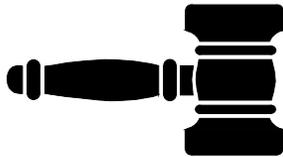

SCT Newsletter

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SCT President's Corner

by Dennis Dixon

Greetings. The 27th Annual Meeting of the Society will take place in Orlando, May 21 - 24. It's going to be a terrific meeting, thanks to the hard work of Program Chair KyungMann Kim, Education Committee Co-Chairs Domenic Reda and Virginia Howard, their committees, and Mary Burke in the Society office. You can find further meeting details in separate columns, so I will use my space to tell you about other things we have been working on.

First, an update: In the last *SCT Newsletter*, Bob Byington reported on an action by the Board of Directors to adopt procedures for designating Society for Clinical Trials Fellows. At that point Bob had recruited a committee (Lawrence Friedman, Mae Gordon, Joel Greenhouse, Barbara Hawkins, Ruth McBride, Frank Rockhold, and myself (ex-officio)), done a bit of publicity, and was waiting to see who might be proposed for the initial class. The selection process is complete, and if you join us in Orlando for the actual presentations on Monday morning, I'm confident you will agree we have a most distinguished group. They are our mentors and role models, the people who had the vision to begin the Society and to support it in the early years and beyond. Some of us, particularly the newer members, may have never had the chance to meet them, and they'll be assembled for all to meet, and congratulate, at this year's meeting. I am very excited about this, as I'm sure is obvious. Bob

Byington has provided tremendous leadership, not least in creating and documenting specific procedures where there weren't any before. The selection of new Fellows will be an annual event. Information, including the schedule, will be announced in the fall *SCT Newsletter*, but you can certainly start thinking about persons deserving of this designation.

Another project that got considerable attention from the Society leadership is the Futures Initiative, under the leadership of Jim Neaton, the Society's next President. Last year in Portland, the Board discussed a need to undertake a kind of self-assessment. We wanted to examine whether we are doing enough to put the Society on a growth trajectory, in terms of number and diversity of members and our role in public discussion of matters relating to clinical trials. (At some level this is an extension of the Society's efforts to publish position papers.) Jim assembled an energetic and hard-working committee consisting of Abdel Babiker, Gerry Beck, Ivan Chan, Gary Cutter, Anne Lindblad, Wendy Parulekar, Dan Sargent, Bram Zuckerman, Peter Peduzzi (ex-officio), and myself (ex-officio). In short order the committee prepared a lengthy set of possible actions the Society could take to (1) expand the Society's niche and role, (2) increase membership, and (3) make the annual meetings even better than they already are. With advice from the committee, the Board of Directors chose a subset of recommendations that seem to be of the highest priority. Just to give a flavor, three examples are to include more review articles and invited papers in our journal that discuss timely issues in the design and conduct of trials; to survey the membership on areas of need and reasons for joining the Society; and to include more workshops at our annual meeting of interest to non-statisticians. The Board will continue discussions, learn about initial steps to implement specific recommendations, and consider options for recommendations that have significant budget or other implications at its meeting in Orlando. It may

actually be best to see the Futures Report as a living document, since new priorities are bound to surface. A current version is posted on our web site www.sctweb.org, and I would be pleased for members to send comments directly to Jim and me.

Some of you may not realize that *SCT Newsletter* editor Jennifer Gassman is one of our most dedicated members. She is the only *SCT Newsletter* editor we have ever had, and this issue is part of annual volume 16. In the past she has been an elected member of the Board, a member of several committees, and a frequent presenter at our meetings. Since the 2003 Board of Directors' meeting, she has also served as Secretary, which includes membership on the Executive Committee and Board of Directors. She has been a delight to work with. Recently Jennifer concluded that she would like to hand off her duties as Secretary. To our great relief, she is happy to continue as *SCT Newsletter* editor.

Per the Society's By-Laws and Manual of Operations, the Executive Committee (current President, past President, and President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and Secretariat) have proposed, and the Board has concurred, that the next Secretary will be Anne Lindblad, another past member of the Board as well as former Program Chair and current member of the Futures Committee. The contribution of the Secretary, like Treasurer and Secretariat, can be long-term because the two-year terms are renewable. The Society is most fortunate to have had Jennifer and her predecessors serve in the past, and Anne is very likely to continue the tradition.

Finally, please vote in the election for President and members of the Board. Rick Chappell and his colleagues on the Nominating Committee have assembled another impressive slate. The ballot accompanies this Newsletter. This is an opportunity to help set the course of the Society for the next several years. Why not take advantage of it?

I hope you can join us in Orlando.

Nominating Committee Update

by Rick Chappell

The Committee has prepared a slate of candidates for President and the Board of Directors. The ballot is included with this newsletter; please tell us who you want to lead the Society. Committee members were

Ray Bain, Rick Chappell (chair), Dennis Dixon, Ted Karrison, Jyoti Kotecha, Jaye Thompson, and Jim Neaton. If anyone has suggestions about the nominating process, or for specific nominees, please tell me either in person at the meeting or by e-mail at chappell@stat.wisc.edu. I will relay them to next year's chair.



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. 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 2006 Annual Meeting in Orlando FL. The Committee selected three students to present at the Student Scholarship session. This session is scheduled for Monday, May 22, 2006, at 1:20 p.m.; all meeting attendees are encouraged to attend. The student presenters chosen for 2006 are:

- Huaibao Feng: "Group Sequential Test for Clinical Trials with Changing Patient Populations"
- Khajak Ishak: "Meta-Analysis of Longitudinal Studies"
- Kimberly Lowe: "Bringing Pharmacogenetics into Clinical Trials; Implications for Sample Size"

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.

Katherine Detre remembered

Our colleague Katherine Detre died on January 24, 2006, at the age of 79. Born in Budapest, Hungary, on April 28, 1926, Detre began studying medicine in Hungary during World War II. In 1949, she moved to Canada, and she completed her medical training at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. Then she studied biometry at Yale. She moved to the University of Pittsburgh in 1974 and founded the University of Pittsburgh's Epidemiology Data Center in 1980. The center started with five investigators, and now has 140 staff members working on 20 projects. Many studies have been conducted at that center under Detre's leadership. Perhaps the most notable of these was the Bypass Angioplasty Revascularization Investigation (BARI). Detre was a valued contributor to the science of clinical trials, a founding member of the Society for Clinical Trials, and an early member of the SCT Board of Directors. Her contributions are appreciated and she will be remembered with fondness and admiration.

2006 Program Highlights

by KyungMann Kim

As noted by Dennis Dixon, Dr. Amy P. Patterson, Director of the new NIH Program on Clinical Research Policy Analysis and Coordination (CRpac) at the National Institutes of Health, will deliver this year's Curtis Meinert Honorary Keynote Address on Monday morning. The Welcome Reception will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Monday.

Monday afternoon's plenary session will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the US Food and Drug Administration and its impact and contributions to clinical trials. Dr. Robert M. Califf, Director of the Duke Clinical Research Institute at Duke University, will give the inaugural Founders' Lecture as part of this plenary session. Tuesday morning's plenary session will discuss risk-benefit evaluation in clinical trials, and Wednesday morning's plenary session will discuss challenging regulatory and management issues in international trials.

The Program includes twelve invited sessions and twelve contributed paper sessions including the Student Scholarship session on diverse topics. Invited sessions will cover topics such as adaptive designs, orthopedic device trials, group therapeutic interventions, vaccine efficacy trials, nutraceuticals, analytical issues in multi-site trials, non-inferiority studies, treatment effectiveness trials in mental health, economic assessment, meta analysis and clinical

practice, use of historical controls, and e-data management and reporting.

Posters will be presented all day on Monday and Tuesday with prime time during 3:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. each day.



Education Committee News

by Domenic Reda

The SCT Education Committee, chaired by Domenic Reda and co-chaired by Virginia Howard, will offer seven pre-conference workshops on Sunday, May 21, 2006, in conjunction with the annual SCT meeting. These workshops have been selected to appeal to the diverse backgrounds of SCT membership and include offerings in advanced statistical methods, information technology, and the design, management, conduct and analysis of clinical trials. Committee members include Nicole Close, Carol Fye, Richard Kotz, Michele Melia, Pamela Moke, Claudia Moy, Wendy Parulekar, Yves Rosenberg and Christian Speas. We are especially interested in your ideas for workshops for the 2007 meeting, and if you are interested in serving on the committee or speaking at a workshop. Please contact Domenic Reda by e-mail: Domenic.Red@va.gov or Virginia Howard at vjhoward@uab.edu.

Notes from the Editor

If you would like to join the Society for Clinical Trials or attend the 2006 meeting in Orlando, check the SCT web site at www.sctweb.org or contact Mary Burke by phone (410) 433-4722 or email sctbalt@aol.com

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

