

Southern Society for Clinical Investigation

Official Journal - *American Journal of the Medical Sciences*



Don C. Rockey, MD – President
Sumanth Prabhu, MD - President-Elect
Vin Tangpricha MD, PhD – Secretary-Treasurer
Gailen D. Marshall, Jr., MD, PhD – Past President
Jesse Roman, MD – Editor, *AJMS*
Sarah McCann – Managing Editor, *AJMS*

Website - www.ssciweb.org

Executive Director
Joan G. Kemp
Southern Society for Clinical Investigation
6359 Tribute Lane
Dora, AL 35062
205-648-8429 (ph); 205-566-6090 (cell)
Jkemp5@tulane.edu

February 16, 2021

Dear SSCI Friends and Colleagues,

It has truly been a year unlike any other. Our annual meeting is literally right around the corner - just a short time until we get together for the first ever virtual Southern Regional Meeting (February 25-27). While this meeting will be different and has a number of innovative components, we will maintain a number of features that you will be familiar with. First, we will be welcoming a new group of members and fellows to the SSCI. Secondly, we will be hearing from many, many trainees – one of the core elements that make the SRM so special. To our absolute delight, we received 638 abstracts for SRM 2021, only 36 abstracts less than we received for SRM 2020. We have ensured that there will be an opportunity for everyone to present, and I encourage you all to see as many of these as you can – either in an oral presentation format, or as a poster.

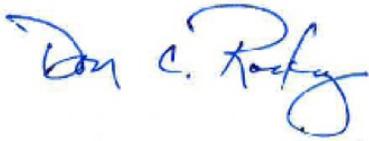
The meeting will begin Thursday morning with our top clinical case presentations, followed by a mentoring session focused on how to move your clinical case to publication. Later that morning and in the afternoon, sessions focused on various parallel oral presentation sessions will take place. The afternoon will progress to the grand poster session with hundreds of participants from all across the region. This is a very important opportunity for members and fellows to see and hear poster presentations covering essentially every topic in medicine, both pediatric and adult. Many of these presenters are our next generation of researchers, so please be sure to attend.

The entire day Friday will be dedicated to parallel oral sessions, so here, pick your favorite topic and engage with your colleagues. Please note that these virtual sessions will have the abstracts presented in a recorded fashion, followed by live question and answer sessions – so please engage the speakers with your questions. On Saturday morning, we will have our joint SSCI and SAFMR Plenary Session. This session will be focused on recognizing a number of accomplished individuals. We will also hear an outstanding talk from Dr. Abolfazl Zarjou from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, the 2020 recipient of the SSCI Research Scholar Award.

After the break, we will have our Joint Plenary Session co-sponsored by the SSCI, the Southern Society for Pediatric Research and the S-AMFR. This live symposium will be one of a kind entitled “2020 SARS-CoV-2 Pandemic - From Bench to Bedside and Beyond” and features three very accomplished physician scientist speakers. With the pandemic on everyone’s mind and clearly the dominant topic in all of 2020, this will be an opportunity to hear about everything from the biology of the virus to what to expect with current and future vaccines. There is so much to learn and there are so many questions here that I can assure you that this will be a session is one that you won’t want to miss.

In closing, I want to take a moment to thank each of you for allowing me to serve as your 2020-21 SSCI President. It has been a distinct pleasure and honor to work with the many people who make the SSCI great. I am extremely enthusiastic about the future of the Society, and I cannot wait to see you all next year in New Orleans!

Finally, be safe and 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