



# APS Foundation of America, Inc.

Post Office Box 801

La Crosse, Wisconsin 54602-0801

Office: 608-782-2626 Fax: 608-782-6569

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Contact:** Christina "Tina" Pohlman

**Phone:** 608-782-2626

**Website Address:** [www.apsfa.org](http://www.apsfa.org)

**Email Address:** [apsfa@apsfa.org](mailto:apsfa@apsfa.org)

### The APS Foundation of America, Inc Announces World APS Day, June 9th

The Antiphospholipid Antibody Syndrome Foundation of America, Inc. (APSFA) urges the public, as well as the medical community, to learn more about this rare disease. APS Awareness Month runs throughout June.

The APSFA is also proud to announce that June 9 is World APS Day. The APSFA would like to bring more attention & awareness to this "rare" autoimmune disease.

APS is an autoimmune disorder. Such illnesses occur when the body's tissues are attacked by its own substances. In APS, the body recognizes certain components of blood or cell membranes as foreign substances and produces antibodies--a specialized protein the body uses to prevent infection--against them. It is the major cause of strokes in persons under 40 years old, blood clots (thrombosis) – which can lead to heart attack or stroke – vision disturbances and repeated, otherwise unexplainable miscarriages.

APS can be diagnosed with a simple blood test. It frequently is found in conjunction with lupus, another autoimmune disorder that primarily targets women.

Please join us in blogging about your experience living with Antiphospholipid Antibody Syndrome (APS) - whether you are the patient, caretaker, friend, or loved one of an APS patient. Together, we can bring awareness to this disease. We are also requesting everyone to wear burgundy on June 9th!! Please go to <http://www.apsfa.org/worldapsday.htm> for more information.

Knowing more about APS can make all the difference. Help us color the world burgundy on June 9<sup>th</sup>, get in the know and Get in the Flow!

Founded in 2005, the APSFA is the leading United States health agency dedicated specifically to bringing national awareness to APS. We are a volunteer-run, community-based, non-profit organization.

**For more information Contact:** Christina "Tina" Pohlman at **Phone:** 608-782-2626 **Website Address:** [www.apsfa.org](http://www.apsfa.org). **Email Address:** [apsfa@apsfa.org](mailto:apsfa@apsfa.org)

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#### NOTES TO EDITORS

- The key blood tests are Anticardiolipin (aCL) antibodies (IgG, IgM, and IgA), Lupus anticoagulant (LAC) – a panel of blood clotting tests that may include the dilute Russel Viper venom time (dRVVT), lupus aPTT, mixing studies, and hex phase phospholipid test, platelet neutralization procedure and Antibodies to b2-glycoprotein I (IgG, IgM, IgA).

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[apsfa@apsfa.org](mailto:apsfa@apsfa.org)

- The conservative estimate of people at risk from Antiphospholipid Antibody Syndrome (APS) is 1% - 5% of the population.
- In pregnancy clotting of the placenta can cause miscarriage or stillbirth. Typically, women are not tested for APS until after three consecutive miscarriages.
- The recognition and treatment of APS improves the chances of preventing miscarriage from below 20% to above 80%.
- Some cases are misdiagnosed as multiple sclerosis. Some APS patients also have Lupus.
- Founded in 2005, the APS Foundation of America, Inc. 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. Our URL is <http://www.apsfa.org>
- All figures, unless otherwise stated, are from <http://www.apsfa.org>.