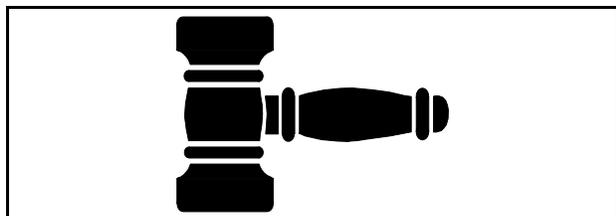

SCT Newsletter

Volume 12, Number 1

April 2002



SCT President's Corner

by Janet Wittes

Winter forgot to come to Washington and Northern Virginia this year, so I do not know what horticultural treats to promise you when you join us at the SCT Annual Meeting. Ordinarily, I would entice you with visions of glorious azaleas that make our May spectacular, but this year the forsythias bloomed in February and the flowering trees are already awash in color. So I cannot predict the flowers of May. What I can promise you, however, is a varied, challenging, and provocative program at our annual meeting.

We all have been struggling this year with the increased attention to protection from research risks. Some of the new oversight will improve the conduct of clinical trials; some aspects of the new regulations, however, will be unnecessarily cumbersome. This year our program focusses on approaches to encourage the participation of populations heretofore underserved by clinical trials. This issue and the topic of research risks have obvious connections to each other. We are particularly fortunate, therefore, that Dr. David Strauss Chair of the Institutional Review Board of the New York Psychiatric Institute will present this year's keynote address, "Undisclosed Risks in Clinical Trials".

Anne Lindblad, chair of this year's Program Committee, Bob Byington, chair of this year's Education Committee, and both of their committees have fashioned an exciting program and an interesting set of pre-conference educational workshops. I hope many of you will actively participate in the sessions, join us during lunch, and discuss the posters with their presenters.

As you plan for 2003, mark your calendars for London July 20-24, 2003 for the joint meeting of SCT

and the International Society for Clinical Biostatistics (ISCB). The plans for that program are already well on their way, but if you have more suggestions, contact Mary Foulkes, the Program Chair.

Finally, I want to thank everyone who has helped the Society this year. The chairs and members of our committees, the members of the Board, Mary Karpers-Burke at the Society's office, Jim Neaton as editor of *Controlled Clinical Trials*, and Jennifer Gassman who edits this Newsletter all have made this year a productive one for SCT. For those of you who would like to participate actively in the life of the society, please contact any of the officers or any of the committee chairs.

And, to John Lachin, the upcoming President of the SCT, the entire Society wishes you success.

SCT Development Committee Update

by Fran LoPresti

The Development Committee has been busy developing an infrastructure to develop funding sources to support SCT activities. These include support for the Student Scholarship program, the SCT Travel fund, SCT web site development, SCT infrastructure projects, and defraying costs for SCT meeting receptions. Letters were sent to potential donors and Board members have followed up by contacting these potential donors. Contributors have made pledges. A database that tracks potential contributors, contacts, and pledges has been developed and is in use by the Society office. If you have any suggestions for potential donors or would like to participate on the committee, please e-mail FFLoPresti@Magellanhealth.com

Register now for Pre-Conference Workshops!

Topics for workshops on Sunday, May 12, include (a.m.) Essentials of Clinical Trials, Statistical Analysis of Microarray Data, Medical Device Clinical Trials, and (p.m.) Regulatory Affairs/OHRP Overview, Selection Bias, and Coordinating Center Models. The workshops have been organized by the SCT Education Committee. The registration fee is \$100. For detailed information, go to Pre-Conference Workshops on www.sctweb.org

Update from the 2002 Program Committee

by Anne Lindblad

Every year we ask SCT members to provide comments on how we might improve our presentations and meeting format. The Program Committee reviews these comments and often incorporates suggestions into subsequent meeting programs. This year, in response to comments from our members, we have:

- increased the diversity of our speakers
- included some contributed abstracts in the invited sessions,
- updated and revised the guidelines for presentation preparation,
- provided additional instructions for session moderators to begin and end sessions and talks on schedule, and
- included more time for audience discussion during the invited and plenary sessions.

Please be sure to complete and submit evaluation forms this year to provide suggestions for future programs. The Program Committee appreciates your comments.

We are looking forward to the meetings in May and hope you have registered and invited your colleagues to register.

Plans for the July 2003 Meeting

by Mary Foulkes

The Joint International Society for Clinical Biostatistics (ISCB)/SCT meeting will be held in London, July 20-24, 2003. This joint meeting (the 24th annual meeting of each society) was first discussed on these pages way back in 1998, when the appropriate venue was being considered. Much effort and planning has been devoted since that time.

The meeting site is the Hilton London Metropole hotel, which enjoys a central London location, near the Edware Road Underground (Tube) station, and just 10 minutes walk from Hyde Park or Oxford Street. The site is easily accessible from either London Gatwick or Heathrow Airports.

The two societies' respective presidents for 2003, Maria Valsecchi (ISCB) and John Lachin (SCT), have already begun discussing the Presidents' Invited Speaker. Deborah Ashby, Professor of Medical Statistics, at Queen Mary University of London, is the ISCB Programme Committee Chair for 2003.

The SCT 2003 Program Committee
[Mary A. Foulkes (foulkes@cber.fda.gov), chair,
James M. Boyett (james.boyett@stjude.org),
Marion Campbell (m.k.campbell@abdn.ac.uk),
Ralph D'Agostino (ralph@bu.edu),
Janet H. Darbyshire (J.Darbyshire@ctu.mrc.ac.uk),
Gordon Lan (gordon_lan@groton.pfizer.com),
Richard L. Mowery (rm33a@nih.gov),
Steve Piantadosi (spianta@jhmi.edu),
Jeffrey L. Probstfield (jeffp@swog.fhrc.org),
Carol K.Redmond (ckr3@pitt.edu),
Frank W. Rockhold (F.W.Rockhold@sbphrd.com), David
L. Sackett (sackett@bmts.com)]

already has been working for several months planning the program. Please contact individual members of the program committee with any topics/ suggestions for the 2003 plenary sessions/workshops. The program will be packed with enticing topics of interest to both ISCB and SCT members, utilizing the strengths of both society memberships. The abstract submission deadline will be Mon., Jan. 15, 2003. Mark your calendar, and dust off your passport!

Society for Clinical Trials Web Site

The Society web site is located at <http://www.sctweb.org>. Registration materials and program information for the 2002 meeting are available on line, as well as guidelines for speakers, moderators, and poster presenters and information for exhibitors.

Student Scholarship Presentations

The SCT 2002 Student Scholarship session is currently scheduled for Monday afternoon, May 13. Students selected include Richard J. McNally of Colorado State University, C.J. Verzilli of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and Dean Fergusson of McGill University. The SCT Student Scholarship Committee is chaired by Steve Goodrum.

Notes from the Editor

If you would like to join the Society for Clinical Trials or receive information about the SCT 2002 Meeting in Arlington, check the SCT web site at www.sctweb.org or contact Mary Burke at phone (410) 433-4722 or email sctbalt@aol.com. If you have suggestions for this newsletter, please contact *SCT Newsletter* editor Jennifer Gassman in the Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation via email: jgassman@bio.ri.ccf.org