

Southern Society for Clinical Investigation

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Dear Colleagues and Friends,

I hope that everyone had a safe and joyous holiday season, and that 2019 will bring many wonderful personal and professional rewards for all of you.

The SSCI leadership and administrative staff, in partnership with our amazing colleagues in our sister societies, are putting the final touches on the planning for the Southern Regional Meeting in New Orleans on February 21st-23rd at the Intercontinental New Orleans. I am particularly excited with the changes we have made in the format of the Plenary Session on Friday morning that we share with the Southern Section of the American Federation for Medical Research. My hope is that the revised schedule will provide a greater integration of the two societies' activities and reflect our strong and enduring partnership. As I noted in my previous letter, we are also inaugurating the Nathan Solomon & Irene Oransky-Solomon Medical Student Research Awards that have been created thanks to an endowment from long-time SSCI member Solomon Solomon, MD at the University of Tennessee to honor his parents. For those of you who are able to attend the session, I look forward to your feedback on the new format, either positive or negative, as my sincere goal in initiating these changes is to enhance the program. However, this truly is 'your/our' plenary session, so we welcome any suggestions for future programmatic improvements.

The entire SRM Program is available on the SSCI website under the 'Meetings' tab, and I am excited with the depth and breadth of the sessions. It is especially gratifying to see the growth of the activities that have been developed for our clinician-educator members. Although academic medicine has changed a great deal in our professional lifetimes, the time-honored missions of patient care, research and education remain constants, and the SRM Program reflects these values in ways of which all SSCI members can be proud.

There will be important elections for SSCI President-elect, Councilors and Governance Committee positions during the Plenary Session on Friday morning of the SRM. In addition, we will be voting on a measure to broaden and strengthen our membership. Therefore, please make every effort to attend the session, not only to hear some wonderful presentations and honor some amazing colleagues, but also to have your voice heard (and your vote counted) on how the SSCI will remain a vibrant force in academic medicine for decades to come.

I wish to close by saying that this will be my final 'President's Letter' as Gailen Marshall will assume this office next month in New Orleans. Gailen has dedicated an amazing amount of time and energy to the SSCI over the years, and he will undoubtedly elevate the role over the next year. It has been one of the most rewarding academic honors of my career to have served as President of the SSCI, and I am particularly excited about the new initiatives and programs we have developed and our plans for ensuring the long-term success of the society in the coming years. Next month will be my 24th consecutive SRM, and I genuinely hope that I am fortunate enough to attend many more in the future. We can be proud of so much that the SSCI does to support academic medicine, but I have a soft spot in my heart for our role in providing a forum for trainees to present their work in a nurturing environment. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the meeting in New Orleans next month and wish you all safe travels and a belated Happy New Year!

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'David M. Guidot'.

David M. Guidot, MD, President