



SCT

SOCIETY FOR CLINICAL TRIALS

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Newsletter

SCT President's Corner

By *Eleanor McFadden*

Welcome to the Spring 2008 Newsletter. It is hard to believe that the St Louis Meeting is now less than one month away. If you have not yet registered for the meeting, please do so.

Registration for workshops, meeting and hotel can be done on-line via our website – www.sctweb.org. The Education Committee, chaired by Domenic Reda, has developed an extensive program of pre-conference workshops, with a total of 10 half day workshops and one full day workshop. These workshops represent excellent value for the money and feature prestigious speakers. I encourage you to attend one or two of these sessions.

More details of the program can be found on the website, or in the meeting materials circulated by the SCT office. Ivan Chan and the other members of the Program Committee have developed an excellent program with topics which should be of interest to all. St Louis is an exciting city to visit and we hope that you will tell your colleagues about the meeting and encourage them to attend as well. A one page flyer describing highlights can be downloaded from the SCT website and distributed to anyone who might be interested – please post it on your departmental notice board.

Since the last newsletter in Fall, 2007, many things have been happening. A new contract for our Journal, *Clinical Trials*, has been signed with Sage Publishing. This involved lengthy negotiations, involving several SCT members. We hope that this new contract serves the SCT well. Also, as you will have seen if you have checked our website, the planned Strategic Review of the Society has been completed. If you have not already done so, please take time to read the report which has been posted. We welcome your involvement as we implement the priorities which have been identified, and if you are interested in being involved, please let Kay Dickersin or myself know.

The SCT Board has approved a new logo for the Society and you will see this now on letterhead and other SCT documents, including this newsletter.

In closing, I would like to say that it has been a great honour for me to serve as SCT President this year. I have enjoyed the challenge and feel privileged to have had the opportunity to work closely with so many dedicated individuals. I would like to specifically thank Kay Dickersin (President-Elect) and Jim Neaton (Past President) for their guidance and support. There are many individuals who work extremely hard on behalf of the SCT and I would like to thank all of those who have chaired or served

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on SCT committees during this past year. There are too many to name them all, but special thanks go to our Program Chair, Ivan Chan, our Education Committee Chair, Domenic Reda, our Journal Editor, Steve Goodman, our Treasurer, Chris Donhauser, our Secretary, Anne Lindblad and our representative at Fernley & Fernley, Elizabeth Franks. Above all, I would like to extend a sincere thank you to Mary Burke, our Executive Director who has done so much to keep the wheels turning over the past year.

I look forward to seeing you all in St Louis.

Request for 2008 SCT/ImpACT Clinical Trial of the Year Nominations

by Rick Chappell and Steve Goodman

The Society for Clinical Trials requests nominations for the honor of 2008 SCT/ImpACT¹ Clinical Trial of the Year. Nominations should be for potential landmark clinical trials (not people) from any country. The trial should fulfill some or all of the following standards for merit in clinical research:

- It improves the lot of mankind regardless of class².
- It makes substantial and beneficial changes to medical practice.
- It answers a question which reflects expertise in the subject matter, matched by concern for study participants.
- It overcomes obstacles in implementation.
- Its design and the presentation of results are clear, efficient, and intellectually sound.



To make a nomination, please submit by Friday, May 2, the title/ name/ identifier of the clinical trial, a brief overview of the trial, one or more literature citations from the year 2007, and a short paragraph in support to:

Steve Goodman/Project Impact
clinicaltrials@jhmi.edu

Important: If e-mail, please write "SCT/ImpACT Clinical Trial of the Year" in the Subject field.

Deadline: Friday, May 2, 2008

The recipient of the SCT/ImpACT Clinical Trial of the Year will be announced during the Society for Clinical Trial's annual conference in St. Louis, in honor of International Clinical Trials Day(May 20th).

1 Project ImpACT (Important Achievements of Clinical Trials) is an ongoing collaborative project whose goal is to identify and profile the 100 most important RCTs conducted since 1948 in all domains of medicine and public health (www.projectimpact.info).

2 Tolstoy, referring to the purpose of science, in "What is art?"

Meet Us in St. Louis! Excitement Builds for SCT 2008 Conference

By Ivan Chan, SCT Program Chair

We hope that you will be able to join us May 18-21, 2008 in the wonderful city of St. Louis, Missouri for the 29th Annual Meeting of the Society for Clinical Trials.

This year's program covers a broad spectrum of exciting topics that should be of interest to people working in clinical trials. After a welcome by Society President Eleanor McFadden, Professor Drummond Rennie of the University of California, San Francisco and Deputy Editor of the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA), will begin our meeting with the Curtis Meinert honorary keynote address entitled "What Am I Worth? Take a Number! The Impact Factor and Much More Personal Problems."

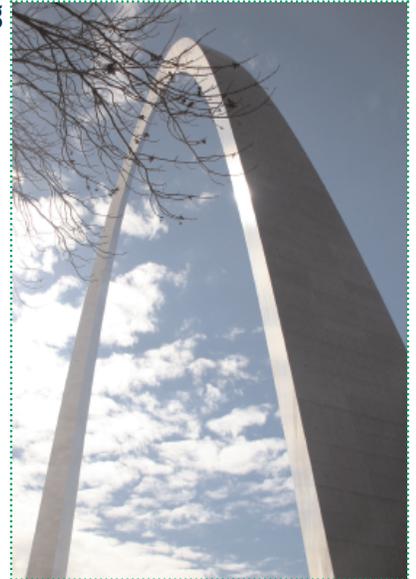
On Tuesday morning, Professor Janet Darbyshire from the Medical Research Council (MRC) Clinical Trial Unit in the UK, and Deputy Director of the UK Clinical Research Network project, will present the Founder's Lecture entitled "Creating a World Class Health Service Infrastructure to Support Clinical Research – the UK Experience."

In addition, there will be three exciting Plenary Sessions: I) Developing a career in clinical trials, II) Attitudes and challenges in surgical trials, and III) Clinical and translational science awards. Also, 13 Invited Sessions will be 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 data management, ethics, adaptive designs, safety planning and analysis, and interim monitoring to health policy evaluations - with many topics in between.

Importantly, there will be 52 oral contributed presentations, three oral student scholarship presentations and 68 posters presented at our meeting this year. We look forward to learning from these 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.

This year, the SCT will provide laptop computers for all sessions to ensure a smooth transition between presentations. I am also glad to say that many SCT members (thanks in advance) have volunteered to moderate the contributed sessions.



I would like to offer my sincere thanks to the members of the Program Committee for their hard work over the last 12 months. The committee members are Abdel Babiker, Kay Dickersin, Frank (Xiaoyin) Fan, Susan Halabi, Gary Johnson, James Johnson, KyungMann Kim, Gordon Lan, Eleanor McFadden, James D. Neaton, John Norrie, Wendy Parulekar, Bruce Pihlstrom, Domenic Reda, Daniel Sargent, Christoph Seiler, Angela Smith, and Paul Wakim.

Finally, on behalf of the Program Committee, I wish to thank Society President Eleanor McFadden for her leadership and Mary Burke at the SCT office 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 St. Louis.

Lots to Love in St. Louis



If you travel to St. Louis for the SCT meeting in May, you'll find top notch education and networking benefit for the clinical trials community. As an added bonus, you will also discover a vibrant, historical and fun-filled host city. St. Louis offers one of a kind experiences like the Gateway Arch and the Anheuser-Busch brewery; historical sites commemorating the achievements of explorers Lewis & Clark and Native Americans; cultural opportunities, including world class museums and sculpture parks; and leisure activities, with an abundance of

restaurants, casinos, and jazz clubs. Make the most of your trip! May temperatures in St. Louis average in the mid 50's to the mid 70's, so be sure to set aside some time to see the sites!

For more information, visit www.explorestlouis.com.

SCT Election Results

by *Eleanor McFadden, SCT President*

This year, the Board decided to move the elections for President-elect and Board members forward so that the newly elected individuals would have more time to learn about their responsibilities before officially taking office. The Nominating Committee developed an excellent slate of candidates and the elections duly took place. I am delighted to announce the results of those elections, with these individuals formally assuming office after the St Louis Meeting:

President Elect: Colin Begg
 Board Members: Bev Koski
 Yves Rosenberg
 Dave Sackett

The new Board members are now 'observing' on Board teleconferences and meetings.

I would like to thank Stan Shapiro and his committee members for generating the slate of candidates for the election.

SCT Conferences

May 18 – 21, 2008
 29th Annual Conference
 Hyatt Regency St. Louis
 St. Louis, MO
 For more information, or to register, visit
www.sctweb.org

May 3 – 6, 2009
 30th Annual Conference
 Omni Hotel at CNN Center
 Atlanta, GA

Important! Hotel reservation deadline is Friday, April 25, 2008. Visit www.sctweb.org to book your hotel on-line, or to print a hotel reservation form which can be competed and faxed to the hotel - or call the Hyatt Regency St. Louis at 314/231-1234.

From the Membership Committee

By Michele Melia – SCT Membership Committee Chair

2007 SCT Membership Survey Results

The SCT Membership Committee conducted an e-mail survey of its membership in October 2007. The purpose was to allow members to evaluate current services offered by the SCT and to help identify new services and initiatives to better serve our membership.

A total of 308 members completed the survey for a response rate of about 37%.

Some of the key findings of the survey were:

- Most respondents (63%) learned about the SCT from a colleague, illustrating the importance of word of mouth in recruiting new members;
- About half of the respondents attended our most recent annual meeting in Montreal; of those who did not attend, time conflict (60%) and lack of travel funds (28%) were the most frequently cited reasons for non-attendance, while expense (10%) and lack of relevance (9%) were cited much less frequently;

- Of current services offered by the SCT, those that were rated most important to respondents were the Society's journal, *Clinical Trials*, and the annual meetings.

- New services of high interest to respondents included web-based seminars, special workshops (not in conjunction with the annual meeting), and on-line workshops, indicating an interest by the membership in expanded educational offerings;

- About half of respondents had actively participated in the SCT in some way, most frequently by (51%) submitting an abstract for the annual meeting (88% of participants) or a paper to the SCT journal.

The membership committee would like to thank everyone who took time to respond to the survey. We plan on posting more detailed results on the website and will email members when this is done. Please make sure that the SCT office has your current email address. E-mail your change in address to Mary Burke at sctbalt@aol.com.

Education Committee Update

By Domenic Reda – SCT Education Committee Chair

The SCT Education Committee has been very productive this year, the St. Louis meeting will have the largest number of pre-conference workshops (11) ever offered. These workshops have been selected to appeal to the diverse backgrounds of SCT members. The ever popular full day workshop on Fundamentals of Clinical Trials is designed to provide a comprehensive overview of clinical trials design, conduct and analysis methods. Those interested in statistical methodology can choose from workshops on interim analysis, non-inferiority trials, phase II trials and design and analysis of trials involving biomarkers. The workshop on electronic data acquisition may be of particular interest to information technology specialists and others involved in choosing and designing the data collection strategy for a clinical trial. Workshops that may appeal to a broad spectrum of meeting atten-

dees include those on trial and site management, data monitoring committees, safety monitoring and the Cochrane collaboration. The all-star workshop faculty includes such noted experts as Gordon Lan, Janet Wittes, Dan Sargent, Barbara Hawkins, Simon Day, David Sackett, Sylvan Green and Kay Dickersin.

I want to extend a sincere thank you to committee members Denise Bonds, Nicole Close, Chris Coffey, Susan Cotter, Marta Gilson, Susan Halabi, Keri Hammel, Richard Kotz, John Lum, Michele Melia, Tom Moritz, Liz Murphy, Kristine Nelson, Wendy Parulekar, Yves Rosenberg, Wanda Umber, Julie Weston, and Carole White.

If you would like to be a member of the committee for the 2009 meetings, or have suggestions for future workshops, please leave Domenic Reda a note at the 2008 meeting or send an e-mail to: Domenic.Red@va.gov.

Note from the Fellows Committee

By Barbara Hawkins, Chair, SCT Committees on Fellows

Thank you to all for submitting nominations for the 2008 SCT Fellows. The SCT Committee on Fellows has completed the evaluation process and named 13 new SCT Fellows. They will be announced at the Annual Conference in St. Louis, May 18 – 21.

Members of the 2007- 2008 SCT Committee on Fellows

Bob Byington (*by invitation*)
Barry Davis
Dave DeMets
Susan Ellenberg
Bill Friedewald

Larry Friedman
Sylvan Green
Barbara Hawkins, Chair
Genell Knatterud
John Lachin

Curt Meinert
Ellie Schron
George Williams
Janet Wittes

Notes from the Editor

If you would like to join the SCT or learn more about participating in upcoming meetings, visit the SCT website at www.sctweb.org or contact Mary Burke at 410/433-4722 or sctbalt@aol.com.

If you have suggestions for this newsletter, contact SCT Newsletter Editor Elizabeth Franks at Fernley & Fernley, Inc. – 215/564-3484 or efranks@fernley.com.

