

Southern Society for Clinical Investigation

Official Journal - *American Journal of the Medical Sciences*



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Dear SSCI Fellows and Members,

I am honored to serve as the President of SSCI. I have been an SSCI member for over 15 years and had the recent opportunity to serve on committees, on Council, and most recently as the Secretary-Treasurer. I have enjoyed attending the SSCI meeting for 15 straight years to support my trainees and to reconnect with all of you.

I am especially delighted to report that I began my term immediately following one of our most successful annual meetings in the past decade. At this year's Southern Regional Meeting, we had a record number of abstracts presented (670) and attendees (863). The SSCI contributed approximately \$30,000 in 71 travel awards provided to students, trainees and junior faculty. Following nearly three years of the pandemic, the SSCI membership is now beginning to increase, and our current level is 413 members. Please keep in mind that members can join the SSCI as a regular member (for trainees and early career faculty) or as a fellow of the SSCI (for mid to senior career faculty). Please encourage your colleagues and mentees to consider a membership in the SSCI.

The Officers, Council, members of the Executive Advisory Committee and the newly created Early Career Council, and other committees have been working hard to ensure that SSCI remains the premier academic home for academic researchers and educators in the South. I want to highlight many of the perks of an SSCI membership.

Our annual meeting remains our intimate networking meeting for academic faculty in the South and the vehicle for students and trainees to present their oral and poster abstracts. Top abstracts receive travel awards from the SSCI. The meeting is highlighted by two plenary sessions on Friday and Saturday mornings. We are pleased to be co-hosting the annual meeting with our partner societies, the Southern Society of Pediatric Research and Regions 7 and 8 of the Academic Pediatric Association. In addition to our meeting's travel awards, the SSCI provides annual awards to its members for outstanding mentoring, research and service.

All SSCI members publish for free in our official journal, *The American Journal of the Medical Sciences* (AJMS). The impact factor of the journal (3.462) continues to rise under the leadership of Dr. Jesse Roman, Editor in Chief. In addition to waived page charges for the journal, all members receive a print copy and online access to the journal. All abstracts presented at the SRM are also published in the AJMS. Members can also serve on the Editorial Board and as ad hoc reviewers for the journal. Please contact Dr. Roman for these service opportunities.

The SSCI provides research grants for early career faculty. This year's SSCI Research Scholar award was presented to Dr. Monica Chang-Panesso from Washington University in St. Louis for her project entitled "Tubular Senescence and Proliferative Capacity of the Aging Kidney". Please watch for more grant announcements.

The SSCI is also a home for educators. The SSCI provides funding for a Visiting Professor Program for members to connect with institutions in the South for education and research. The SSCI Early Career Council has also initiated a program to provide educational lectures to trainees in community training programs in the South. In addition to educator sessions at our annual meeting, our website has several educational lectures for career development for educators.

The SSCI has many service opportunities for its members. We have a number of committees available on our website, including our newly formed Early Career Council. Please contact me or Ms. Joan Kemp if you are interested in volunteering on a committee.

I would also like to congratulate the following SSCI members on their new NIH grants received in the past year. Congratulations to you all! We hope that you will share your data at our next annual meeting held on February 22-24, 2024. The abstract deadline is October 6, 2023. Please mark these important dates on your calendars now!

Sincerely,



Vin Tangpricha, MD, PhD, FSSCI
President, SSCI

New NIH Grants by SSCI members 2022

R03

Andrew Schreiner, Medical University of South Carolina
Improving the Diagnosis and Fibrosis Risk Assessment of Nonalcoholic Fatty Liver Disease in Primary Care Patients with Abnormal Liver Chemistries

K24

Alayne Markland, University of Alabama at Birmingham
Research and Mentoring Program in Improving Access to Incontinence Care for Older Adults

U01

Alayne Markland, University of Alabama at Birmingham and Camille Vaughan, Emory University
Improving Primary Care Understanding of Resources and Screening for Urinary Incontinence to Enhance Treatment (PURSUIT)

R01

Jessica Alvarez, Emory University
A Dietary Intervention to Improve Glucose Tolerance in Adults with Cystic Fibrosis

Russell Kempker Emory University
Cavity and Granuloma Oriented Inflammation and Tissue Pharmacokinetics in Pulmonary Tuberculosis (COOK TB)

Michael Koval, Emory University
Regulation of Epithelial Function Using Targeted Nanowires

Cecile Lahiri, Emory University
Elucidating the Role of the Gut Reservoir and Inflammation in Driving Cardiovascular Disease Among Persons Living with HIV

R21

Annette Esper, Emory University
Scalable and Interoperable Framework for a Clinically Diverse and Generalizable Sepsis Biorepository Using Electronic Alerts for Recruitment Driven by Artificial Intelligence

Harry Schroeder, University of Alabama at Birmingham
Role of the Immunoglobulin DQ52 DH Gene Segment in Fetal Immunosuppression

R03

Priya Vellanki, Emory University
Mechanisms of Ketosis and Near-normoglycemia Remission in Obese African Americans with Ketosis-prone Diabetes