**Nicholas’ Story**

Kimberly Cortes1, Shuchismita Dutta2\*, Henry Jakubowski3, Melanie Lenahan4, David Marcey5, Patricia Marsteller6, Cassidy R. Terrell7

1 Kennesaw State University, GA; 2 Rutgers University, NJ; 3 College of Saint Benedict, St John’s University, MN; 4 Raritan Valley Community College, NJ; 5 California Lutheran University, CA; 6 Emory College of Arts and Sciences, GA; 7 University of Minnesota, Rochester, MN

\*contact author: sdutta@rcsb.rutgers.edu

**Preparation:**

Prior to the case discussion in class (as a homework assignment), get acquainted to the case.

* Watch the video titled “Managing Sickle Cell Disease as a Teenager”

 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iKQmQHh4E2w>.

* Review the materials presented in Part 0 and answer the questions.

**Part 0: Understanding Sickle Cell Disease (SCD)**

*Box 1: Storyline*

The video that you watched described Nicholas’ experiences living with sickle cell disease (SCD). Before we explore any specific questions about Nicholas’ experiences, it may be helpful to understand what SCD is, how it is caused, and its key molecular players.

a. Read the Fact Sheet document at <https://ghr.nlm.nih.gov/condition/sickle-cell-disease#genes> or the pdf version attached to the website.

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Answer the following questions in a few sentences each:

Q1. What causes sickle cell disease?

Q2. What is hemoglobin? Where is it present in our body? Why is it so important for us?

Q3. What is the overall composition of hemoglobin?

Q4. How does the sickle cell mutation in hemoglobin (HbS) cause red blood cells to sickle?

Q5. What are some current medications/strategies for treating sickle cell disease?