The 63rd annual meeting of the Southern Society for Clinical Investigation was held on February 12-14, 2009 at the Hotel Intercontinental in New Orleans. The meeting was a huge success due to outstanding plenaries, workshops and concurrent sessions with close to 600 attendees taking part. Over $75,000 was bestowed in trainee awards and 28 new members were accepted into the Society.

2009 Officers
President          Jesse Roman, MD
President-Elect    Charles V. Sanders, MD
Secretary-Treasurer James C. Oates, MD
Editor-in-Chief    David W. Ploth, MD

2009 Councilors
R. Wayne Alexander, MD, PhD   Marie A. Krousel-Wood, MD
Errol D. Crook, MD             Gailen D. Marshall, Jr., MD, PhD
Karen B. DeSalvo, M            Robert T. Means, MD
Charles O. Elson, MD           R. Hal Scofield, MD
Monica M. Farley, MD           Daniel Villarreal, MD
Michael F. Flessner, MD, PhD

2009 Nominating Committee
Bruce C. Kone, MD (Chair)   Richard M. Peek, Jr., MD
Patrice Delafontaine, MD    Susan M. Ray, MD
Ana L. Mora, MD              C. Mel Wilcox, MD

NEW for 2010...we are now offering a program to aid junior faculty in the progression of their academic careers. SSCI members are urged to participate in this facilitated mentoring program. For more information, please visit our website. While you’re there, don’t forget to update your member profile!!! It’ll only take a couple of minutes. Thank you.

Call For Abstracts
Visit the SSCI website: www.ssciweb.org
for Call for Abstracts and information on the
SSCI Nephrology Young Investigator’s Forum
Abstract Deadline: October 16
Membership Nomination Deadline: November 10
2009 SSCI Young Investigator Award Recipients

First Place: $1,000—Jun Li, MD, PhD
University of Alabama at Birmingham
“Anti-Human Death Receptor 5 Induced Apoptosis in Mouse Cell Lines by a Novel Human-Mouse Chimeric Molecule”

Second Place: $750  Faisal Ahmad, MD
Emory University
“Pepsin in Gastric Fluid Promotes Epithelial Mesenchymal Transformation: Implications for Understanding the Role of Reflux in Pulmonary Fibrosis”

Third Place: $600 – Amit Varma, MD
Virginia Commonwealth University
“Endogenous Interleukin-1 Receptor Antagonist Protects Against Apoptosis and Cardiac Remodeling after Acute Myocardial Infarction”

2009 Founders’ Medal Award Winner

Dr. Christopher Marino (left) and Dr. Bruce C. Kone, MD (right) after presenting the award to Dr. Richard W. McCallum.

Dr. McCallum’s contributions to the SSCI, and to academic medicine have been significant, and we congratulate him on the receipt of this prestigious award.

2009 Tinsley Harrison Award Winner

The Tinsley Harrison Award is awarded each year to the first author of the best original manuscript published in The American Journal of Medical Sciences

The 16th annual Tinsley Harrison Award was presented to Katima Phisitkul, MD of Texas Tech University Health Science Center by Dr. David W. Ploth, Editor-in-Chief of The AJMS. Dr. Phisitkul was also awarded a $1,000 check from Lippincott, Williams, Wilkins, publisher of The AJMS.

The title of the winning paper was “Continued Smoking Exacerbates but Cessation Ameliorates Progression of Early Type 2 Diabetic Nephropathy”.

“This past Friday (February 13), my son presented his first abstract at a scientific meeting. It was especially meaningful to me since it was only about 30 years ago that I presented my first abstract and it was at the same meeting.”

Charles Hilton, MD
Associate Dean
LSU School of Medicine New Orleans
2010 Annual Meeting

The 64th Annual Meeting will be held February 25-27, 2010 at Hotel InterContinental New Orleans. Please make plans to attend now as we have some special events planned for this meeting. This will be a joint meeting with the Southern Section of the American Federation for Clinical Research, Southern Society for Pediatric Research, Academic Pediatric Association, and Southern Society for General Internal Medicine. The joint meeting will begin with subspecialty sessions and workshops Thursday afternoon and a Poster session Thursday evening. The scientific sessions will start the following morning. This year’s Joint Plenary is entitled “A Case-Based Approach to a Chronic Disease: Examining Sickle Cell Disease from the Bench to Bedside, From Conventional Therapy to Innovation”.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS:
For those of you who would like to make your reservations early, a hotel reservation form is also included in the Call for Abstracts. PLEASE NOTE: If forms provided by the SSCI are not used or you do not indicate your attendance at the Southern Regional Meetings when making your reservation by telephone, you will not receive the special room rate provided to members by the hotel and the society will not get credit for your stay at the hotel. Therefore, please indicate that you are attending the Southern Meetings (conference code – L10) when making your reservations. The deadline for hotel reservations at our convention rate and the hold on the room block is January 24, 2010.

Nephrology Young Investigator’s Forum

The Ninth Annual SSCI Nephrology Young Investigators Forum will be held on Wednesday, February 24. Information on this Forum can be obtained from the SSCI website www.ssciweb.org.

Abstract deadline for this Forum is October 16th, and is limited to Nephrology fellows.

SSCI Young Investigator Awards

The SSCI Young Investigator Awards are offered to recognize and encourage excellence in investigation by physicians and medical students during research training.

Eligibility: Medical students, combined MD/PhD students, interns, residents and post-doctoral physicians who are in research training or were in research training June 2009 are eligible. Post-doctoral research training may be considered to extend for a period of up to three years and time spent in strictly clinical fellowships need not count against this.

The applicant must be the first author of the abstract submitted in competition for the award and will plan to present the paper during the scientific sessions of the Southern Regional Meetings. Please note that it is not necessary for the senior author to be a member of the SSCI.

Procedure: Abstracts will be submitted for the 2009 Annual Meeting of the Southern Society for Clinical Investigation according to the usual procedure described in the instructions on awards consideration accompanying the abstract form.

Deadline: The submission deadline of the abstracts and application for the SSCI Young Investigator Award is October 16, 2009.

**Please note that nomination letters from the senior investigator or mentor and the Division Director or Department Chairman are required and should include a statement of the candidate’s role in the study. In order to be eligible for consideration of these awards, the nomination letter(s) should be uploaded on the website at the time of abstract submission.**

Reservations can be made online at https://resweb.passkey.com/go/SSCI

Meeting Registration

Pre-registration information is also included in the Call for Abstracts.

Pre-registration deadline is February 22, 2010.

Later in the fall, a pre-registration brochure will be mailed.

Registration fees:
- Members - $215
- Trainees - $75
- Non-members - $255

On-site registration fees will be increased by $25 per person.

On-line registration is available at www.cme.tulane.edu

Congratulations to Dr. Solomon S. Solomon, University of Tennessee Science Center, Veteran’s Administration Hospital in Memphis as the 2010 winner of the SSCI Founders’ Medal Award!
BUSINESS NEWS

The past 12 months has seen significant changes to The AJMS: A new front cover, revamping the inside layout, new article types, i.e: Images, Historical Perspectives and the quarterly CPC from Texas A&M. In addition, we were pleased to publish 3 symposia in 2008. Annual submissions continued to increase once again in 2008 with 583 submissions; up from 480 submissions in 2007. It’s only mid-August, but we are confident we will exceed last year’s numbers as submissions are presently at 463!

Despite the present economic situation, The Journal continues to prosper. Royalty revenue paid to the SSCI increased from approximately $102,000 to $130,000. Royalty income is derived from several sources: page charges, bulk sales of entire symposia and other issues to organizations, and downloads of current and archived articles from the web. One of the many benefits of being a member of the SSCI is free access to articles, both in print format and online.

The AJMS is in the forefront of electronic medical publishing thanks to our publisher, Lippincott, Williams, Wilkins. Recently, LWW released our new and improved website, which offers a new “look” and many new enhancements for users, with more to be released in the coming months. We are excited about these new changes and hope that you will go online to check them out for yourself at www.amjmedsci.com!

If you had not had an opportunity to update your profile online, please do so at www.editorialmanager.com/maj. In addition to updating your contact information, we specifically ask you to please update the “Personal Classification” and “Personal Keywords” sections. The keywords would provide more specific details as to your area of specialty/interest, and that is of great assistance to us when we are looking for reviewers, plus we want to ensure that we have the most up-to-date contact information for you as well. Updating your profile is quite simple and will take less than 5 minutes to accomplish. We hope you will take the time to accommodate this request.

We thank those members who have submitted papers and/or reviewed manuscripts for The AJMS during the past year. We continue to seek and encourage submissions from the membership, particularly from trainees and junior faculty. We welcome the submission of case reports, reviews or manuscripts of original research at any time. The Journal is also interested in soliciting high quality symposia on topics of general interest.

On behalf of the Society, we wish to thank all members who attended this year’s meeting and those who nominated candidates for membership. We extend an invitation to all members to take an active part in the Society and to support the Society in its efforts.

Sincerely yours,

Jesse Roman, MD
President

James C. Oates, M.D.
Secretary-Treasurer