

Southern Society for Clinical Investigation

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Dear Colleagues and Friends,

2020 has probably been one of, if not the most remarkable, year in any of our lives – with the coronavirus pandemic and all that it has led to. However, I know that everyone has pushed through it so far and will continue to do so. The SSCI has also had many challenges, but we will persevere – and I truly believe be stronger. One example is our move to a **Virtual Southern Regional Meeting in 2021**. The move to cancel the in person meeting and hold a virtual 2021 Southern Regional Meeting (SRM) was carefully considered, and we ultimately felt that the safety of all of our members and trainees was the most important part of the meeting.

I would like to emphasize that the move to a virtual meeting will allow us to be extremely creative and develop a robust and very tight meeting that will have all of the popular components of the in person meeting. We will welcome abstracts, particularly focused on those submitted by a wide array of trainees. We will have a state-of-the-art Joint Plenary session that will be absolutely fabulous and exciting for everyone. We will continue to offer special symposia as well. Although we will miss the in person networking typical of being in New Orleans, we are also going to try some new ways to present abstracts in 2021 that will be fun and should help maintain as much of an interactive element as possible. Therefore, I would like to encourage everyone to look at the call for abstracts for 2021 submissions closely and let your trainees know about our plans for the meeting. Most importantly, I ask you to encourage your colleagues to submit their abstracts.

Additionally, even though we are going virtual at SRM 2021, we will be presenting student, trainee and junior faculty awards, honoring SSCI Young Investigators, the Nathan Solomon & Irene Oransky-Solomon Medical Student Research Awards, the SSCI Mentor of the Year, and the Tinsley Harrison Award.

The Call for Abstracts for SRM 2021 can be found at <https://www.ssciweb.org/southern-regional-meeting.php> . We will also again be holding the 20th Annual Nephrology Young Investigators' Forum on February 24 and it will also be virtual. The Call for Abstracts for this program can be found at <https://www.ssciweb.org/young-investigators-forum.php> .

I look forward to “seeing” you at the 2021 meetings outstanding scientific sessions.

Please stay safe and be well,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Don C. Rockey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Don C. Rockey, MD, President
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