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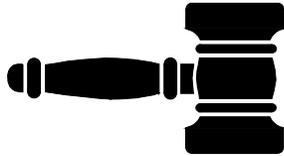
# SCT Newsletter

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Volume 15, Number 2

October 2005

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## SCT President's Corner

by Dennis Dixon

Greetings. There are quite a few items of news to relay, this being my first communication to the membership during my own term as President. But first, writing in the first week of September, I want to note the Society's deepest sympathy for those affected by Hurricane Katrina. Many of us became acquainted or reacquainted with the people and city of New Orleans at our meeting in May 2004. The losses and desperation there now, as well as throughout the Gulf areas of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama, are heartbreaking. We all have the greatest admiration for individuals and communities in surrounding areas who are lending hands to provide relief.

During the Society's annual meeting in Portland, the Board of Directors approved a recommendation from the Policy Committee to begin the process of designating the Society's preeminent members as Fellows. Under the leadership of former president Barry Davis, the Policy Committee worked very hard to devise procedures that would assure fair selection of a modest number of longtime contributors to the Society and the professions involved in clinical trials. We now have a Fellows Committee chaired by Bob Byington. Elsewhere in this Newsletter, Bob provides more detail, including instructions for making nominations.

The Society is about one-third through its year (which runs from annual meeting to annual meeting). The first obligation of the Society is to

provide a range of services to its members; in that respect things are going well. The next annual meeting will take place in Orlando, Florida, May 21 to 24, 2006. The key planning committees, Program, chaired by KyungMann Kim, and Education, chaired by Dominic Reda, have made great progress. Other committees fulfill their responsibilities with less fanfare but no less importance to the Society. I want to be sure to express my appreciation for the contributions of Rick Chappell (Nominating Committee), Ken James (Finance), Eleanor McFadden (Publication), Mark Espeland (Web Policy), Tom Capizzi (Development) and Sylvan Green (Student Scholarship).

In recent years, a number of members have encouraged the Society to serve, not only as a provider of services, but also as a voice, speaking out on matters of high interest to the membership. One response has been the adoption of a policy for publishing position papers commissioned by the Society. The first of those was written by a team led by Kay Dickersin and published in *Clinical Trials* (Vol. 1, Number 5, 2004). Although each position paper must achieve support by a super-majority of the Board of Directors (at least two-thirds of those voting), drafts will be posted on the SCT web site with an invitation for comment from all members.

The theme of increased Society prominence and influence received much attention in Portland. It seems desirable to increase the membership and increase the circulation of *Clinical Trials*. In turn, these are thought to depend on building a more diverse membership (confronting the perception that SCT and the annual meeting have been taken over by biostatisticians), making the meeting programs and workshop offerings more attractive to trialists other than biostatisticians, and perhaps selecting meeting dates so as to minimize proximity to other major meetings.

In the course of exploring all of these and other

potential initiatives, it will be important to keep perspective. Therefore, we are revisiting our basic Society objectives and pursuing initiatives most likely to support our objectives. Jim Neaton, your next President, and I have discussed these matters at some length, together with my predecessor, Peter Peduzzi, and other members of the Policy Committee. Jim is forming what he has called a Futures Committee, exactly the right emphasis. Jim will aim to produce a report and recommendations by the end of 2005. There will be input from the Policy Committee, the Board of Directors, and the membership.

Best regards to all. I am grateful for the confidence shown by allowing me to serve in this high office, and I hope to see as many of you as possible in Orlando next May

## **Honorary title *Fellow of the Society for Clinical Trials* now established**

*by Bob Byington*

The Society has established the new title of Fellow of the Society for Clinical Trials to honor past or current Society members who have made significant contributions to the advancement of clinical trials. This title will be granted to a number of society members each year at the Annual Meeting.

Candidates for this title must have been members of the SCT for at least five of the last ten years or a total of at least ten years. Each nominee will be evaluated on the basis of his or her contributions to the advancement of clinical trials in one or more of the following areas:

- ◆ Methodological development
- ◆ Trial coordination, conduct or leadership
- ◆ Education
- ◆ Ethics
- ◆ Promoting a better understanding by the general public of the importance of randomized clinical trials
- ◆ Service to the society

A Committee on Fellows has been established to evaluate each candidate on the criteria described above. This year the members of the Committee are Bob Byington (Chair), Larry Friedman, Mae Gordon, Joel Greenhouse, Barbara Hawkins, Ruth

McBride, and Frank Rockhold.

SCT is now soliciting nominations for this title. Any member of the Society may nominate a candidate. To do so, please collect the following:

- ◆ The candidate's CV
- ◆ At least three letters of support of the nomination from individuals qualified to describe the candidate's contribution to the Society.

These letters should be from institutions or organizations other than the candidates.

Submit the CV and the 3+ letters to Bob Byington by December 31, 2005. His address is:

Robert P. Byington, Ph.D.

SCT Committee on Fellows

Department of Public Health Sciences

Wake Forest University School of Medicine

Medical Center Boulevard

Winston-Salem, NC 27157-1063

USA

The first class of Fellows will be awarded this title at the May 2006 Meeting of the Society in Orlando, Florida.

## **Program Committee Update**

The Program Committee is currently planning the program for the Society's 27<sup>th</sup> annual meeting, which will be held May 21-24, 2006, in Orlando. The committee is chaired by Kyungmann Kim. Members include Sylvan Green, Domenic Reda, Scott Evans, Joel Greenhouse, Heidi Krause-Steinrauf, Abdel Babiker, Mary Foulkes, Ivan Chan, Rebecca Rosenstein, William Harlan, Karen Bailie, Donya Bagheri, Tony Panzarella. If you have suggestions for the committee, contact any committee member or send email to Kyungmann Kim: [kmkim@biostat.wisc.edu](mailto:kmkim@biostat.wisc.edu)

## **Student Scholarship Competition**

The SCT Student Scholarship Committee is chaired by Sylvan Green. All students are invited to enter the competition. Three winners will be selected. Their fees will be waived and their travel and living expenses for the Orlando meeting will be paid for by the Society. An additional \$500, the Thomas Chalmers Memorial Award, will be given to the student judged to have the best paper. For more information, see [www.sctweb.org](http://www.sctweb.org) or contact Sylvan Green by sending email to [sgreen@azcc.arizona.edu](mailto:sgreen@azcc.arizona.edu)

## News from the Publications Committee: *Clinical Trials* now on Medline

By Eleanor McFadden

The Society's journal, *Clinical Trials* (published by Hodder Arnold Journals) has now been accepted onto Medline. This acceptance is important to libraries when they make a decision about subscription to a new journal. If you had previously contacted your library to ask them to subscribe to the journal, but it has not yet happened, it is a good time to try again. A Library Recommendation Form was recently circulated in a mailing from the SCT offices. Please complete this and submit to your library if you would like them to subscribe to the journal. We would like to encourage as many libraries as possible to include the journal in their portfolio, and therefore ask that you do your part in trying to make this happen.

## Nominating Committee Update

The Nominating Committee, chaired by Rick Chappell, is responsible for designating a slate of nominees for positions of President and members of the Board of Directors. The Chairperson is responsible for ensuring that the Nominating Committee develops a list of two nominees for President and two for each position to be selected for the Board of Directors. In selecting the nominees, particular attention is paid to obtaining balance among disciplines, geography, and source of employment, in order to encourage broad representation from the Society membership. If you have suggestions for the nominating committee, contact Rick Chappell by sending email to [chappell@biostat.wisc.edu](mailto:chappell@biostat.wisc.edu)

## Web Site Update

by Scott Rushing

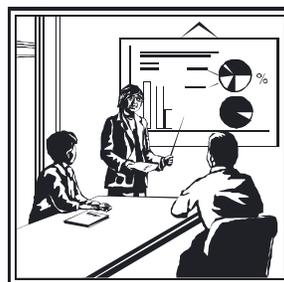
Recent updates to the web site include updated information for the upcoming 27th Annual Meeting of the SCT. Abstracts can be submitted online until the cutoff of date of December 1, 2005. Online materials for the meeting registration and hotel registrations will be posted as they become available.

A new section of the web site is devoted to Position Papers. The first article titled "The Society for Clinical Trials Supports United States Legislation mandating trials registration" is posted and available for viewing.

Many presentations from the 2005 meeting have been posted on the web site. The main page has a link to "Past Meeting Presentations," where past meeting presentations will be posted as the SCT Web group receives them. This section is useful to those who were unable to make the Portland meeting.

The "Useful Links and Upcoming Events" section has been updated with a link to "Considering Usual Medical Care in Clinical Trial Design: Scientific and Ethical Issues," which is taking place November 14-15, 2005. More information is available online.

Please send suggestions or comments about the web site to Mary Burke ([sctbalt@aol.com](mailto:sctbalt@aol.com)).



## Education Committee Workshops

The SCT Education Committee, chaired by Dominic Reda, has begun work on planning the annual meeting Pre-Conference Workshops for Sunday, May 21, 2006. Committee members include Carol Fye, Christian Speas, Claudia Moy, Michele Melia, Nicole Close, Pamela Moke, Virginia Howard, Wendy Parulekar, Yves Rosenberg, and Richard Kotz. If you have suggestions for the Education Committee, talk to any committee member or contact Dominic Reda by email: [reda@research.hines.med.va.gov](mailto:reda@research.hines.med.va.gov)

## Notes from the Editor

If you would like to join the SCT or learn more about the 2006 Orlando meeting, check the SCT web site [www.sctweb.org](http://www.sctweb.org) or contact Mary Burke at phone (410) 433-4722 or email [sctbalt@aol.com](mailto:sctbalt@aol.com)

If you have suggestions for this newsletter, contact *SCT Newsletter* editor Jennifer Gassman in the Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation via email: [jgassman@bio.ri.ccf.org](mailto:jgassman@bio.ri.ccf.org)