEROSITY  
IS MAKING A DIFFERENCE.  
**THANK YOU.**

