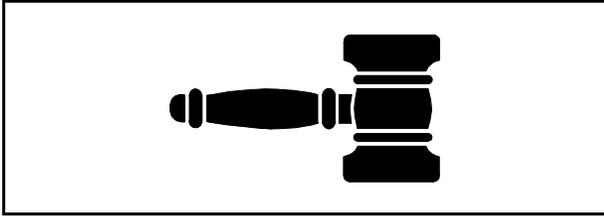

SCT Newsletter

Volume 10, Number 1

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SCT President's Corner

by *Barry R. Davis*

On April 16 to 19, 2000, the Society for Clinical Trials returns to Toronto. We look forward to an exciting Annual Meeting. Marian Fisher and her Program Committee have put together an outstanding scientific program, including 16 workshops, 3 plenary sessions and a wide-ranging set of contributed talks and posters. Salim Yusuf of McMaster University will be our keynote speaker.

The Sunday night reception has been moved to Monday night (April 17). Please come, meet your fellow members, both old and new, and socialize. The Annual Business meeting of the Society will be on Tuesday (April 18) at our lunchtime session. This is a valuable opportunity for all members to shape the Society's future directions.

All SCT committees were very active this year. The Policy Committee drafted a letter from the SCT responding to the U.S. government's proposed standards for privacy of individually identifiable health information. Sylvan Green chaired the Education Committee, which developed a record number of pre-conference workshops for the Toronto meeting. The Development Committee, under Frank Rockhold's leadership, obtained several contributions from various sponsors. The sponsors have been acknowledged in our pro-

gram. Susan Margitic and the Membership Committee undertook some new initiatives for increasing the Society's membership, including developing an e-mail message about the SCT meeting for distribution and placing SCT meeting announcements in journals and newsletters.

Steve Goodman and the Student Scholarship Committee chose excellent travel award winners. We look forward to meeting them in Toronto. The Finance Committee, chaired by Michael Terrin, looked at our finances and restructured the Annual Meeting fees. This will help to ensure the future financial stability of the Society. Dennis Dixon and the Publications Committee worked on ideas to make our Society more visible through our journal and other journals. The web site subcommittee under Herman Mitchell's leadership made outstanding progress. We now have job listings and the SCT program posted. Finally, Kay Dickersin and the Nominating Committee selected a great set of candidates for President-Elect and the Board of Directors. Please vote.

As my year as President ends, I want to express my thanks to all chairs and members of the above mentioned committees. Thanks especially to the Executive Committee members George Williams, Barbara Hawkins, Joel Verter, Chris Donhauser, and Mary Burke for their advice and assistance in helping to conduct the Society's business throughout the year. My best wishes to George Williams as he takes the helm. Finally, thanks to all SCT members for their participation in the Society and its meetings and activities. I look forward to seeing you in Toronto.

SCT 2000: April 16-19, Toronto

by Marian Fisher, Program Committee Chair

Did you like the contents of the preliminary program? What poster, contributed paper, workshop, or plenary session is at the top of your "must" list? Have you registered yet? Got your travel and hotel reservations?

The organization and format of the SCT 2000 meeting were developed after review of the suggestions recorded on the poster at the May 1999 meeting and on the May 1999 meeting evaluation forms. The following features are a result of these suggestions:

- consistent times on each meeting day for plenary sessions, workshops, contributed paper sessions, and poster prime time;
- more workshops than during previous meetings;
- in time slots with concurrent sessions, either workshops or contributed papers are being presented, but not both;
- contributed paper sessions are longer and include five presentations in each block.

You are encouraged to comment on this year's organization and format on the evaluation forms you will receive at the meeting.

Our Program Committee has worked hard to create a varied, educational and engaging program. I have appreciated the contributions of time and talent made by each committee member. What will make this meeting a success is your attendance, enthusiasm, questions, and contributions! We hope that we have served you well.

Student Scholarship Program

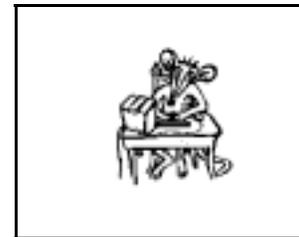
A record number of applications were received for this year's Student Scholarship program, and the selection process was very difficult. Three students have been selected to present their papers at the meeting. Their fees will be waived and their travel and living expenses will be paid for by the Society. An additional \$500, the Thomas Chalmers Memorial Award, will be given to the student judged to have the best paper.

The Student Scholarship Session is currently slated to be held at 1:20 p.m. on Monday, April 17, 2000. Check the final program for details.

Students selected include

- Hongyu Jiang, University of Wisconsin, speaking on Estimating the Distribution of Morbidity in the Presence of Death
- Xiaoyin Fan, University of Wisconsin, speaking on Bias Adjustment in Group Sequential Trials with an Example
- Ruth L. Goodall, Medical Research Council, speaking on Analysis of Interval Censored Failure Time Data in HIV Clinical Trials

For further information, link to the SCT website at www.sctweb.org, or contact Steve Goodman by email to sgoodman@jhmi.edu, or via fax to 410-614-2325.



SCT Web Site Update

The Society for Clinical Trials website (www.sctweb.org) includes program, hotel reservation procedures, and city information for the upcoming Toronto meeting.

The SCT website allows you to look up an SCT member's phone number and e-mail address. Members' names are included in the on-line directory if permission for inclusion was given on the membership renewal form. Past newsletters and committee information area also included on the site.

A job board has recently been added, too. The SCT website is being maintained by a volunteer committee which includes Sharon Bak, Fran LoPresti, Scott Rushing, and Ella Temprosa. Please send any comments or suggestions to Herman Mitchell, the SCT web editor, at hmitchell@rhoworld.com.

Pre-Conference Workshop Plans

The SCT Education Committee, chaired by Sylvan Green, has planned seven Pre-Conference Workshops for Sunday, April 16, 2000. The registration fee is \$75 for any workshop. For more information, contact Mary Burke at sctbalt@aol.com. The workshops include:

Workshop I: Role of Data and Safety Monitoring Committees in Government and Industry Sponsored Trials

Faculty: Joel Verter and Thomas Capizzi

Workshop II: Statistical Methods for Evaluating Screening and Diagnostic Tests

Faculty: Alicia Y. Toledano, Constantine A. Gatsonis, and Craig A. Beam

Workshop III: Essentials of Clinical Trials

Faculty: Brent Blumenstein, Robert Byington, Jennifer Gassman, and Sylvan Green

Workshop IV: Group Sequential Design and Interim Monitoring of Clinical Trial Data: Statistical Methodology and Computation

Faculty: Christopher Jennison, Bruce W. Turnbull, and Cyrus R. Mehta

Workshop V: An Introductory Workshop on Protocol Management for the Clinical Research Associate/Clinical Research Coordinator

Faculty: Dina Johnson, Karen Rickard, and Joyce Niland

Workshop VI: Equivalence Trials

Faculty: William Blackwelder, Steven Snapinn, Brian Wiens, and Charles Anello

Workshop VII: FDA Guidance on Computerized Systems Used in Clinical Trials

Faculty: TBA



Toronto Plenary Sessions

The three plenary sessions for the 21st Annual Meeting of the Society for Clinical Trials will be:

- Joint Public/Private Funding of Clinical Trials. Chaired by Marian Fisher, Monday, April 17. Speakers include Peter Frommer, Joseph Feczko, Robert Wittes, and Robert Spiegel
- Interim Data - Who Should Be Privy to What Information When? Moderated by David DeMets on Tuesday, April 18. Speakers include Vaugh Kailian, Jay Siegel, Curt Meinert, Steven Snapinn, and Ira Shoulson
- The Impact of Healthcare Systems on Clinical Trials. Chaired by Joseph Pater on Wednesday, April 19. Speakers include David Sackett, Kay Dickersin, and John Feussner

Notes from the Editor

If you would like to join the Society for Clinical Trials or receive information about the SCT 2000 Meeting in Toronto, check the SCT web site at www.sctweb.org or contact Mary Burke at phone (410) 433-4722 or email sctbalt@aol.com

This newsletter, Volume 10, Number 1, starts the tenth year of publication of the *SCT Newsletter*. If you have suggestions for this newsletter, please contact *SCT Newsletter* editor Jennifer Gassman in the Department of Biostatistics at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation, (216) 444-8023 (FAX) or jgassman@bio.ri.ccf.org (e-mail). The SCT Newsletter is published twice yearly, generally in March and October.