



## Welcome to the Official site of the APS Foundation of America, Inc!

**F**ounded in 2005, The APS Foundation of America, Inc. (APSFA) is the leading United States nonprofit health agency dedicated to bringing national awareness to Antiphospholipid Antibody Syndrome (APS), the major cause of multiple miscarriages, thrombosis, young strokes and heart attacks. We are a volunteer run, community based 501(c)3 non-profit Public Charity organization and is dedicated to fostering and facilitating joint efforts in the areas of education, support, public awareness, research and patient services.

### Antiphospholipid Antibody Syndrome

**What is Antiphospholipid Antibody Syndrome (APS)?** APS is associated with recurrent clotting events (thrombosis) including premature stroke, repeated miscarriages, phlebitis, venous thrombosis (clot in the vein) and pulmonary thromboembolism (blockage of an artery found in the lung due to a clot that has traveled from a vein). It is also associated with low platelet or blood elements that prevent bleeding. Recently, however, even more disease states have been linked with APL including premature heart attack, migraine headaches, various cardiac valvular abnormalities, skin lesions, abnormal movement/chorea, diseases that mimic multiple sclerosis, vascular diseases of the eye that can lead to visual loss and blindness.

APS is an autoimmune disorder in which the body recognizes certain normal components of blood and/or cell membranes as foreign substances and produces antibodies against them. There are two known forms of APS. APS may occur in people with systemic lupus erythematosus, other autoimmune disease, or in otherwise healthy individuals. Sadly, when most people hear about APS and it being referred to as autoimmune disease, they incorrectly confuse the terms autoimmune with acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS); or they think this is a form of cancer.

Lack of knowledge and awareness results in needless suffering for persons with APS. Misdiagnosis and / or delayed diagnosis usually result in damage to vital organs. The APS Foundation of America, Inc's vision is to bring national attention to APS as a common factor in multiple miscarriages, thrombosis, young strokes and heart attacks is vital in order to bring a joint effort to research, funding, early detection, and eventually, prevention and cure for APS.

APS is also referred to as APLS or APLA in the United States and Hughes Syndrome or Sticky Blood in the UK.

### The APSFA 2010 Holiday Giving Tree

It's already that time of year again! The APSFA has launched our 5th annual Holiday Giving Tree! This is our main holiday fundraiser and each one of your generous donations helps us to decorate a beautiful Christmas Tree! This tree holds a special meaning for the the APS Foundation of America, Inc. and the community it serves. Please consider the APSFA this year when making your holiday donations. All donations made towards the Giving Tree are tax deductible.



[Please click here for the APSFA 2010 Holiday Giving Tree](#)

### The Faces of APS

# VIEWED 03-11-2011

Women are more likely than men to be affected by APS. Some estimates say that 75% to 90% of those affected are women. For example, it has been estimated by some doctors that one third of all of young strokes (defined as under the age of 50) are due to APS.

In obstetrics it is estimated by some doctors that up to 25% of all women with 2 or more spontaneous miscarriages have APS. Some doctors believe that 1 in 5 of all Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT), Pulmonary Embolism (PE), and even worse, amputations are due to APS. And it is believed that 40-50% of patients with Lupus also have APS. Still, with these statistics, APS rarely is discussed as a women's health issue and is misdiagnosed often. Therefore the total number of people affected and true statistics are unknown really.

#### Have You...

- **Downloaded** the latest volume of "Antiphospho...What?!"
- Checked out our **links page**?
- Joined our **online support forum**?
- Shopped in our **Cafepress\*** and **Zazzle\*** stores for APS, Lupus, Infant Loss (& many more!) awareness items?
- Sent a family member or loved one flowers through our **FlowerPetal\*** shop?
- Watched the videos on our **YouTube page**?
- Joined our **mailing list** to receive our newsletters and updates?
- Read **how you can help** the APSFA?
- Joined us on **Facebook** or **Twitter**?
- **Submitted** your patient story for our quarterly newsletter?
- Seen our segment on "Mystery Diagnosis" called "Falling Through the Cracks"? You can **buy it now** on iTunes!

\*APSFA ADVERTISEMENTS

**Donate**

Google™ Custom Search

Connect with us:

[SHARE](#)

Home

Site Map

What's New

Current Fundraisers

Our Mission

APSFA in the Media

APSFA Photo Album

Donate

How You Can Help

Shopping for APSFA

Testimonials

New to APS?

Related Links

Find a Doctor

Online Support

Downloads

Newsletters

APS FAQ

Glossary

APS

Catastrophic APS (CAPS)

APS & Pregnancy

Lupus Anticoagulant

DVT

Stroke

Transient Ischemic Attack (TIA)

Pulmonary Embolism (PE)

Anticoagulation

Lupus

Vertigo

Migraines

Heart Attack

Raynaud's Phenomenon

Sjogren's Syndrome

Scleroderma

GI Bleed

Multiple Sclerosis

Related Publications

Events

Research

Medical Advisory Team

Founders of the APSFA

Fundraisers

Donor Page

Sponsors

Link to Us

Contact Us

**Please Vote!**

How is your INR checked?

Vein Draw

Finger Stick

Neither

View Stats



Enter your name and email below to join our mailing list.

First & Last Name:

E-mail Address:

Your name and email address will be kept private.

ADVERTISEMENTS



We comply with the HONcode standard for trustworthy health information: verify here.



147724

Unique visitors since June, 2005

Page last update: 11/21/10



The APS Foundation of America, Inc. website and forums are both volunteer run and funded by donations to the APSFA.

Website hosted by Dreamhost. Website created and maintained by Heidi P.

DISCLAIMER: APS Foundation of America, Inc. website is not intended to replace standard doctor-patient visits, physical examination, and medical testing. Information given to members is only an opinion. All information should be confirmed with your personal doctor. Always seek the advice of a trained physician in person before seeking any new treatment regarding your medical diagnosis or condition. Any information received from APS Foundation of America, Inc. website is not intended to diagnose, treat, or cure. This site is for informational purposes only. Please note that we will be listing all donor or purchaser's names on the Donor page of our foundation site. If you do not want your name listed, please contact us to opt out. If you think you may have a medical emergency, call your doctor or 911 immediately.

APS Foundation of America, Inc. will be building a database with your email, name and address information for future mailings. Your information will be kept confidential and not sold to any third parties. You may opt out at anytime by emailing us.

APSFA ©2005-2010 | APSFA Privacy Policy | APSFA Advertising Policy | 501(c)3 Public Charity EIN #203085295

VIEWED 03-11-2011