



Tinsley Randolph Harrison, M.D.
1900 - 1978

Southern Society for Clinical Investigation

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Celebrating 70 years of Excellence in Medical Research 1946 - 2016

REMINDER

Membership Nomination Deadline – September 15, 2015
See website for details – www.ssciweb.org

April 20, 2015

Dear SSCI Members,

In 2016, we will celebrate 70 years since the founding of the SSCI by Dr. Tinsley Harrison, the first President of the Society. I am honored and humbled to serve as 70th President of SSCI during this milestone year. Since 1946, SSCI has been dedicated to the advancement of medical research and has fostered the next generation of investigators through sponsorship of the annual scientific *Southern Regional Meeting* and publication of our scientific journal, the *American Journal of Medical Sciences*. Over the last seven decades, SSCI has hosted 68 outstanding scientific sessions, supported thousands of junior colleagues, advanced science through the publication of over 7,700 articles in our journal, *The American Journal of the Medical Sciences* (established in 1820 and is the second oldest medical journal), and experienced strategic growth to nearly 500 accomplished members! Our 2016 meeting will remember our rich history, celebrate our achievements and highlight advances in translational research.

SSCI recognizes the key roles of our students, fellows, and junior faculty for the future of medical research and the importance of medical educators in preparing our future clinicians and scientists for the interface between medicine and research. To that end, our Society is committed to supporting scientific excellence, expanding opportunities for mentoring, fostering the academic careers of our junior colleagues, and engaging our medical educators. SSCI needs you, the members of the Society, to be successful in our endeavors and remain a vibrant organization in the face of current challenges in academic medicine. There are several key areas for participation: nomination of new members, faculty, mentor and trainee attendance at the SRM meetings, manuscript submissions to the *American Journal of Medical Sciences*, participation in the Visiting Professor Program, and donations to the *Fund for Academic Medicine*. We welcome your involvement in any and all of these endeavors.

With approximately 500 members, the SSCI continues as one of the premier multispecialty organizations, devoted to fostering research and education. During 2014, 33 new members from 13 academic institutions in 11 states were elected to the SSCI. **The membership nomination deadline is September 15, 2015.** Information regarding the membership nomination process can be found on

our website – www.ssciweb.org. I encourage you to nominate members of your faculty who have achieved success in their area of academic medicine for membership in our organization. A thriving membership with the constant addition of new members is the only way to sustain our growth and to continue to achieve success in our mission.

The Southern Regional Meeting endures as *the* regional meeting for mentoring the next generation of clinical and translational scientists. From February 26th to the 28th, the Southern Regional Meeting (jointly hosted by SSCI, SAFMR, SSPR, APA, and the ASN) attracted approximately 625 attendees (~375 trainees/students) and 540 abstracts from over 60 institutions in 26 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Many thanks go to everyone who worked to make this year's meeting a success. The Program Planning Committee was chaired by Dr. Daniel Villarreal, the 2014 President of the SSCI. In keeping with our mission, SSCI presented three SSCI Young Investigator Awards, one SSCI Young Investigator Award in General Internal Medicine, 19 SSCI Nephrology Young Investigator Forum Awards, and seven SSCI Cardiovascular Case Report Scholar Awards, and four Cardiovascular Young Clinician Scientists Awards. In collaboration with the Southern Section of the AFMR, eight Junior Faculty, 41 Trainee, and 32 Student Travel Awards were presented. The combined investment in these awards totaled \$72,000, with approximately \$52,000 of that amount paid by SSCI. There was a sustained focus on mentoring during the poster presentations, and three posters received SSCI Poster Awards. The critical importance of supporting the next generation of medical investigators was evident during the Chairs' breakfast when Chairs from across the region introduced promising trainees that represent the future of our profession. In the upcoming year, SSCI will continue to capitalize on the talents of its members to expand on mentoring in support of the next generation of clinical and scientific leaders.

One of the major highlights of our meeting is the presentation of the Founders' Medal Award, which was created in honor of Dr. Tinsley Harrison. This year's Founder's Medal Award was presented to Dr. Monica Farley from Emory University. Monica's dedication and contributions to SSCI have been unwavering for many years, and the recognition is richly deserved. We count on current and future members to continue this level of dedication to further the mission of SSCI. The Tinsley Harrison Award recognizes the best original manuscript published in the *American Journal of the Medical Sciences* in 2014. This year's award was presented to Stephanie DeLoach from Thomas Jefferson University for her work entitled "Obesity Associated Inflammation in African American Adolescents". To recognize the importance and contributions of mentors, the inaugural *Mentor of the Year Awards* were presented this year. Outstanding mentors were recognized in three categories: student mentoring - Dr. John Mountz at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, postgraduate mentoring - Dr. Gailen Marshall, Jr. at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, and junior faculty mentoring - Dr. Michael Hart at Emory University.

The combined societies succeeded in bridging adult and pediatric medicine by presenting a Joint Plenary entitled "***From Childhood to Adulthood: Perspectives on Cardiovascular Disease in Females***". This session explored hypertension and health behaviors in females across the lifespan in addition to the promises, problems and unresolved issues regarding hormones and the heart. The SSCI Presidential Symposium entitled "***New Perspectives on Pathophysiology and Management in Heart Failure***" provided key insights on novel activators of cardiovascular disease as well as mechanisms of cachexia in chronic disease states. The concurrent and plenary sessions once again displayed a broad range of talent and interests. The increased interactions between members, mentors, and presenters during the Poster Session were well-received. The inaugural *Epidemiology*

and Population Health Club with invited speaker Dr. Paul Whelton offered new insights regarding practical application of clinical trials and observational studies to over 60 attendees.

The American Journal of the Medical Sciences (AJMS), under the leadership of Dr. David Ploth (Editor), and Kathleen Kelly (Managing Editor), continues to grow in the number and quality of journal submissions it has received since the journal began an online submission process nearly 10 years ago. The journal is actively exploring opportunities to enhance its value to the members and continues to do well financially. For more information on the *Journal*, please visit <http://journals.lww.com/amjmedsci/pages/aboutthejournal.aspx>.

In 2013, the *Fund for Academic Medicine* was established to support our gifted young trainees with travel awards and grants. Please consider a contribution to this initiative. The web link for donations is <https://www.ssciweb.org/donate.php>.

Information on the Founders' Medal and the Visiting Professor Program can be found on the website www.ssci.org. Both the **Founders' Medal nominations** and the **Visiting Professor Program applications are due May 1, 2015**.

I wish to thank Dr. Daniel Villarreal (immediate Past-President), Dr. Monica Farley (Secretary-Treasurer), the SSCI Councilors, the Advisory Committee, and Joan Kemp (Executive Director) for their service and dedication to SSCI and the meeting. The success of the meeting and the advancement of mission of SSCI; however, depends upon its membership. For your continued interest in and commitment to our Society, I am truly grateful.

The next annual meeting will be held in New Orleans on February 18-20, 2016. The theme of the meeting will be ***Translational Research: From molecules to mankind and beyond.*** ***The abstract deadline for SRM 2016 will be October 9, 2015.***

Please exhort your colleagues and trainees to submit their work and attend our exciting and stimulating scientific sessions and workshops. We are planning special events to celebrate our 70 years as a premier regional scientific meeting---*New Orleans style!*

Sincerely,



M. "Tonette" Krousel-Wood MD, MSPH, President
Southern Society for Clinical Investigation