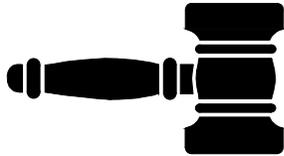

SCT Newsletter

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SCT President's Corner

by George Williams

It is now only a few weeks until we get together at the SCT Annual Meeting in Denver. The Program Committee under Rick Mowery's leadership and the Education Committee under Bob Byington's leadership have prepared an outstanding series of pre-conference workshops and annual meeting sessions. You will find considerable variety in the program which should be appealing to the variety of disciplines represented in the Society. I would like to also acknowledge those individuals who have submitted contributed papers and posters as these sessions are a very exciting and important part of the meeting as well.

Richard Horton, editor of *The Lancet*, will present the Curtis Meinert Honorary Keynote Address. His talk will undoubtedly capture our attention as we consider the issues facing clinical trials in the year 2001. One of the important aspects of attending the annual meeting is the opportunity for informal interaction and exchange of ideas (e.g., data privacy, revised Declaration of Helsinki, use of placebos, publication of clinical trial results, equivalence trials) during the coffee breaks, lunches, and at other times during the course of the meeting. There will be ample opportunity for these exchanges.

I would again like to compliment Mary Burke and the staff of the SCT office as well as the various committee chairs and members for their

excellent work this year in addressing the day-to-day activities of the Society and planning for the continued evolution of the Society. There will be an opportunity to learn more about the specifics of the work of the various committees in the Society during the business meeting in Denver. Additionally, we are very appreciative of the outstanding work that is being done by Jim Neaton as editor of *Controlled Clinical Trials* and Jennifer Gassman as editor of the *SCT Newsletter*.

Planning is already beginning for the 2002 annual meeting in Arlington, VA, and the 2003 joint meeting with the ISCB in London. Please share any of your ideas for those programs with Anne Lindblad or Mary Foulkes who are the SCT Program Chairpersons for those meetings respectively.

There are many opportunities for service in the SCT. Please do not hesitate to contact any of the officers or committee chairs if you would like to become involved in these aspects of the Society.

We all wish Janet Wittes well as the incoming President of the SCT.

Pre-Conference Workshop Plans

The SCT Education Committee, chaired by Bob Byington, has planned six excellent Pre-Conference Workshops for Sunday, May 20, 2001.

- Practical Issues in Conducting Multicenter Clinical Trials
- Essentials of Clinical Trials
- Effective Data Acquisition Methodologies for Clinical Trials
- Establishing a Website for a Multicenter Clinical Trial
- Valid as treated analysis in clinical trials
- Meta analysis and the quantitative investigation of replication

Workshop tuition is \$125. You may download the registration form from the Society's web page at www.sctweb.org/meeting.cfm

Nominating Committee News

by *Bill Henderson*

According to the December 1999 SCT Operations Manual, the SCT Nominating Committee is composed of seven members, including the President, President-Elect, two members of the SCT Board of Directors, and three people appointed from the SCT membership at large. This year, the committee was comprised of George Williams, Janet Wittes, Bill Henderson (Chair), Marie Diener-West, Sylvan Green, Fran LoPresti, and Joerg Hasford.

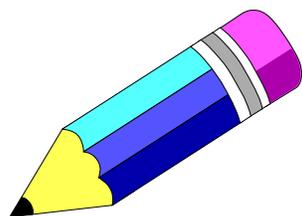
Nominations for President-Elect and Board of Directors were received from the Nominating Committee and the SCT membership at large. There were 13 nominations for President-Elect and 29 nominations for Board of Directors. Members of the Nominating Committee were not eligible. The Nominating Committee then rank ordered the candidates, and the Chair of the Nominating Committee contacted each nominee in order of best rank until the final slate of candidates was chosen, including 2 candidates for President-Elect and 6 candidates for Board of Directors.

We want to thank all of the members of the Nominating Committee for the final list of very strong candidates.

Student Scholarship Program

by *Steve Goodman*

This year was another successful one for the student scholarship program, with 26 submissions from students in 23 institutions, 16 in the US, 7 UK, and one each from Greece, France, and Canada. As usual, the choice was quite difficult (going to a "run-off" round), and the committee exercised one of the options granted it last year by awarding one honorable mention, which will be presented as a poster. The three winners were Christina Korkontzelou from Brown, Yue Wang from Michigan, and Caroline Morgan from the University of Sussex, UK. The honorable mention went to Renee Rees from Johns Hopkins University. For those interested either in predictors



of success or equal opportunity, it might be noted that the strongest predictor of success this year was the applicant's gender, with 0/16 men and 4/10 women attaining exalted "winner" status, ($p=0.01$, Fisher Exact, Maximum Bayes Factor = 84. We are investigating the establishment of an affirmative action program for male applicants next year.) Congratulations to all the winners, and to the committee (George Chi, Marie Diener-West, Bill Henderson, Brian Wiens, Rick Chappell, Deb Shapiro, Ken James) for their conscientious work and remarkably quick turn-around under unrelenting pressure from their chair. As the work of these students of high quality, and attracting young professionals of their ilk is key to the future of the SCT, we hope that members will make a point of attending the Student Scholarship session in Denver.

Denver Meeting Highlights

As noted, the 22nd Annual Meeting of the Society for Clinical Trials will be held May 20 to 23 at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Denver, Colorado. Three Plenary Sessions will be held:

- The DSMB's Real Live Drama:
When to Stop a Trial
- Consumer Scientist Partnerships
in the Conduct and Oversight of Clinical Trials
- Vaccine Clinical Trials:
Contrasts with Trials of Therapeutic Agents

Workshops will examine topics including analyzing quality of life data, improving the informed consent process, using a central IRB, reporting adverse drug reactions, keeping data secure, and conducting trials of medical devices.

Notes from the Editor

If you would like to join the Society for Clinical Trials or receive information about the SCT 2001 Meeting in Denver, 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 via email: jgassman@bio.ri.ccf.org (e-mail).

If you have ideas for increasing SCT membership, send email to Membership Committee chair Susan Margitic: smargiti@wfbumc.edu.