



Tinsley Randolph Harrison, M.D.
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Southern Society for Clinical Investigation

Official Journal - *American Journal of the Medical Sciences*

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Dear SSCI Members,

REMINDER
Membership Nomination Deadline – April 30, 2009
Founders' Medal Nomination Deadline – May 15,
2009

It is indeed a privilege to serve as the 63rd President of the Southern Society for Clinical Investigation (SSCI). Ever since I came in contact with this organization in the early 1990s, I have been impressed with the timeless nature of its mission and the devotion and talent of its membership.

Despite the economic hardships and the global challenges that characterize the times we live in, the SSCI continues strong. With close to 500 members, the SSCI is one of the premier multispecialty organizations in the country devoted to fostering research and education. This year, 28 new members from ten academic institutions in nine states joined this honor society. I am extremely proud of this new group of members who hold great promise and share in our commitment to academia.

The 2009 SSCI Meeting was held February 12-14 in New Orleans. It attracted close to 600 attendees who diligently maneuvered through 443 abstracts presented by investigators from 51 academic institutions, attended symposia and state-of-the-art lectures, and participated in several subspecialty club meetings and other activities.

Similar to past years, a significant portion of our budget was invested to support trainees and junior faculty through several awards including: 1 Tinsley Harrison Award; 3 SSCI Young Investigator Awards; 17 SSCI Nephrology Scholars Awards, 11 GI Scholar Awards; 6 SSCI Cardiovascular Case Report Scholar Awards, 4 SSCI/IACS Young Clinician Scientist Scholar Awards, 4 SSCI/IACS Young Basic Scientist Scholar Awards, and 72 SAFMR/SSCI Trainee and Student Travel Awards. I can't tell you how excited I was to participate in the awards ceremony presented during the Annual Membership Session held on Friday. On Saturday, I was also privileged to have breakfast with the chairs of over 20 departments of medicine; each accompanied by a stellar resident who was identified by their chair for their accomplishments and potential for a productive career in academia.

The 2009 SSCI Founder's Medal went to Dr. Richard W. McCallum who has served selflessly this organization. His efforts serve as a strong reminder of what we can accomplish with commitment and perseverance. We thank Dr. McCallum and those who came before him for their tireless support of the SSCI.

The enormous success of the meeting was due to the efforts of many. I want to thank Bruce Kone, immediate Past-President; Jim C. Oates, Secretary-Treasurer; the SSCI Councilors and Advisors; and especially Joan Kemp, Executive Director, for their dedication to this organization and for leading the SSCI through another exciting year. Most importantly, many thanks to you, the SSCI

membership. It is the SSCI membership, with its diverse and talented army of clinicians, educators and researchers that brings vitality to this organization and sustains the SSCI through its involvement in our annual meeting, its support of the AJMS, and its efforts in research, education, and mentorship at institutions in the region. Ultimately, the success of the SSCI is a reflection of the combined success of its members.

The success of our annual meeting paralleled that of the SSCI's journal, the *American Journal of Medical Sciences* (AJMS). Under the leadership of its Editor, Dr. David Ploth, and its Managing Editor, Kathy Kelly, the AJMS has witnessed a steady increase in journal submissions since 2006 and is doing well financially. Unveiling a new cover this year, the AJMS will continue to provide a forum for investigators from the southern region, the U.S., and abroad.

Since its creation, the SSCI has been devoted to fostering the training and careers of the next generation of academicians. This mission is not about to change. On the contrary, SSCI leaders are committed to sustaining this mission through new initiatives. One of this year's new initiatives was lead by Dr. Chris Marino, Chairman of the SSCI Membership Committee. Under his guidance, the committee successfully established criteria for membership for *clinician-educators*, which was established in recognition of the many contributions provided by dedicated clinician-educators at academic institutions throughout the nation. The Membership Committee also proposed the creation of a new type of membership, the Associate Membership, offered to individuals with strong institutional support and promising academic careers who have not yet met all criteria for full membership, but who are expected to fulfill criteria for full membership within three years. These and other efforts highlight the dynamic nature of this organization.

The membership nomination deadline was also changed this year so that newly elected members could participate prior to next year's meeting. **The membership nomination deadline is now April 30.** Information regarding the membership nomination process can be found on our website – www.ssciweb.org

Needless to say, I am excited about this upcoming year. The next annual meeting will be held in New Orleans on February 25-27, 2010; if this year's meeting provides any indication, it promises to be truly outstanding.

I look forward to working with you and seeing you at our next meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jesse Roman', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jesse Roman, MD
President, Southern Society for Clinical Investigation