

Southern Society for Clinical Investigation

Official Journal - *American Journal of the Medical Sciences*



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March 18, 2024

Dear SSCI Fellows and Members,

It is an honor to serve as the President of the SSCI for the 2024-2025 term. My involvement with SSCI began in 2010 as a presenter in our Thursday evening poster session. I subsequently became an Associate Member in 2013 before converting to full Membership in 2016. I have been fortunate to serve on the SSCI Council, and for the last five years to lead the Career Advancement for Clinician Educator workshops and serve as Membership Chair. Through the efforts of many during those five years, our society has established a new member classification structure that now includes a Fellow designation via the physician investigator or clinician educator pathway. We have also formed a vibrant Early Career Council that includes some of the brightest scientists and educators in our region.

Many of you were in New Orleans last month for our annual meeting and saw the outstanding collection of scientific and educational presentations across three days. Students, residents, fellows, and faculty presented a total of 768 abstracts to the 847 attendees, and the SSCI distributed 67 awards worth a total of \$35,750. These awards included first time Early Career Faculty Awards (created by our Early Career Council) to recognize an early career physician investigator and clinician educator, and they included the inaugural group of six Tinsley Harrison Scholars chosen for the investigative promise each have in their fields.

Whether you had a chance to attend this year or not, I strongly encourage you to make plans now for next year's meeting, which will be February 13-15, 2025, at the Intercontinental Hotel in New Orleans, with an abstract submission deadline of October 4, 2024. The quality of the abstracts and talks presented at the workshops and plenary sessions, the networking with colleagues, and the opportunity to share and be recognized for your own scholarship make our meeting and membership in our society a worthwhile investment of your resources.

The officers, Council, members of the Executive Advisory Committee, and members of the Early Career Council have been discussing ways that we can increase opportunities for the involvement of all members in the SSCI. This year will bring our first open call for membership on our committees, and I hope that many of you will respond to this call and be a part of ensuring the SSCI remains the premier academic home for academic researchers and educators in the South.

As a reminder, our official journal, *The American Journal of the Medical Sciences* (AJMS), remains a fantastic opportunity for members to publish. The AJMS, led by Editor-in-Chief Dr. Jesse Roman, waives page charges for SSCI members, publishes all abstracts from our Southern Regional Meeting, and seeks high quality clinical, basic, and education research on a year-round basis, particularly from our members. If you have interest in serving a role in the journal's work, please contact Dr. Roman.

The mission statement of the SSCI says, "The Southern Society for Clinical Investigation is dedicated to the advancement of medical research and the exchange of knowledge, information, and ideas. Its members are committed to mentoring future generations of medical investigators and promoting careers in academic medicine." As someone who is a clinician educator, I want our members and prospective membership to know that the SSCI is a home for all of those in academic medicine who wish to grow their careers and grow the careers of others. Our organization and those who are and have been a part of it over the last 15 years have had a tremendous positive impact on my career, and I believe it can have the same impact on every member and on our colleagues who have yet to become members.

In the coming months, be on the lookout for our call to members for committee participation and for a recognition of all our members who were awarded grants from the NIH in 2023. We will also be highlighting different aspects of the SSCI and the opportunities associated with them in newsletters across the course of the year. Finally, if you would like to become a Fellow in the SSCI or would like to nominate someone for Fellowship, you do not have to wait for late summer to do so. You can complete the application [here](#) by April 15, 2024, in order to be considered.

Thank you all for being a part of the Southern Society for Clinical Investigation, and I look forward to serving you throughout the year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Calvin Thigpen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each name being capitalized and prominent.

S. Calvin Thigpen, MD, FSSCI, President
Southern Society for Clinical Investigation