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Southern Society for Clinical Investigation

Official Journal - *American Journal of the Medical Sciences*

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Important Dates to Remember!

Abstract Deadline - October 16, 2006

Membership Nomination Deadlines – October 16 and December 10

Annual Meeting - February 8-10, 2007

Hotel Inter-Continental, New Orleans

April 21, 2006

Dear SSCI Member:

I am proud to announce that, despite the challenges facing academic medicine and its supportive institutions and the catastrophe caused by Hurricane Katrina, the SSCI continues to thrive as a regional academic society. There are three major reasons that we continue to be successful. First, we maintain a solid financial base that assures our resilience. That strong financial foundation comes from the support of members like you and the success of the *American Journal of the Medical Sciences*. Second, we continue to be associated with an exciting annual meeting. Despite the horrific disaster caused by Hurricane Katrina to many of our members and their institutions, the 2006 Southern Regional Meeting was moved to Atlanta, GA and had an attendance of over 400. The decrease in the number of attendees and abstracts at the 2006 Southern Regional Meeting was almost exactly the number of participants from our two New Orleans' schools. We are proud to say that it was the unanimous consensus of both the leadership and membership of all the southern regional societies that we return to New Orleans for the 2007 meeting. And third, we have made a concerted effort to focus the mission of our society and the purpose of our annual meeting on the academic development and mentoring of young trainees and faculty, a goal all members can embrace. Many trainees lack the financial support and/or depth of research experience to participate in large national meetings. Our meeting addresses those issues, providing a venue for all trainees to present their work and participate in the exchange of ideas. If you have not been to the Southern Regional Meeting in the past few years, I encourage you be part of this personally rewarding experience. Lastly, I believe that the SSCI has been strengthened by a recent reorganization of its council, updating of its bylaws, and establishment of an informative website. In all, we have the finances, organization, and mission to keep us vibrant for the foreseeable future.

In the spirit of our mission to support the academic development of young trainees, I encourage all SSCI members to be proactive in helping promising resident and fellow trainees get their start in academic medicine. One way to do this, while simultaneously satisfying ACGME curricular requirements for scholarly activity by trainees, is to encourage your residents and fellows to submit an abstract of their work to the 2007 Southern Regional Meeting. We strive to accept all abstracts, and as a member in good standing of the SSCI, residents and fellows doing research with you are eligible to compete for a \$500 travel award to attend the meeting. Many Chairs of Medicine and other academic leaders attend the meeting, which further enhances the experience for trainees.

In addition to encouraging your trainees to submit their work at the Southern Regional Meeting, members can support the SSCI and its mission by:

1. Attending and participating in the annual meeting.
2. Nominating faculty members (M.D., Ph.D. and Pharm.D.) at your institution for membership.
3. Submitting manuscripts and case reports to the *American Journal of the Medical Sciences*.
4. Staying up-to-date on membership dues.
5. Raising funds for trainee travel support.

Information on how to participate in each of the above (and contribute in other ways) can be found on our website, www.ssciweb.org.

The SSCI has a worthy and important mission. On behalf of the Council, I urge all members to be active in our organization as we strive to ensure the future of academic medicine.

Sincerely,

Donald E. Wesson, M.D.
President

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