

# Southern Society for Clinical Investigation

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Dear SSCI Members and Fellows,

We hope that all of you had a wonderful holiday season. With the start of the new year, SRM is right around the corner in New Orleans on February 13-15 at the Intercontinental Hotel. There is much to share about the meeting in this newsletter, and we hope that all of you will be joining us for outstanding science, mentorship, and education. *Be sure to follow our account - @ssciweb - on X prior to the meeting and to post with the hashtag #SRM2025 while in attendance.*

**Tinsley Harrison Scholar Awards.** This is our second year of the Tinsley Harrison Scholars Program, and we are excited to announce our eight Tinsley Harrison Scholars SRM 2025. Their names, institutions, and areas of interest are as follows:

Ruth Adekunle	Infectious Diseases	Medical University of South Carolina
Deepshikha Ashana	Pulmonary/Critical Care	Duke University
Kale Bongers	Pulmonary/Critical Care	University of Iowa
Crystal Cobb	Endocrinology	Emory University
Vinitha Jacob	Infectious Diseases	University of Michigan
John Kim	Pulmonary/Critical Care	University of Virginia
Khalid Sawalha	Cardiovascular Diseases	University of Arkansas
Clarissa Tio	Nephrology	University of Mississippi

The Tinsley Harrison Scholars Program recognizes MD or MD/PhD investigators at the level of postdoctoral fellow, instructor, and assistant professor. Scholars will present their original research and will receive focused mentorship and ongoing career development from senior leaders and scientists in our society. Their travel and hotel expenses up to \$1500 will be reimbursed by the SSCI. Please visit the [Tinsley Harrison Scholars](#) portion of our website to learn more about the program, which we plan to continue well into the future, and be thinking about scholars at your institution who would be good candidates in the years to come.

**Abstract Presentations.** This year a record number 795 abstracts will be presented orally or by poster. Our joint poster session will include 417 of those abstracts and will occur from 4:30 – 6:30 PM on Thursday, February 13. Immediately after the poster session, we will have our Networking Reception where you will have the opportunity to meet those in your area of interest and enjoy drinks and hors d'oeuvres.

On Friday morning, six abstracts will be presented at the SSCI/SSPR Richard D. and Gloria J. deShazo Showcase of Science, which will take place immediately following the SSCI Presidential Symposium (details of the symposium below). Then throughout Friday and Saturday afternoon concurrent sessions, many with state-of-the-art speakers, will include oral abstracts across the subspecialties of medicine with an emphasis on original research. I hope that everyone attending the meeting will make plans to stay for the duration to hear the work of all those who are presenting.

**Young Investigator, Early Career, Travel, and Research Awards.** We will bestow a wide range of awards at our SSCI Plenary on Friday morning. The recipients of the Michael S. and Kathy J. Bronze Young Investigator Awards, the SSCI Early Career Awards in the Research Investigator and Clinician Educator categories, the Nathan Solomon and Irene Oransky-Solomon Medical Student Awards, the SSCI Mentor of the Year Awards, the SSCI Student Research Awards, and the SSCI Founders' Medal will all be recognized. On Saturday morning at the outset of the SSCI/SSPR Joint Plenary, we will recognize our SSCI Young Trainee and Faculty Research Award winners.

**Networking and SSCI Receptions.** In addition to our previously mentioned Networking Reception on Friday evening from 6:30 – 7:30 at the Intercontinental Hotel's Melpomene Room, we will also have our annual SSCI Reception on Friday evening from 5:30 – 7:00 PM where we recognize our newly elected fellows. This year's SSCI Reception will be on site at the Intercontinental Hotel in the LaSalle Ballroom rather than our former location at the Roosevelt Hotel, which should make it easier to attend the reception and make any dinner plans you wish.

**Workshops for All Audiences.** We again have a wide range of workshops on offer at this year's SRM beginning Thursday afternoon with The Successful Academician: From Patient Care to Research and Back – It's All About Strategy. That workshop will be followed by a session for trainees and their mentors on Obtaining the Fellowship You Desire, which will end in time for the start of the poster session. On Friday afternoon we have our 11<sup>th</sup> edition of the Career Advancement for Clinician Educators workshop.

**Southern Regional Meeting Plenaries.** Last but not least, SRM 2025 will feature two outstanding plenaries, each with two excellent speakers. We will have the opportunity to hear from leaders in the field of immunology and from leaders of medicine departments in our region.

### ***Joint Plenary Symposium***

#### **Updates in Immunology: Across the Lifespan from Newborn Screening to Novel Therapies for Children and Adults (sponsored by SSCI and SSPR)**

#### **Speakers:**

- Lisa Forbes, Director of the Jeffrey Modell Diagnostic and Research Center for Primary Immunodeficiencies at Texas Children's Hospital
- Steven Holland, Director of the Division of Intramural Research at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)

Immunology has recently gained attention for novel therapies and advancement in the treatment of immunological diseases for newborns, children, and adults. The focus of this plenary is to learn about updates in immunology across the lifespan from newborn screening of immunological diseases to updates and advancements in treatments for children and adults with a focus on congenital immunologic defects.

*SSCI Presidential Symposium*

**Research Among Us: How Our Region's Leaders are Advancing the Science Behind our Patient Care**

**Speakers:**

- Jane Freedman, Chair of the Department of Medicine at Vanderbilt University, Editor-in-Chief for *Circulation Research*
- Patricia Sime, Chair of the Department of Internal Medicine at Virginia Commonwealth University

The institutions of our region have been and are responsible for major scientific advances in medicine. In this symposium, two department of medicine chairs in our region will detail the science through which they and their collaborators have changed patient care in the last several years and for the years ahead in the fields of cardiology and pulmonology, respectively.

**SSCI Fellow Nominations.** Please do not forget to nominate your colleagues and/or mentees to become a Fellow of the SSCI. We now have two deadlines each year, one in the spring and one in the late summer. The spring deadline is April 15, and the meeting is a fantastic impetus to get applications and nominations submitted through our streamlined process. Please visit the [SSCI Fellowship](#) portion of our website to nominate eligible physician-scientists and clinician-educators today!

We look forward to seeing everyone in less than three weeks in New Orleans!

Sincerely,



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