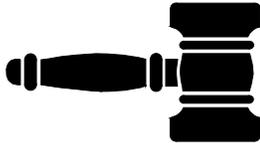

SCT Newsletter

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SCT President's Corner

by *Peter Peduzzi*

The 26th Annual Meeting of the Society for Clinical Trials, to be held in Portland, May 22 – 25, 2005, is fast approaching. The Program Committee, chaired by Phil Lavori; the Education Committee, chaired by Domenic Reda; and the Student Scholarship Committee, chaired by Sylvan Green, have assembled an exciting program for this year's meeting. There is a wide array of pre-conference workshops and plenary and invited sessions. In addition, for the first time we have arranged for the Society for Clinical Research Associates (SoCRA) to offer their Certification Course. The course will be held on Saturday, May 22, and the certification exam on Sunday, May 23.

The keynote speaker for the Annual Meeting will be John R. Feussner, MD, MPH, Chair of the Department of Medicine at the Medical University of South Carolina. His presentation entitled "When Clinical Trials Meet Clinical Practice: Waiting for Godot" should be provocative. By means of a thank you, this year's meeting could not take place without the dedicated efforts of Mary Burke and Jill Pieri at the SCT office. I hope you are planning to attend the Portland meeting and to take the opportunity to meet and interact with your colleagues.

In the last *SCT Newsletter*, we informed the membership that the Society's first official position paper concerning trial registration was being published in the October 2004 issue of *Clinical Trials*. A plenary session is being devoted to this

topic at the annual meeting. A second position paper, "Data Monitoring Policy for Exploratory Clinical Trials," has been submitted for publication by Jay Herson, et al. Anyone in the Society can propose topics for position papers. Please submit your ideas to Eleanor McFadden, Chair of the Publication Committee.

A major objective for the Society is to increase both the membership and institutional subscriptions to the Society's journal *Clinical Trials*. Please make an effort to sign up a new member and to contact your library and request that it subscribe to *Clinical Trials*. Whatever you can do to increase the number of members and the number of institutional subscriptions benefits all members of the Society.

Finally, the Nominating Committee, chaired by Rick Chappell, has prepared a slate of candidates for President and the Board of Directors. The ballot is included with this newsletter. Typically, fewer than a quarter of the membership votes for these offices, so please make an effort to vote for the candidates of your choice.

I look forward to seeing you in Portland.

2005 Program Highlights

As noted by Peter Peduzzi, our keynote speaker this year is John Feussner of MUSC. Monday afternoon's plenary session is Ethical Issues in Early Phase Clinical Trials: The Physician's Perspective. The conference's Welcome Reception will be held from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Monday evening.

Tuesday morning's plenary session is Forum on Making/Influencing Public Policy, and Wednesday morning's plenary session is Mandatory Clinical Trial Registration: Where do we stand?

The program includes invited and contributed sessions on a wide variety of topics. The 2005 Program Committee is chaired by Philip Lavori.

Student Scholarship Committees

By Sylvan Green

The mission of the SCT Student Scholarship Committee is to enhance the participation of students in order to broaden the Society's membership base. The Committee reviews abstracts, manuscripts, and presentations submitted by students to the Annual Meeting. The members of the Committee this year are: Sylvan Green (Chair), Marie Diener-West, Mary Foulkes, Michael Hughes, KyungMann Kim, Eleanor Schron, and Janet Wittes. The Committee has reviewed abstracts (accompanied by short manuscripts) submitted by students for the 2005 Annual Meeting in Portland, Oregon.



The Committee selected three students to present at the Student Scholarship session. This session is scheduled for Monday May 23, 2005, at 1:20 PM; all meeting attendees are encouraged to attend. The

student presenters chosen for 2005 are Yolanda Barbachano (University of Sussex), Xiaodan Wei (University of Wisconsin), and Eloise Kaizar (Carnegie Mellon University). The Committee has requested a full manuscript from these students; after their presentations at the Student Scholarship session, Committee members will meet and determine the winner of the Thomas C. Chalmers award. In addition, there were two honorable mentions, who were invited to present posters at the Annual Meeting: Clara Kim (University of Pennsylvania) and Ayanbola Ayanlowo (University of Alabama at Birmingham).

SoCRA Certified Clinical Research Professional course, exam offered

On Saturday, May 21, the Society for Clinical Research Associates (SoCRA) will offer a course to that will review regulations, policies, and procedures for clinical research and prepare students for its Certified Clinical Research Professional examination. The exam will be held on Sunday, May 22. The SoCRA web site www.socra.org includes details on course content and registration as well as information on continuing education credits.



Education Committee presents Pre-Conference Workshops

This year's pre-conference short courses will be held on Sunday, May 22. Morning workshops run from 8 a.m. to 12 noon and include 1) Essentials of Clinical Trials Part I, 2) Recent Advances in Bayesian Adaptive Dose-Finding, 3) Fundamentals in the Design and Analysis of Cluster Randomized Trials, and 4) Current Perspectives on Recruitment and Retention Issues in Clinical Trials. Afternoon workshops run from 1 to 5 p.m. and include 5) Essentials of Clinical Trials Part II, 6) Adaptive Designs for Clinical Trials, 7) Constructing an Internet-based Training Course for Multi-center Clinical Trials, and 8) HIPAA (the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act). You can register on line at www.sctweb.org. Tuition is \$150 prior to April 18 and \$175 after April 18.

The SCT Education Committee is chaired by Domenic Reda. Committee members include Timothy Church, Nicole Close, Carol Fye, Virginia Howard, Michele Melia, Yves Rosenberg and Christian Speas. If you have a suggestions for short courses for future years, e-mail the committee chair at Domenic.Red@med.va.gov

Notes from the editor

If you would like to join the SCT or learn more about the 2005 Portland meeting, check the SCT web site www.sctweb.org or contact Mary Burke at phone (410) 433-4722 or email sctbalt@aol.com

If you have suggestions for this newsletter, contact *SCT Newsletter* editor Jennifer Gassman in the Cleveland Clinic Foundation's Department of Quantitative Health Sciences (the Department formerly known as Biostatistics and Epidemiology) by sending email to gassmaj@ccf.org

