

Southern Society for Clinical Investigation

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Dear Colleagues,

The program for the 2022 Southern Regional Meeting (SRM) in New Orleans next month is complete and the Pre-Registration Brochure and Program-At-A-Glance have been distributed and also posted on our website. Currently, our plans are to have an in-person meeting with strict adherence to COVID-19 safety protocols and mitigation, including universal masking, social distancing, and requirement of proof of COVID-19 vaccination (with booster as appropriate) or negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours. The SRM and SSCI are committed to the health and well-being of all meeting attendees, exhibitors, and staff.

The SSCI Program Committee has maintained the time-honored structure of the SRM, but incorporated several new features and enhancements to appeal to SSCI members. We will continue to have multiple Subspecialty Scientific Sessions (often concurrent) during the meeting, but this year all subspecialty sessions will host state-of-the art speakers along with oral abstracts. The Thursday evening Joint Plenary Poster Session will be immediately followed by a new Networking Reception for SSCI members, fellows, and their trainees. This reception will help develop professional relationships and enhance scientific collaborations. Career and academic development sessions targeted toward trainees and junior faculty have been generated considerable interest and will continue to be offered on Thursday afternoon. Moreover, the SSCI has newly established an Early Career Council to obtain input from early career members of our organization. We are indebted to Dr. Calvin Thigpen for spearheading this effort.

On Friday, we will continue the tradition of the Chairs' and Residents' Forum and the Meet the Experts Breakfast. The Friday morning SSCI/SAFMR Plenary Session has been revamped to include oral presentations by the 2021 recipients of the SSCI Research Scholar Award and the *AJMS* Tinsley Harrison Award for Best Paper. The SSCI Presidential Symposium, "*New Frontiers in Heart Failure*," will highlight presentations from two renowned academic cardiologists: Dr. Biykem Bozkurt, the Mary and Gordon Cain Chair at Baylor College of Medicine, and Dr. Thomas Wang, the Donald W. Seldin Distinguished Chair of Internal Medicine at UT Southwestern School of Medicine. We will also have presentations of the 2022 SSCI Mentors of the Year, and the 2021 and 2022 SSCI Founders' Medals.

Lastly, the Saturday program will feature the first special session on Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity (DEI) at the SRM, headlined by Dr. David Acosta from the Association of American Medical Colleges. The concurrent subspecialty sessions will also include a DEI category. The Joint Plenary Session this year will focus on Metabolic Syndrome Across the Lifespan, featuring presentations from Drs. Martin Young (UAB), Ambika Ashraf (UAB), and Andrew Schreiner (MUSC).

I hope that these new initiatives within the program and the SSCI will invigorate the SRM and improve member interest and participation in 2022. As always, I am always open to new ideas on how we can make the Society and the Scientific Sessions stronger. I can be reached directly at prabhu@wustl.edu. I look forward to seeing you all at the SRM meeting in New Orleans.

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S D Prabhu', written in a cursive style.

Sumanth D. Prabhu, MD
President, Southern Society for Clinical Investigation