



Southern Society for Clinical Investigation

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Dear Colleagues and Friends,

The Southern Regional Meeting (SRM) in New Orleans, is ***only weeks away*** -- **February 22-24, 2018!** We have an exciting meeting planned and look forward to catching up with old friends and meeting the many students, trainees, and early career faculty who will be joining us for the first time. We have a record number of abstract submissions and look forward to a record attendance.

The theme for SRM 2018 is “The Microbiome” and will review the science from the pediatric patient to the adult. We have invited experts to review this exciting and rapidly moving area. The *SSCI Presidential Symposium* on Friday morning, February 23, will feature presentations from Dr. Gary Wu from the University of Pennsylvania on ***“The Gut Microbiome in Health and Disease”*** and Dr. Martin Rodriguez from the University of Alabama at Birmingham on ***“Therapeutic Interventions for the Human Gut Microbiota”***. For the *Joint Plenary* session on Saturday morning, February 24, Dr. James Versalovic from Baylor College of Medicine will address ***“The Pediatric Gut Microbiome in Health and Chronic Disease”*** and Dr. Colleen Kraft from Emory University will provide insights on ***“Elimination of Multi-Drug Resistant Organisms Using Fecal Microbiota Transplant”***.

In addition to our excellent standing program (<http://www.ssciweb.org/meeting-schedule.php>), we have opportunities for interactive learning through workshops on Thursday, February 20, that include ***“Manuscript Preparation and Peer-Reviewed Publication”*** and ***“Moving your Clinical Case Presentation into a Published Manuscript”***. We are continuing the *Meet the Experts Breakfast* on Friday morning, February 23, and new this year will be a workshop on Saturday afternoon entitled ***“Big Data for the Clinician: An Approach to Data Mining Using the United States Renal Data System”***. For the first time this year, we have provided a full track program for clinician educators. Highlights of the clinician educator track include a workshop on Thursday afternoon entitled ***“Career Advancement for Clinician Educator: Tactical Issues”***, a workshop on Friday afternoon entitled ***Career Advancement for the Clinician Educator: Strategic Concerns”*** and One-on-One Mentoring provided on Saturday morning

At SRM 2018, we will be presenting student, trainee and junior faculty travel awards, honoring the SSCI Young Investigators, the SSCI Mentor of the Year, and the Tinsley Harrison Award recipient. In addition, ***Dr. Daniel Villarreal***, an outstanding leader and mentor in academic medicine and longstanding supporter of the mission of SSCI, will be presented the prestigious SSCI Founders’ Medal at the *SSCI Presidential Symposium* on Friday morning.

The pre-registration form is attached and can also be found in the SSCI website, www.ssciweb.org or at <https://ww2.highmarksce.com/tulane/index.cfm?do=pln.viewActivity&plannerID=1088>

We look forward to seeing you at the 2018 outstanding scientific sessions and workshops. See you in New Orleans!

C. Mel Wilcox, MD
President, SSCI