



Tinsley Randolph Harrison, M.D.
1900 - 1978

Southern Society for Clinical Investigation

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Dear SSCI Members,

REMINDER
Membership Nomination Deadline – April 30, 2012
See website for details – www.ssciweb.org

It is indeed a privilege to serve as the 66th President of the Southern Society for Clinical Investigation (SSCI). Having been involved with this organization for the past decade, I have always 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 in which we live, the SSCI remains strong. With approximately 500 members, the SSCI is one of the premier multispecialty organizations in the country devoted to fostering research and education. During 2011, 39 new members from sixteen academic institutions in twelve states were elected to the SSCI. I am extremely proud of this new group of members who hold great promise and share in our commitment to academia.

The 2012 SSCI Meeting was held February 9-11 in New Orleans. It attracted approximately 700 attendees (~60 trainees), who diligently maneuvered through 555 abstracts presented by investigators from 50 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 is invested to support trainees and junior faculty through several awards, including 1 Tinsley Harrison Award, 3 SSCI Young Investigator Awards, 1 SSCI Young Investigator Award in General Internal Medicine, 21 SSCI Nephrology Scholars Awards, 13 SSCI Osteoporosis & Bone Health Scholars, 7 SSCI Cardiovascular Case Report Scholar Awards, 4 SSCI Young Clinician Scientist Scholar Awards, 5 SAFMR/SSCI Young Faculty Awards, and 71 SAFMR/SSCI Trainee and Student Travel Awards. Needless to say, I was extremely proud of the presentation of these awards during the SSCI/SAFMR Joint Plenary Session. During the meeting, I was also privileged to have breakfast with the chairs of medicine (or their representatives) from throughout our region; each was accompanied by a stellar resident who was identified by his or her chair for his/her accomplishments and potential for a productive career in academia.

The 2012 SSCI Founder's Medal went to Dr. Karl T. Weber, who has selflessly served this organization for many years. His efforts serve as a strong reminder of what we can accomplish with commitment and perseverance. We thank Dr. Weber 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 Karl T. Weber, immediate Past-President; Monica Farley, Secretary-Treasurer; the SSCI Councilors and Advisors; and Joan Kemp, Executive Director, for their dedication to this organization and for leading the SSCI through another exciting year. Most importantly, I want to thank you, the SSCI membership. It is the Society's 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 *American Journal of the Medical Sciences*, 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 the 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 the number and quality of journal submissions it has received since 2006 and is doing well financially.

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 that highlight the dynamic nature of this organization.

The membership nomination deadline is April 30. Information regarding the membership nomination process can be found on our website – www.ssciweb.org. I encourage you to nominate members of your faculty who have achieved success in their area of academic medicine for membership in our organization. A thriving membership with the constant addition of new members is the only way to sustain our growth and to continue to achieve success in our mission.

Needless to say, I am excited about this upcoming year. The next annual meeting will be held in New Orleans on February 21-23; 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,

Robert T. Means, Jr., MD, President
Southern Society for Clinical Investigation