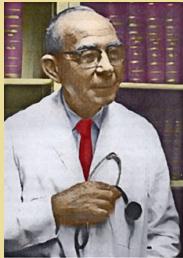


Tinsley Randolph. Harrison, M.D.
1900 -1978



SSCI Officers

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The American Journal of the Medical Sciences

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SSCI Newsletter August 2017



~ ~ ~ MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT ~ ~ ~

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

The Annual SSCI/SRM Retreat was held in Atlanta on June 11-12. During the SSCI portion of the retreat, the committees' activities since the annual meeting in February, ongoing committee activities, and any activities related to SRM 2018 were reviewed and discussed. The Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs are highly engaged, and a lot of positive activity is going on behind the scenes. Financially, the society remains healthy. Our new Editor-in-Chief of the American Journal of Medical Sciences, Dr Jesse Roman, has taken a very active role. Our impact factor has increased to 1.847. Dr. Roman and his staff continue to work diligently toward continued improvement. We will soon be rolling out our first SSCI Grant Award whereby we will be funding a project to a junior investigator in the amount of \$25,000. In short, your society remains healthy and will continue to improve in all of our mission areas.

During the SRM portion of the retreat, we met with the SSPR, S-AFMR, APA, and SSGIM to further codify our plans for SRM 2018. We will continue to have our well attended workshops and plan for additional workshops which will be of utility to our members and trainees. In fact, we are currently planning additional sessions on Saturday. We will also try to continue to expand our offerings for the clinician educator under the direction of Drs. Stephen Geraci and Calvin Thigpen. We hope to see each of you at our meeting in New Orleans on February 22-24, 2018. The theme of our meeting is The Microbiome, and we have four outstanding speakers addressing this exciting and rapidly moving area.

As your President, I would like to challenge each of you to contribute in some way to our society. We would love to see you at the meeting engaging our trainees. Please think of new members that you would like to propose to our society which will be due on September 15. Visit our website to look at the Visiting Professor Program and consider inviting these outstanding investigators and speakers. Lastly, I also like to challenge you to contribute to the Fund for Academic Medicine which will continue to help grow the educational and research offerings that we can fund for our members. The SSCI remains an outstanding multispecialty organization devoted to mentoring our future academic leaders and supporting and fostering their research and education. Your engagement in the organization and participation in the Southern Regional Meeting is critical to our continued growth and success.

All my best,

C. Mel Wilcox, MD, MSPH
President, Southern Society for Clinical Investigation

Call For Abstracts for 2018 Southern Regional Meeting

February 22 - 24, 2018

For more information about the
Call for Abstracts and SSCI Nephrology Young Investigators'
Forum visit the SSCI website: www.ssciweb.org

****Abstract Deadline is October 6th****

**Please encourage your colleagues and trainees to submit their
work and attend our exciting and stimulating scientific
sessions and workshops.**

Abstracts being presented at the 2018 Southern Regional Meeting will be
printed in February's issue of *Journal of Investigative Medicine*.

RECAP OF THE 2017 SOUTHERN REGIONAL MEETING

The Southern Regional Meeting endures as the regional meeting for mentoring the next generation of clinical and translational scientists. From February 11-13, the Southern Regional Meeting (jointly hosted by SSCI, SAFMR, SSPR, APA, SSGIM and ASN) attracted a record for recent times of 776 attendees (~480 trainees/students) and 637 abstracts from over 52 institutions in 26 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Many thanks go to everyone who worked to make this year's meeting a success. The Program Planning Committee was chaired by Dr. Sarah Taylor, the 2016 President of the SSPR. In keeping with our mission, SSCI presented 3 SSCI Young Investigator Awards, 9 SSCI Nephrology Young Investigator Forum Awards, and 8 SSCI Cardiovascular Case Report Scholar Awards. In collaboration with the Southern Section of the AFMR, 6 Junior Faculty, 37 Trainee, and 29 Student Travel Awards were presented. The combined investment in these awards totaled approximately \$79,000, with approximately \$68,000 of that amount paid by SSCI. There was a sustained focus on mentoring during the poster presentations, and 3 posters received SSCI Poster Awards. The critical importance of supporting the next generation of medical investigators was evident during the Chairs' breakfast when Chairs from across the region introduced promising trainees that represent the future of our profession. In the upcoming year, SSCI will continue to capitalize on the talents of its members to expand on mentoring in support of the next generation of clinical and scientific leaders.

One of the major highlights of our meeting is the presentation of the Founders' Medal Award, which was created in honor of Dr. Tinsley Harrison. This year's Founders' Medal Award was presented to Dr. David Guidot from Emory University. Dr. Guidot's dedication and contributions to SSCI have been unwavering for many years, and the recognition is richly deserved. We count on current and future members to continue this level of dedication to further the mission of SSCI.

The Tinsley Harrison Award recognizes the best original manuscript published in The American Journal of the Medical Sciences in 2016. This year's award was presented to Dr. Ihab Hajjar from Louisiana State University for his work entitled *"Circulating Progenitor Cells Linked to Lower Cognitive Decline in Healthy Individuals."*

To recognize the importance and contributions of mentors, the *Mentor of the Year Awards* were presented this year. Outstanding mentors were recognized in 2 categories: Postgraduate mentoring – Dr. Perry G. Rigby from Louisiana State Health Sciences Center, and Junior faculty mentoring – Dr. Richard McCallum from Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center.

The theme of the 2017 meeting was "Harnessing the Immune Response". There were outstanding plenary session lectures on both Sunday and Monday. At the SSCI Presidential Symposium, Dr. Nadine Roush of Emory University spoke on "Systems Vaccinology" followed by Dr. Padmanee Sharma from MD Anderson Cancer Center on "From the Clinic to the Lab: Investigating Immune Responses to Immune Checkpoint Therapy". The Joint Plenary on Monday featured Dr. Stephan Cormier from the University of Tennessee who spoke on "Respiratory Immunology in Response to the Viruses and Environmental Toxins" and Dr. Gregg Silverman from New York University whose title was "Lupus and the Microbiome"

If you did not attend SRM 2017, we encourage you to join your colleagues and bring your trainees to SRM 2018, which will be held February 22-24, 2018 at the InterContinental New Orleans.

The Third Annual [Karl T. Weber](#) Distinguished Lecture in Cardiovascular Medicine was again held as part of the successful Cardiology sessions at the Southern Regional Meeting.

Its *goal* is in keeping with the SSCI mission: to disseminate incremental knowledge.

Its *objectives*: to have an invited senior clinician scientist, accomplished in their field and an established opinion leader, deliver a state-of-the-art lecture in cardiovascular medicine during the Cardiovascular Club Session of the annual SSCI meeting.

The lecture was delivered by [Dr. Patrice Delafontaine](#), Hugh E. and Sarah D. Stephenson - Dean School of Medicine, Professor of Medicine Medical Pharmacology & Physiology, University of Missouri Health Science Center.

The title of his lecture: *"IGF-1 and Cardiovascular Disease"*



Patrice Delafontaine, MD

2017 NEW MEMBERS

Stephanie Baer, MD
Augusta University

Ravi Bhatia, MD
University of Alabama at Birmingham

Qiang Cai, MD
Emory University School of Medicine

Maria I. Danila, MD, MSc, MSPH
University of Alabama at Birmingham

Alix G. Darden, PhD, MEd
University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center

Dwight A. Dishmon, MD*
University of Tennessee Health Sciences Center

Nadish Garg, MD*
University of Tennessee Health Sciences Center

Anatolij Horuzsko, MD, PhD
Augusta University

Archana Jain, MD
University of Alabama at Birmingham

Una E. Makris, MD, MSc
University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center

Alayne D. Markland, DO, MSc
University of Alabama at Birmingham

Michael McMullan, MD
University of Mississippi Medical Center

Owen Mogabgab, MD
Tulane University Health Sciences Center

Deepak Hihalani, PhD
Medical University of South Carolina

James Sones, MD
University of Mississippi Medical Center

Patricia H. Stewart, MD
University of Mississippi Medical Center

Ram Subramanian, MD
Emory University School of Medicine

S. Calvin Thigpen, MD**
University of Mississippi Medical Center

Michael Vaezi, MD, PhD, MSc
Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Srikanth Vallurupalli, MD*
University of Arkansas for the Medical Sciences

Juan Carlos Velez, MD
Oschsner Clinic Foundation

Field F. Willingham, MD MPH
Emory University School of Medicine

*Associate Member

**Associate Member moving to full member

MEMBERSHIP NOMINATION DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 15TH

Information regarding this process can be found on our website: www.ssciweb.org.
The society encourages you to nominate successful and qualified members from your
institution or other academic centers. A thriving membership is fundamental to sustain
our scholarly objectives.

SSCI YOUNG INVESTIGATOR AWARDS

The SSCI Young Investigator Awards are offered to recognize and encourage excellence in investigation by physicians and medical students during research training.

Eligibility: Medical students, combined MD/PhD students, interns, residents and post-doctoral physicians who are in research training or were in research training June 2017 are eligible. Post-doctoral research training may be considered to extend for a period of up to 3 years and time spent in strictly clinical fellowships need not count against this. The applicant must be

the first author of the abstract submitted in competition for the award and will plan to present the paper during the scientific sessions of the Southern Regional Meetings. Please note that it is not necessary for the senior author to be a member of the SSCI.

Procedure: Abstracts will be submitted for the 2018 Annual Meeting of the Southern Society for Clinical Investigation according to the usual procedure described in the instructions on awards consideration accompanying the abstract form.

Deadline: The submission deadline of the abstracts and application for the SSCI Young Investigator Award is **October 6, 2017**.

****Please note that nomination letters from the senior investigator or mentor and the Division Director or Department Chairman are required and should include a statement of the candidate's role in the study. In order to be eligible for consideration of these awards, the nomination letter(s) should be uploaded on the website at the time of abstract submission.**

SSCI COMMITTEE UPDATES

Membership Committee

Co-Chair: Sushma Cribbs
Emory University School of Medicine
Co-Chair: N. Stanley Nahman
Augusta University

Membership in the SSCI has remained relatively stable for the past few years and we are proud to house some of the most talented and engaging academicians in the southern region. We recognize that our members represent the core of this organization. For this reason, the Membership Committee has continued to look for ways to attract candidates for membership. New initiatives include expanding academic opportunities for junior members and defining a clear membership track for the rising tide of academic clinician educators. To help address this issue and raise awareness of the academic needs of the academic clinician educator, the 2018 SRM will feature several SSCI-sponsored clinician educator talks, workshops, and presentations each day of the meeting. We anticipate audience engagement with SSCI mentors will raise awareness of the academic value of SSCI membership to our clinician educator colleagues and encourage participation in the organization. We also remain open to your recommendations and suggestions. Please share them with either committee co-chair at skomaku@emory.edu or nnahman@augusta.edu. Remember also that the membership nomination deadline is September 15, 2017. Nomination forms and additional information can be found at: www.ssciweb.org/membership.php

Mentoring Committee

Committee Chair: Dan Villarreal
Upstate Medical University

The SSCI sponsored mentoring activities that promote exciting collegial interaction and recognize scholarly excellence continue to be successful and well received by faculty, trainees, and students. These include oral and poster mentored presentations, the poster award competition, and the mentor of the year award program. Expanding on the society's important educational core mission, a one on one clinician educator-trainee mentoring program to be held annually at the SRM, is being developed by Dr. Steve Geraci. Finally, the SSCI is pleased to announce that the Research Scholars Program, directed to support the research career and professional development of outstanding young clinician scientists, is being finalized and likely will be launched at our 2018 New Orleans meeting.

As always, the SSCI is grateful to everyone who enthusiastically contributes to the society's missions and to the success of its scientific sessions. Please forward your comments/suggestions to the committee chair at villarrd@upstate.edu.

SSCI COMMITTEE UPDATES

Publications Committee

Committee Chair: Don Rockey
Medical University of South Carolina

It has been an active and highly rewarding year for the Publications Committee and the *American Journal of the Medical Sciences* (AJMS). The impact factor for the AJMS continues to climb, reaching 1.847 in 2016.

This year has been one of transition in which we celebrated Dr. David Plotz's (Medical University of South Carolina) tenure as Editor in Chief, and transitioned the journal's editorship to Dr. Jesse Roman (University of Louisville). The committee executed the search with great enthusiasm and rigor. We were delighted to entertain applications from a large number of outstanding Editor in Chief candidates. The selection process considered overall editorial experience, research experience, a vision for the journal, plans for the future, and the level of personal/institutional commitment. At the conclusion of this search, we were extremely pleased to welcome our Dr. Roman as the new Editor in Chief. We look forward to his leadership and tenure with great enthusiasm.

The Publications Committee continues to encourage SSCI members to be engaged in the AJMS, and especially encourages authors to submit their work to the journal.

Website Committee

Committee Chair: Vin Tangpricha
Emory University

The committee has been working this past year to add additional content on the website for our SSCI members. We will be launching a series of video interviews by senior SSCI members about the importance of SSCI and the Southern Regional Meetings. You can find the most current video on our home page and past ones on the "About Us, Video Interviews" tab. We have also updated links to our official journal, "The American Journal of the Medical Sciences". Please follow updates on our fund raising goal on our tab under "About Us, Fund for Academic Medicine". The committee is also asking all of our members to update their member profile with current recent interests and a portrait photo. This can be done during annual membership renewal. Please send any ideas for content to our website committee chair, Vin Tangpricha at vin.tangpricha@emory.edu.

The Fourth Annual Karl T. Weber Distinguished Lecture in Cardiovascular Medicine

Friday, February 23, 2018
Novel Nephrocentric Perspectives in
the Pathophysiology and
Management of Heart Failure

presented by



Daniel Villerreal, MD
Professor of Medicine
SUNY Upstate Medical Center
Syracuse, NY

Visit the SSCI website to view updated
information about SRM 2018. ssciweb.org

The SSCI would like broaden the participation of the membership in leadership. Members are invited and encouraged to apply to be members of the Standing Committees of the SSCI. The committees primarily meet by conference call, generally 1- 4 times year. If you are interested, please submit a letter of interest and your CV to Joan Kemp.

Committees include: Finance/Audit * Governance * Mentoring * Membership * Publications * SRM Program * Website

Don't sit on the sidelines. Be someone who wants and CAN make a difference in the Society!

SSCI COMMITTEE UPDATES

Fundraising Committee

Committee Chair: David Guidot Emory University

Below is a list of our generous member supporters thus far this year. Unrestricted gifts today have ranged between annual, cash gifts of \$50 to \$10,000. Gifts restricted to support a particular area of medicine, lectureship, scholarship or travel award have ranged from \$1 to \$25,000 either annually or over a period of up to 5 years.

Each and every one of these gifts is important, makes a difference, and ensures our continued ability and commitment to serve our mission to promote the highest levels of scientific medical inquiry, and to nurture the next generation of clinician scientists. For more information or to make a gift, please contact Joan Kemp at joankemp@uab.edu.

The SSCI is dedicated to keep our mission alive and healthy for 2017 and beyond, but we need your support. So, how can you help?

Fund for Academic Medicine (FAMe)

President C. Mel Wilcox, MD, MPSH and the Council of the Southern Society for Clinical Investigation gratefully acknowledge the following donors for their leadership gifts and pledges in support of the SSCI Fund for Academic Medicine. This Fund supports travel and other awards in concert with the Society's mission to mentor future generations of medical investigators and to promote careers in academic medicine.

Platinum Level Supporters

(>\$10,000)

Richard deShazo, MD
Robert T. Means, Jr., MD
Karl T. Weber, MD

Gold Level Supporters

(\$5,000 - \$9,999)

J. Claude Bennett, MD
Jesse Roman, MD

Silver Level Supporters

(\$1,000 - \$4,999)

Frank A. Anania, MD	N. Stan Nahman, MD
Michael S. Bronze, MD	Kenneth Nugent, MD
Brad Burlew, MD	Jim Oates, MD
Patrice Delafontaine, MD	David W. Plotz, MD
Monica M. Farley, MD	Sumanth D. Prabhu, MD
Elvira Gosmanov, MD	Don Rockey, MD
David M. Guidot, MD	Charles V. Sanders, MD
C. Michael Hart, MD	Solomon Solomon, MD
Peter O. Kohler, MD	Michael Ullian, MD
MA "Tonette" Krousel-Wood, MD	Daniel Villarreal, MD
Charles Mansbach, MD	Donald Wesson, MD
Gailen D. Marshall, MD, PhD	C. Mel Wilcox, MD
Richard W. McCallum, MD	
Michael J. McPhaul, MD, PhD	

Bronze Level Supporters

(<\$999)

Rajesh Bhagat, MD	Greg Martin, MD
Rhondo Colombo, MD	Donald M. Miller, MD, PhD
Sushma Cribbs, MD	Paul Muntner, PhD
Molly Eaton, MD	Nancy Norton, MD
Marian Evatt, MD	John Oates, MD
Michael B. Fallon, MD	Suzanne Oparil, MD
Xian Fan, MD	Genaro M.A. Palmieri, MD
Stephen Geraci, MD	Rafael Perez, MD
Gary Gilkeson, MD	Jules Puschett, MD
Lynn Goebel, MD	William Ratnoff, MD
David Green, MD	Susan M. Ray, MD
Clifford Gunthel, MD	Nadine Roupael, MD
Michael Hagensee, MD	Shirley Schlessinger, MD
Octavian & Adriana Ioachimescu, MD	David Schulman, MD
Jesse Jacob, MD	Paul Southern, MD
C. Michael Jones, MD	Gerald Staton, MD
Diane Kamen, MD	David Stephens, MD
Mack Land, MD	Viranuj Sueblinvong, MD
C. Seth Landefeld, MD	Vin Tangpricha, MD, PhD
Kenneth Leeper, MD	Camille Vaughan, MD
Carrie Lenneman, MD	Cherry Wongtrakool, MD

Please donate to FAMe at
www.ssciweb.org or contact
 Joan Kemp at joankemp@uab.edu.

2018 SSCI Presidential Symposium & 2018 Joint Plenary Symposium

The 2018 SSCI Presidential Symposium and the Joint Plenary Symposium's theme this year will be "The Microbiome". The SRM 2018 Program Committee is planning a scientifically stimulating program with outstanding speakers.

The Pediatric Gut Microbiome in Health and Chronic Disease
James Versalovic, MD, PhD
 Baylor College of Medicine
 Houston, TX



Elimination of Multi-drug Resistant Organisms Using Fecal Microbiota Transplant
Colleen Kraft, MD
 Emory University
 Atlanta, GA



Therapeutic Interventions for the Human Gut Microbiota
Martin Rodriguez, MD
 University of Alabama at Birmingham
 Birmingham, AL



The Gut Microbiome in Health and Disease
Gary D. Wu, MD
 Perleman School of Medicine
 University of Pennsylvania
 Philadelphia, PA



THE 2018 SOUTHERN REGIONAL MEETING

The 72nd Annual Meeting will be held February 22-24, 2018 at the InterContinental New Orleans.

Please make plans to attend as we have some special events planned for this meeting. Partners of this joint meeting include the Southern Section of the American Federation for Medical Research, Southern Society for Pediatric Research, Academic Pediatric Association and the Southern Society for General Internal Medicine.

The joint meeting will begin with subspecialty sessions and workshops, our traditional mentored poster session Thursday afternoon followed by the Thursday evening dinner symposium.

Registration opens August 1, 2017. Register at ssciweb.org/southern-regional-meeting.php

Hotel Reservations: The hotel reservation form is also included in the Call for Abstracts.

NOTE: To obtain the special room rate at the Hotel use the SRM reservation link <https://aws.passkey.com/e/49309631>. When making your reservation by telephone, you must mention the Southern Regional Meeting, or you will not receive the special room rate provided to members by the hotel. *Therefore, please indicate that you are attending the Southern Regional Meetings when making reservations.*

The deadline for hotel reservations at our convention rate and the hold on the room block is January 30, 2018. Make your reservations at <https://aws.passkey.com/e/49309631>. After this date, rooms and rates are subject to availability.

**Congratulations to
Daniel Villarreal, MD
Recipient of the SSCI's
2018 Founders' Medal Award**

The award presentation
ceremony will be held during
the SSCI/SRM meeting
February 22-24, 2018.



**17th Annual SSCI Nephrology Young
Investigators' Forum**

Wednesday, February 21, 2018

Abstract deadline - October 6, 2017

Call for abstracts and additional information can be found at www.ssciweb.org.

Meet the Experts Breakfast

**Friday, February 23, 2018
7am - 8am**

SRM 2018 will again be hosting the "Meet the Experts Breakfast" meeting for trainees and junior faculty. This session continues to be a tremendous success.

This session will feature three experts who will discuss "Choosing the Next Step in Your Career", "Doing Research in the Modern Age", and "How to Advance as a Clinical Educator".

Additional details regarding the "experts" will be provided in the meeting announcements. Please encourage your trainees and junior faculty to register and attend.

There is no charge to attend this session.

Clinician Educator One-on-One Mentoring Program

The SSCI is pleased to introduce the Clinician Educator One-on-One Mentoring Program at SRM 2018 on Saturday, February 24 from 8:30am - 11:30am.

This new program will feature twenty-five minute private sessions with a pre-registered mentee and pre-screened mentor. Any member of the SRM participating organizations with academic ranks of associate professor, assistant professor, or instructor who self-identifies as a clinician educator may apply for mentoring.

Mentor Invitation

The organizers are seeking mentors with particular interest and experience in assisting clinician educator faculty members to develop their careers.

If you are interested in participating, please send your CV and a few lines on your mentoring experience/specific interests via email to joankemp@uab.edu

SSGIM is Back for SRM 2018!!!

In order to better serve their membership across a broad region, the Southern Society for General Internal Medicine (SSGIM) has decided to meet in another location on an every three year basis. The SSCI and the sister societies of the SRM are pleased that SSGIM is back for SRM 2018.

2018 SRM Workshops

- **Manuscript Preparation and Peer-Reviewed Publication.** This workshop will address multiple aspects of publication in scientific journals. Course presenter is Dr. Thomas Welch, Editor at *The Journal of Pediatrics*.
- **Moving Your Clinical Case Presentation into a Published Manuscript** In this workshop, aspects related to developing a clinical case presentation into a manuscript awaiting submission and choosing the optimal journal for submission will be discussed. The audience will view and discuss how two abstracts selected from the 2018 SRM meeting moved from a presentation to a manuscript.
- **Career Advancement for the Clinician Educator: Tactical Issues.** This new workshop has been added for the 2018 SRM to expand upon our workshop from the past three years. "Tactical Issues" will provide practical advice on day-to-day activities that are essential to master for today's clinician educators. Topics include: Manuscript Reviewing; Choosing Projects for Career Advancement; Declining Non-Contributory Invitations (Saying "No"); Keys to Simultaneous Teaching and Care Delivery; Delivering Formative Feedback; and Summative Assessment of Clinical Learners. Sessions will employ a variety of formats, including didactic lectures, audience participation, and small group breakouts. Attendees will be free to enter and leave the workshop to accommodate their individual needs.

New Workshop for SRM 2018

Big Data for the Clinician: An Approach to Data Mining Using the United States Renal Data System

Saturday, February 24, 2018 • 1pm - 2pm

N. Stanley Nahman, Jr, MD, Professor of Medicine, Augusta University
Jennifer L. Waller, PhD, Professor of Biostatistics, Augusta University

This workshop will introduce an approach to data mining for those new to the field using a large public dataset. Individual speakers and a panel discussion will include practical approaches to data extraction, applicable statistical methods, and comments about the strengths and limitations of this form of clinical research. Actual USRDS queries from the Augusta University data mining group will be utilized.

Have you recently changed institutions? Perhaps your email address or phone number has changed or you've been promoted. If so, please take a quick moment to update your profile online at www.ssciweb.org.

This will help us keep you up-to-date on Society news.

While you're there, why not sign up to be a mentor, update the Classification, Research and Educational Interests fields and upload a recent photo!

Career Development Course: Career Advancement for the Clinician Educator Strategic Concerns

Our educator faculty will be presenting this workshop for the fourth year in 2018, with some topic modifications. "Strategic Concerns" will address larger issues in career development. Topics include: Making Career Decisions and Career Development Planning; Teaching Clinical Reasoning; CV's and Documentation; Key Concepts in Mentoring; Scholarship for Career Advancement; and Performing Educational Research. Sessions will employ a variety of formats, including didactic lectures, audience participation, and small group break-outs. Attendees will be free to enter and leave the workshop to accommodate their individual needs.

2018 Speakers

[Stephen A. Geraci, MD \(Course Director\)](#)

Professor, Department of Internal Medicine
Quillen College of Medicine/East Tennessee State University
Topics: Making Career Decisions/Career Development Planning

[S. Calvin Thigpen, MD](#)

Assistant Professor and Associate Residency Director
Department of Internal Medicine
University of Mississippi Medical Center
Topic: Choosing Projects for Career Advancement

[Robert M. Centor, MD](#)

Professor, Division of General Internal Medicine
Associate Dean, UAB Huntsville Regional Medical
Campus University of Alabama at Birmingham
Topic: Teaching Clinical Reasoning

[Alix G. Darden, PhD](#)

Research Professor, Department of Pediatrics
Director of Faculty Development
University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center
Topics: CVs and Documentation; Performing Educational Research

SSCI Visiting Professor Program (VPP)

The SSCI continues to have an unwavering devotion to its tripartite mission: the advancement of overall knowledge and sharing of incremental knowledge, information and ideas; a commitment to the mentoring of future generations of medical investigators; and fulfillment of its vision.

The VPP's purpose: to sponsor senior members of the Society who would volunteer their time and share their knowledge through a visitation to an academic medical center. The visit is sanctioned by the SSCI through the formal approval of a submitted application by the hosting center. The application would include the agenda and specific objectives of the visit. A Visiting Professor Program Committee of the SSCI Council would make the determination of applicant selection.

Five visiting professor programs were approved by Council for 2017 and include (1) [Dr. David Plot](#), Professor of Medicine at the Medical University of South Carolina, to speak at Ochsner Clinic Foundation; (2) [Dr. Patrice Delafontaine](#), Professor of Medicine at the University of Missouri, to speak at the University of Alabama at Birmingham; (3) [Dr. Richard McCallum](#), Professor of Medicine at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center-El Paso, to speak at the University of Alabama at Birmingham; and (4) [Dr. Jesse Roman](#), Professor of Medicine at the University of Louisville, or [Dr. Karl Weber](#), Professor of Cardiovascular Diseases at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center to speak at the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

The 2018 application deadline is May 1, 2018. We greatly encourage you to utilize the valuable resources available to your students/trainees/fellows within the SSCI. For more details about this program and how your institution can enhance its training opportunities, please visit www.ssciweb.org.



SSCI MENTOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

Mentoring is a fundamental determinant of success in the biomedical sciences and is a major mission of the SSCI. These awards recognize outstanding mentors who are members of our organization and who have demonstrated a longstanding commitment to mentoring students, trainees, and/or junior faculty. Moreover, through their positive impact on the mentee's careers, they have advanced medical education and research for the benefit of the community at large.

Awards Criteria

Mentor award nominations will be evaluated based on the positive educational and/or research experiences of the mentors' trainees, including the impact of mentorship on their subsequent professional and personal success. Key roles of a mentor include:

- > A wise and trusted advisor
- > Career and professional guidance
- > Intellectual growth and development
- > Positive role modeling

Award Categories

- > Student Mentor (includes medical and graduate students)
- > Postgraduate Mentor (includes residents, fellows and other postdoctoral trainees)
- > Junior Faculty Mentor

Eligibility Criteria

Nominees must be SSCI members in good standing.
 Nominees may include physicians, scientists, and educators in the various clinical disciplines of the biomedical sciences.
 Nominees should have a sustained outstanding record of mentoring over time.
 Nominators must be a previous or current mentee(s) of the mentor or be a colleague of the nominee with personal knowledge of the nominee's mentoring qualities and excellence.
 There must be a primary and secondary nominator providing written nominations and documentations.

Ineligibility Criteria

- > Previous recipients of the SSCI's Mentor of the Year Award are not eligible.
- > Incomplete applications will not be considered.
- > Self nominations will not be accepted.

Nomination Packages

The nomination packages must include:

- Primary and secondary nomination letters including nominators' relationship to nominee.
- Nominee's curriculum vitae.
- List of former and present mentees with current status/location.

Nominating letters should summarize the nominee's impact on mentoring with clear examples of the positive outcomes on students, trainees, and/or junior faculty. If the nominator(s) is a mentee, a narrative of how the mentor influenced his/her career (s) and those of others should be included.

Nominations will be reviewed and scored by the SSCI Mentoring Committee based on the award criteria outlined above.
 Nominations should be submitted to Joan Kemp at joankemp@uab.edu no later than **October 31, 2017**.

Notification and Award Presentation

Award recipients will be notified by mid-December. The award presentation ceremony will be held during the SSCI/SRM meeting February 22-24, 2018.



**Congratulations to our
2017 Mentor of the Year
Awardees**



Postgraduate mentor winner - **Dr. Perry G. Rigby** from Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center (left).

Junior Faculty mentor winner - **Dr. Richard W. McCallum** from Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, El Paso (right).

The AJMS is proud to be the Official Journal of the SSCI

Multimedia is not just a thing of the future. The AJMS' website is a state-of-the-art electronic forum that has become the definitive, expanded and multi-function version of the Journal for SSCI members and individual users.

Such innovations include:

- ◆ Collections: authors will have the ability to create their own.
- ◆ Press and news
- ◆ Multimedia (streaming audio & video can be hosted within articles)!
- ◆ Mobile-optimized websites allowing easy reading of the Journal on multiple mobile devices
- ◆ Clinical Search Optimization: filters and offering "Also Read" articles
- ◆ Author, Editor and Reviewer Feedback Programs
- ◆ Improved navigation and exciting new look
- ◆ Social Media Integration: available at the article level, allowing members and readers to share journal content on Facebook and Twitter pages.

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**Journal news from
Jesse Roman, MD, Editor-in-Chief**

In April, Dr. Jesse Roman became the Editor-In-Chief of the *American Journal of the Medical Sciences* (AJMS). The AJMS is the official journal of the SSCI and one of the longest-standing journals in the U.S. (founded in 1820). Its mission is to advance knowledge through the publication of high-quality manuscripts involving bench-related or translational research.

In the past few months, AJMS moved to the University of Louisville and added Christina Halcomb as the Assistant Managing Editor; she works with Sarah McCann who continues to serve as the Journal's Managing Editor. Sarah and Christina ensured the uninterrupted publication of the Journal and both remain highly committed to its success. In addition, the AJMS added several new features including editorials and commentaries, and a new section on the History of Medicine, among other changes. The Journal adjusted its review process to identify reviewers earlier, and to provide timely and helpful feedback to authors. These and other changes have already shown an impact as the average time from submission to final decision has improved from 41 days in 2016 to 13 days as of May 2017 and the time period for acceptance or rejection of manuscripts has been cut in half. The Journal remains financially viable and submissions for publication are on track to surpass prior yearly submissions.

In 2016, the impact factor of the AJMS improved to **1.847** from **1.575**. Building on the excellent work of the prior Editor, Dr. David Plotz, our goal is to continue to improve the Journal's reputation by publishing top quality scientific articles and reviews, and by adding relevant commentaries, among other approaches. Ultimately, our hope is to expand the Journal's contributors and audience beyond the Southeast.

We are excited about the future of the Journal and its potential for greatness. We have an excellent partner in our publisher Elsevier and, together with the terrific expertise of the membership of the SSCI, the future of the AJMS is assured. We hope you will continue to submit your best work to the AJMS.



Emeritus Editor, Dr. David Plotz (left) and Editor-in-Chief Dr. Jesse Roman.



Sarah McCann
Managing Editor



Christina Halcomb
Assistant Managing Editor