

Tinsley Randolph Harrison, M.D.
1900 - 1978

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, 2013
See website for details – www.ssciweb.org

With deep humility, I will serve as President of SSCI in the following year. Since 1946, SSCI has served as a model for multispecialty organizations. Through the *American Journal of Medical Sciences* and the Southern Regional Meeting, SSCI has served to advance medical research. In recent years, SSCI has added to its mission a focus on mentoring and promoting the careers of young investigators. It is with this rich history in mind that I call on the membership to sustain this commitment both at the Southern Regional Meeting and at home.

Difficult financial times have forced many to triage meeting travel. Despite this pressure, the Southern Regional Meeting endures as *the* regional meeting for mentoring the next generation of clinical and translational scientists. From February 21st to the 23rd, the Southern Regional Meeting (jointly hosted by SSCI, SAFMR, SSPR, APA, and the ASN) attracted 654 attendees (396 trainees) and 532 abstracts from 40 institutions in 14 states and Puerto Rico. In keeping with our mission, SSCI presented three SSCI Young Investigator Awards, one SSCI Young Investigator Award in General Internal Medicine, nine SSCI Nephrology Young Investigator Forum Awards, and seven SSCI Cardiovascular Case Report Scholar Awards, and four Cardiovascular Young Clinician Scientists Awards. In collaboration with the Southern Section of the AFMR, seven Junior Faculty, 41 Trainee, and 32 Student Travel Awards were presented. The combined investment in these awards totaled \$63,000, with approximately \$50,000 of that amount paid by SSCI. There was a sustained focus on mentoring during the poster presentations, and several mentored abstracts were presented in the subspecialty concurrent sessions. I was reminded of the need to focus on the next generation of medical investigators during the Chairs' breakfast. During this gathering, Chairs from across the region presented 16 promising trainees that represent the future of our profession. In the following year, SSCI will seek to capitalize on the talents of its members to expand its focus on mentoring within and beyond the confines of the meeting.

The Tinsley Harrison Award is presented by the Editor of the *American Journal of Medical Sciences* for the best original manuscript in 2012. This year's award was presented to Viranuj Sueblinvong from Emory University, for her work entitled "Predisposition for disrepair in the aged lung". I was pleased to see this year's Founder's Medal Award presented to Lee Hamm from Tulane University. Lee's dedication and contributions to SSCI have been palpable for many years, and the recognition is well deserved. We count on current and future members to continue this level of dedication to further the mission of SSCI.

Because its mission is focused on the future of medical research, SSCI remains a vibrant organization. With approximately 500 members, the SSCI is one of the premier multispecialty organizations, devoted to fostering research and education. During 2012, 37 new members from 14 academic institutions in 11 states were elected to the SSCI.

Many thanks go to everyone who worked to make this year's meeting a success. The Program Planning Committee was chaired by Marian Evatt from SAFMR this year. The combined societies succeeded in bridging adult and pediatric medicine by presenting a Joint Plenary entitled "Neuroprotection across a lifetime". This session explored mechanisms of and promising therapies for brain injury from birth to the later years. The presentations and thoughtful discussion had application to multiple subspecialties. The SSCI Presidential Symposium entitled "Iron metabolism: Bedside to bench and back again" succeeded in making iron metabolism exciting event to those outside hematology! The Concurrent Sessions once again displayed a broad range of talent and interests. I was pleased to see the interactions during the Poster Session.

I want to thank Robert Means (immediate Past-President), Monica Farley (Secretary-Treasurer), the SSCI Councilors, the Advisory Committee, and Joan Kemp (Executive Director) for their service and dedication to SSCI and the meeting. The success of the meeting and the mission of SSCI depends upon its membership. For your continued commitment to research and mentoring, I thank you all.

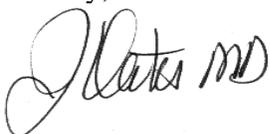
The American Journal of the Medical Sciences (AJMS), under the leadership of Dr. David Ploth (Editor), and Kathy Kelly (Managing Editor), has continued to see a steady increase in the number and quality of journal submissions it has received since 2006, when the journal began an online submission process. During this year's Editorial Board Meeting, a new iPad application was introduced that will give readers another format in which to enjoy *AJMS*. The journal continues to do well financially.

The membership nomination deadline is April 30. Information regarding the membership nomination process can be found on our website – www.sscweb.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.

The next annual meeting will be held in New Orleans on February 20-22, 2014. The abstract deadline for SRM 2014 will be October 11, 2013. As this year has proven, the meeting has once again reached a critical number of attendees to promote synergy between the scientific presentations and mentoring.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Oates MD". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the letters "J", "O", and "M" being particularly prominent.

Jim Oates, MD, President
Southern Society for Clinical Investigation