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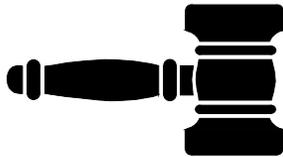
# *SCT Newsletter*

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## **SCT President's Corner**

*by Jim Neaton*

If you have not already done so, register for our 28th Annual Meeting in Montreal. It is easily done by going to [www.sct.org](http://www.sct.org).

The fun begins on Sunday, May 20, with 9 pre-conference workshops. For the first time, CME credits are available for two of the workshops. The workshops are a bargain!

On Monday through Wednesday there are plenary and invited sessions. In addition, contributed paper sessions with a range of topics are scheduled for Monday and Tuesday afternoon. There are more than 60 talks to choose from. In addition, more than 150 posters will also be up on Monday and Tuesday with an afternoon time slot to discuss the work with the authors.

That's not all -- on Monday morning, Sir Richard Peto will give the Curtis Meinert Honorary Keynote Address on Monday morning. His talk is titled "Large-scale randomized evidence, 1980-2020". On Tuesday evening, Dr. Salim Yusuf will give the Founders Lecture and the title of his talk is "It takes a village to raise a child, and a planet to answer an important question: Making large collaborative studies feasible with modest resources."

As you can see by going to our web site, [www.sctweb.org](http://www.sctweb.org), a great program in a great city has been planned. Don't miss it. Spread the word and bring several of your colleagues to the meeting.

In closing, I would like to tell you what a pleasure it has been to serve you as President during this past year. Thank you for the opportunity. It has been a wonderful experience. Mary Burke, my fellow officers, Eleanor McFadden, Dennis Dixon,

Anne Lindblad, and Chris Donhauser, and our outstanding committees with strong chairs, have made the job very rewarding. I look forward to working with you in other capacities to increase the visibility of the Society and make it the premier organization in the world for individuals working on clinical trials.

## **Nominating Committee Update**

*by Stan Shapiro*

Each year the Nominating Committee is charged with the task of putting forward for your consideration a slate of candidates who will continue to work toward ensuring that the SCT is the premier group in the world for individuals working on clinical trials. On your behalf I'd like to thank the individuals helping with that task this year: Ted Karrison, Angela Kimmel, Eleanor McFadden, Jim Neaton, Yves Rosenberg, and Barbara Tilley.

As you look through the ballot that accompanies this newsletter, there will likely be individuals who are very familiar to you and others who may be less familiar. Bob Byington and Kay Dickersin who are nominated for President Elect, and Virginia Howard, Phil Lavori, Kerry Lee, John Norrie, Bruce Pihlstrom, and Dan Sargent, who are nominated for the Board of Directors, have all made significant contributions to the field of clinical trials and to the Society and are again doing so by standing for election. We urge you to read through the material and make your choices. You contribute to the ongoing strength of the Society by doing so.

In keeping with the decision reached at the 2006 Annual Meeting, future elections will be moved from the spring to the fall. So, in this transition year you will be hearing news of elections again in about six months. In the meantime, please note that Committee always welcomes names of potential nominees directly from the membership. Suggestions can be sent to [sctbalt@aol.com](mailto:sctbalt@aol.com) and marked to the attention of the chair of the nominating committee.

## Student Scholarship Competition

by *Sylvan Green*

The mission of the 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), Adin-Cristian Andrei, 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 2007 Annual Meeting in Montreal. The Committee selected three students to present at the Student

Scholarship session. This session is scheduled for Monday, May 21, 2007, at 1:20 P.M.; all meeting attendees are encouraged to attend. The student presenters chosen for 2007 are:

- Puvanendran Tharmanathan, "Sources of bias in clinical trials: Inappropriate use of interim data and/or DMC recommendations in randomized controlled trials";
- Rui Wang, "Reporting of subgroup analyses in the New England Journal of Medicine";
- Lixia Pei, "A nonparametric framework for quantile equivalence trials with application to bridging studies from HIV-infected adults to children."

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 to the three student presenters, there was an honorable mention who was invited to present a poster at the Annual Meeting: Mengye Guo, "Bayesian screening for pharmacogenetic effects in clinical trials"



## Education Committee News

by *Domenic Reda*

The SCT Education Committee has planned the largest offering of pre-conference workshops (nine) in recent memory. For the first time we are offering continuing medical education (CME) credits for physicians (and many boards of nursing) for the Essentials of Clinical Trials workshops (parts I and II).

We also are offering our first full day workshop on Clinical Data Management. Biostatisticians seeking to enhance their knowledge of statistical methods can choose workshops in Adaptive Designs in Clinical Trials and Missing Data in Longitudinal Studies. Other workshops will appeal to the varied interests of Society members, including clinical investigators, site coordinators and monitors, biostatisticians and information technology specialists.

Committee chairman Domenic Reda extends a sincere thank you to committee co-chairs, Virginia Howard and Nicole Close, and committee members Michael DiMarino, Carol Fye, Kwan Hur, Richard Kotz, Michele Melia, Pamela Moke, Claudia Moy, Kristine Nelson, Wendy Parulekar, Yves Rosenberg, Julie Weston and Ken Wilson. If you would like to help plan the workshops for the 2008 meetings, or have suggestions for future workshops, please leave Domenic Reda a note at the 2007 meeting or send an e-mail to [Domenic.Red@va.gov](mailto:Domenic.Red@va.gov).

## New Management Group

Last Fall a Transition Committee was appointed to prepare an Request for Proposal (RFP) for support to the Society from an Association Management Company. This committee was chaired by Eleanor McFadden and included as members Dave DeMets, Michele Melia, Mark Espeland, Mary Burke, Chris Donhauser and Jim Neaton. An RFP was distributed to 5 companies in December and 3 responses were received. Based on site visits to two of the companies and discussions with them, the Transition Committee recommended that Fernley and Fernley, Inc., in Philadelphia be selected. The Board of Directors of SCT unanimously endorsed this recommendation on March 27. Establishing a contract with Fernley and Fernley is the next step in this process.

# Message from the 2007 Program Committee

by *Bruce Pihlstrom*

*Bienvenue à Montréal*

We hope to see you on May 20-23, 2007 in the wonderful city of Montréal, Québec for the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Society for Clinical Trials. The meeting should appeal to a broad spectrum of people interested in clinical trials.

The Society for Clinical Trials was established in 1978 as a global professional organization dedicated to the development and dissemination of knowledge about the design, conduct and analysis of clinical trials and related health care research. Our Society is unique as it includes people from diverse academic disciplines, professions, cultures and geographic locations around the world. Even though our backgrounds are extremely varied, we share the common objective of promoting global health through clinical trials that evaluate interventions for the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of disease. As we come together this year, we should celebrate our diversity as well as our commonality of purpose.

Many thanks are due to the program committee members who worked so hard to put together this year's program. They include: Abdel Babiker, Ivan Chan, Dennis Dixon, Virginia Howard, James Johnson, KyungMann Kim, Ruth McBride, Eleanor McFadden, Jim Neaton, Wendy Parulekar, Domenic Reda, Daniel Sargent, Christoph Seiler, and Steve Self.

The Education Committee, chaired by Domenic Reda has planned an outstanding program of pre-conference workshops that should appeal to everyone ranging from those who are new to the field of clinical trials to "old hands" who wish to update their knowledge in specific areas.

After a welcome by Society President Jim Neaton, Sir Richard Peto of the University of Oxford will begin our meeting with the Curtis Meinert Honorary Keynote Address. Salim Yusuf of McMaster University will present the Founder's Lecture on Tuesday afternoon. The Plenary Sessions were planned to be of broad interest to our membership: 1) the role of the Cochrane Collaboration in randomized clinical trials, 2)

economic and quality of life analysis in clinical trials, and 3) drug safety and public health. Each of these promises to be provocative as well as informative.

The 12 Invited Sessions are distributed throughout the conference with the goal of providing material of interest for everyone on each meeting day. The diversity of our program is reflected by topics ranging from patient recruitment, ethics, safety monitoring and statistics to educational models for training in clinical trials - with many topics in between.

There will be 60 oral contributed presentations, 3 oral student scholarship presentations and 160 posters presented at our meeting this year. We look forward to learning from this record number of exciting presentations. We urge everyone to take full advantage of the opportunity to meet new people and interact with one another during the oral and poster sessions.

On behalf of your Program Committee, I wish to thank Society President Jim Neaton for his leadership and Mary Burke who works tirelessly behind the scenes to organize our meetings. Many thanks are also due to Scott Rushing for his computer programming and web expertise. As with any successful clinical trial, it is the people behind the scenes that make our Society a success. Be sure to thank them when you see them at the meeting.

We hope you have a wonderful time in Montréal.  
*C'est Magnifique!*

## Notes from the Editor

If you would like to join the Society for Clinical Trials or attend the 2007 meeting in Montreal, check the SCT web site at [www.sctweb.org](http://www.sctweb.org) or contact Mary Burke by phone (410) 433-4722 or email [sctbalt@aol.com](mailto:sctbalt@aol.com)



For ideas for fun things to do while in Montreal, check <http://www.tourisme-montreal.org>

If you have suggestions for this newsletter, contact *SCT Newsletter* editor Jennifer Gassman in the Department of Quantitative Health Sciences at the Cleveland Clinic via email: [gassmaj@ccf.org](mailto:gassmaj@ccf.org)