



SCT

SOCIETY FOR CLINICAL TRIALS

volume 22, number 2 | Fall 2011

Newsletter

SCT President's Corner

By Rick Chappell, 2011-2012 President



Dear fellow members of the Society,

I am happy to help present our Fall newsletter: It puts me in an optimistic frame of mind because it contains so much encouraging news and reflects the hard work of so many members. First, planning for our 2012 annual meeting on May 20-23 at the Hyatt Regency Miami is coming along very well. (See the bottom of our website home page, <http://www.sctweb.org>, for new developments). This is due to the efforts of our Program Chair Mithat Gönen and our 2012 Program Committee. They have sorted through a wealth of Invited Session proposals, and continue to do so with abstracts for contributed papers and posters, and applications for the Thomas Chalmers Student Scholarship or Sylvan Green Award (due December 1). I echo Mithat's encouragement of all members to help craft the content of our meeting: It is one of the most direct ways to influence the Society and express your vision of the science and art of clinical trials to your colleagues.

This year, we have chosen the meeting's theme to be "Clinical Trials in Vulnerable Populations," and I would like to explain why. One of the aspects of the SCT which makes me proudest of being a member is its eclecticism: We have a diversity of professions, of employers, and of scientific interests which I think is rarely matched by members of other professional societies. The giants in the field — academic, industrial, and governmental — are well represented, as of course they should be. But they don't crowd out the little guy. Our annual Trial of the Year Awards exemplify this. Who could have witnessed the most recent ToTY award at our Vancouver meeting, presented to Dr. Prasanta Tripathy for his "Jharkhand and Orissa study of birth outcomes and maternal depression" without feeling great pride in our discipline? Tripathy and colleagues undertook to cluster randomize villages to an educational intervention in two of India's poorest states, where maternal mortality hovered at 4/1000 births. (Multiply that by 10 births, which is common for the region, and the figure is even more horrifying.) The audience was spellbound as Dr. Tripathy told us about sending nurses to women's groups to tell them, among other things, that they should make sure that whomever delivered their babies should wash their hands first — and how this single simple cheap intervention lowered mortality by a third! There was no profit in this, no pandering to the upper classes, no technical breakthroughs — just a demonstration that good practical public health initiatives can still save lives. The vulnerable are all around us and still need our help: AIDS patients, a large number of whom live in the Caribbean area near our Miami venue; children; the elderly, who are increasingly being represented in clinical trials; and patients in the third world, some of whom are enrolled in clinical trials which are only partly being performed for their benefit.

Sessions on these topics have been held over the years in the Society's meetings, and certainly not all sessions in Miami will adhere to this theme, but I hope that this emphasis will lead to a thought-provoking and inspiring meeting. Speaking of the Trial of the Year, please take a look at this year's Committee Chair Larry Friedman's article inviting nominations for next year's award appearing on page 5. One last

In this Issue....

SCT Invites You to Miami	page 2
Supporting the Society: Sponsorships	page 3
Education Outreach	page 4
SCT Scholarships	page 4
Submit Proposals and Abstracts	page 5
2011 Trial of the Year Nominations	page 5
In Memoriam: Paul Meier	page 6
QSPI: A New Committee of the SCT	page 7
Nominations for 2012 Society Fellows	page 8
Are You Connected: Social Media	page 9

(Continued page 3)

SCT Invites You to Miami in May



Make plans now to travel to Miami, Florida, in May to attend the Society's 33rd Annual Meeting. The SCT has a strong track record of holding a meeting that offers strong content, engaging speakers, and a variety of opportunities to connect with your peers from

around the world. For 2012, our Committees have already begun putting together another valuable annual meeting. Here's a peek at what's going on so far...

Impressive Keynote Speakers

SCT is honored this year to have two keynote speakers that will share incredible stories and challenge you in your daily work.

- John P.A. Ioannidis, Director of the Stanford Prevention Research Center <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John Ioannidis>
- Wafaa El-Sadr, Director of the International Center for AIDS Care and Treatment Programs at Columbia University <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wafaa El-Sadr>

Each of these renowned speakers is still finalizing his or her presentation, but in general, Dr. Ioannidis plans to address the topic of agenda-wide evaluations of randomized evidence, while Dr. El-Sadr will certainly refer to her work specializing in the treatment of AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa and AIDS and TB in Harlem.



Engaging Invited Sessions

Invited Sessions at SCT's meeting typically bring together a set of speakers and discussants to present the latest results or important and emerging issues in an area of clinical trials research. This might include (but should not be limited to) statistical science, data management, information technology, ethics, study management, policy, regulation, etc.

Invited session proposals are still being accepted. In the coming weeks, our Program Committee will evaluate these proposals and reach out to those who have been accepted.

Distinctive Contributed Papers and Posters

The Society would like to make its annual meeting as large a forum for discussion and ideas as possible, and to this end, accept a variety of papers and posters for presentation over the three days of the meeting.

Contributed papers and posters may address issues related to the design, conduct, and analysis of clinical trials including but not limited to the following: statistical methodology; use and evaluation of technology in trial conduct; data management; quality assurance and monitoring; ethics, regulatory and safety; patient recruitment, enrollment and retention; study coordination and closeout.



December 1, 2011, is the deadline to submit abstracts for consideration. All submissions must be made via the Society's online system, accessible via our website.

Sights and Sounds of Miami

The Hyatt Regency Miami will host our 2012 meeting. Enjoy the destination as much as the meeting by coming in early or staying a few extra days at this downtown Miami hotel. Learn more about the property by visiting miamiregency.hyatt.com. Our special conference rate is US \$225 per night, plus taxes and fees. There are also a limited number of government rate rooms available on a first come, first-served basis.

More travel details, hotel reservation and meeting registration information will be available this fall. Watch for emails and announcements on the SCT website.

2012 Annual Meeting theme – Clinical Trials in Vulnerable Populations

Increasingly there is interest in studying populations including, among others, elderly, children, prisoners, minorities, patients with mental disease and patients in emergency care. As always, sessions related to other topics will also be of interest. Indeed, the Program Committee encourages a variety of topics and issues in clinical trials research that would be of general interest to the Society's diverse and international membership.

SCT President's Corner *(continued)*

point concerning our annual meeting is that I don't want to neglect the contributions of Chris Coffey and the Education Committee of which he is Chair in forming the premeeting workshops. These are shaping up to be as stimulating as always.

Besides the prospect of a slam-bang meeting, there are other reasons for optimism. On page 6, Society Treasurer Joe Collins reports that we are in the black and bouncing back from precarious finances of a couple of years ago. I thank my predecessors Bob Byington and Colin Begg along with all the volunteers who worked with them for these successes. We can build upon them by encouraging our colleagues to join the Society and attend its meetings, and by soliciting potential donors. See <http://www.sctweb.org/links.cfm> for a list of sponsorship opportunities and contact our Development Committee Chair Ivan Chan (ivan_chan@merck.com) for more information.

Membership has also benefitted from the recent merger of the industry group QSPI (Quantitative Sciences in the Pharmaceutical Industry) into the Society. QSPI, which has roughly 20 members, used to be associated with the PhRMA industry group but has been independent for a couple of years, and decided that an association with the SCT would be to our mutual advantage. Learn more about this group from an article in this issue by our friends at QSPI, on page 7.

This isn't the only outreach going on, however. Endeavors with the vision science organization ARVO and cancer research group ASCO are being undertaken in which Society members will give live in-person or web seminars in

exchange for publicity opportunities. These will help keep the SCT steeped in the practical applications which are its life blood, and I'm grateful to all those who help create such collaborations. Please contact me (chappell@stat.wisc.edu) and/or Anne Lindblad (alindblad@emmes.com) if you know of outreach opportunities to organizations with which you are associated.

There is more good news in that our Journal's citation index is soaring (p. 7). Also, the Society's Development Committee has obtained the valued assistance of Jay Siegel and Frank Rockhold, in addition to its new Chair Ivan Chan. These three long-time Society stalwarts together offer tremendous industry experience and contacts which I am sure will prove very valuable (see article below).

More is going than I have room to mention in our Committees on Nominations (Dennis Dixon, chair); Fellows (John Lachin); Web (Scott Rushing); Student Scholarship and Sylvan Green awards (Jim Dignam); and affinity groups (IT, Bill Elgie; Trialists Practicing in Asia (NEW), KyungMann Kim; Trialists Practicing in Europe (NEW), Athene Lane; CRA, Bev Koski; Physicians, Yves Rosenberg; Industry-FDA, José Pinheiro). *Please click on the "Leadership, Committees, and Fellows" tab of our home page for contact information of Society officers and committee chairs.*

Thanks for reading this long. In conclusion, I'm very excited about the prospects for the Society and our meeting, journals, committees, outreach, and other endeavors, and encourage all members to contact me with communications on any and all topics.

Supporting the Society: Corporate Sponsorships

By Ivan Chan, Development Committee Chair

The success of SCT relies in large part on the voluntary support of society members, individual donations, as well as corporate sponsorship. The SCT utilizes the donations to help fund the successful annual meeting and educational workshops, to improve the services to members, and to promote the Society. The SCT has recently established several levels of corporate sponsorship ranging from \$1,000 to \$40,000. More detailed information about corporate sponsorship is listed on the SCT website www.sctweb.org/links.cfm.

The SCT acknowledges the sponsors in several ways. We list each sponsor in *Clinical Trials*, the official journal of the Society. Every member of the Society

receives the journal and many libraries subscribe to it. We also acknowledge sponsors in the Program of our annual meeting and on the Society's website.

We Need Your Help

The committee encourages you to think about ways of promoting SCT in your institution or company. If your institution or company is interested in providing financial sponsorship to the SCT, please feel free to contact me (ivan_chan@merck.com) or anyone on the committee. Members of the Development Committee are Ivan Chan (Merck), Frank Rockhold (GSK) (frank.w.rockhold@gsk.com), and Jay Siegel (J&J) (JSiegel2@its.jnj.com).

Annual Meeting Sponsorships

A number of ways exist for your company to contribute to the Society's Annual Meeting. Supply attendees with conference bags or materials, sponsor a luncheon or reception, or provide an amount in general support of SCT. Go to the Sponsors & Links tab on the SCT website and view 2012 Advertising, Sponsorship, and Exhibit Options.

Education Outreach: An Opportunity to Share SCT Strengths

By **Anne Lindblad, President-elect**

The Society for Clinical Trials is comprised of individuals with a wealth of talent and experience. By reaching out to other professional societies we have an opportunity to share these strengths and the potential to attract others to our Society. Examples of collaborations where SCT members, representing SCT, have taught courses in 2010 and 2011 include:

The Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) www.arvo.org

Federation of Clinical Immunology Societies (FOCIS) www.focisnet.org

American Diabetes Association (ADA) www.diabetes.org

SCT has recently signed an agreement with ARVO to co-sponsor a series of webinars in the Fall/Winter 2011. The live sessions will be taped and available to both ARVO and SCT members with CME provided. More information on this exciting series will be forthcoming!

We are beginning to plan for 2012 and are excited by the efforts of Susan Halabi to finalize an agreement for a SCT co-sponsored workshop to be held at the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) in June 2012.

If you are affiliated with another professional group that may have an interest in partnering with SCT please contact Bob Byington (bbyingto@wfubmc.edu), Anne Lindblad (alindblad@emmes.com) or Rick Chappell (chappell@stat.wisc.edu)

CRA Membership Subcommittee Update – Plan Now for Funding and Opportunity to Attend the SCT Meeting in May

By **Beverly Koski, CRA Membership Subcommittee Chair**

The SCT Annual Meeting is an excellent opportunity to network with peers and to mingle with colleagues who have other specialized expertise within the clinical trials process. As has been advertised, the SCT is still accepting proposals for Invited Speaker Sessions. The deadline for individual presentations and posters is December 1, 2011. Often attendance at meetings is contingent on having an abstract accepted. We encourage you to begin planning to attend the meeting and approaching supervisors about travelling to Miami in May 2012. The theme for the meeting is 'Clinical Trials in Vulnerable Populations'. There are many topics that

are relevant to CRAs, Project Managers and Trial Managers that could be considered including: running clinical trials in the current regulatory environment, global clinical trials, project management, training, recruitment, site management and monitoring.

Feel free to contact any members of the committee: Suzanne Firrell (sfirrell@bsc.gwu.edu), Beverly Koski (koski.beverly@gmail.com), Sara Pressel (Sara.L.Pressel@uth.tmc.edu), Alison McDonald (a.mcdonald@abdn.ac.uk), or Debbie Sawyer (debbie.sawyer@duke.edu), if you would like to discuss your ideas, or how to become more active within the Society.

Encourage your Students and Colleagues to Apply: SCT Scholarships

SCT manages two scholarship programs with annual awards. The **Thomas Chalmers Scholarship** is for pre- and post-doctoral students including physicians and other health care professionals participating in clinical research training programs.

SCT awarded the 2011 Chalmers Scholarship to Kenneth Wu (of the University of Washington at Seattle Department of Biostatistics) for his work "Group Sequential Monitoring With the Proportional Odds Model."

Abstracts for the Chalmers Student Scholarship Program must be accompanied by a short manuscript (3-5 pages) and a letter from the student's advisor confirming status as a fulltime student.

Physicians and dentists clinical trialists may apply for the **Sylvan Green Award**. This award will support the travel

and lodging expenses of the winner to attend the meeting to present his or her paper. To be considered for the award the abstract must be authored by a physician or dentist and flagged as a Sylvan Green submission.

Robert Lindblad, MD, (The EMMES Corporation, Rockville, MD) received the 2011 Sylvan Green Award for his work on, "Suicide Risk in Substance Abuse Treatment Clinical Trials, Is Adverse Event Reporting Alone Sufficient?"

Please spread the word about the available SCT scholarship programs. Visit our website annual meeting page to:

- download a short text advertisement that you could place in your institution's newsletter or website,
- A flyer that you could post in offices, hallways or lunchrooms.

Meet Me in Miami – Submit Your Proposals and Abstracts Now

By Mithat Gönen, 2012 Annual Meeting Program Chair

On behalf of the 2012 Program Committee I am cordially inviting you to submit a proposal for an invited session or a contributed abstract for our meeting in Miami on May 20-23, 2012. This is your chance to have your say.

Proposals for Invited Sessions are still being accepted. Abstracts for contributed papers and poster presentations may be submitted until December 1, 2011.

All the information you need can be found by following the links at the bottom of our web page www.sctweb.org.

Annual SCT meeting attendees are asked to fill a survey every year. Most of us do this faithfully, perhaps because we all know too well how painful it is to deal with non-response and missing data in surveys. Every year we have unhappy customers who think their interests are not well-served by the program. If you are one of them, here is your chance to change things. Submit an invited session proposal or a contributed abstract to the 2012 meeting. No better way than leading by example. Of course, dissatisfaction with the state of affairs is not the only reason one should actively participate in the annual meeting. If you like it as is, make sure it continues that way, again by submitting an invited session proposal or a contributed abstract. Have you never done this before? All the more

reason to start now: Are you not tired of seeing the same faces on the podium over and over?

The truth is, organizing a session, giving a talk or presenting a poster in the annual meeting are the most direct, not to mention enjoyable and beneficial, ways to engage in the SCT. The theme of the 2012 meeting is "Clinical Trials in Vulnerable Populations." This would include, among others, elderly, children, prisoners, minorities, patients with mental disease and patients in emergency care. While there will be several thematic sessions, the majority of presentations will cover on topics of interest. The multidisciplinary nature of our membership ensures that many areas are of great interest. Examples include data management, trial conduct, recruitment, ethics, regulatory issues, information technology and statistical methodology. One notable exception is presentations that primarily deal with results from an individual trial, which we think is more appropriate for the relevant clinical and specialty societies.

Visit www.sctweb.org for details and a link to the on-line submission facility. Please pay attention to the requirements listed on the website. And do not forget to carefully edit your abstract because it may, if accepted, appear in print as submitted.

See you in Miami!

Seeking Nominations for the 2011 Trial of the Year

By Larry Friedman, Trial of the Year Committee Chair

Each year the Society for Clinical Trials and Project ImpACT presents an award to the randomized clinical trial published (electronically or on paper) in the previous year that best fulfills the following standards:

- It improves the lot of mankind.
- It provides the basis for a substantial, beneficial change in health care.
- It reflects expertise in subject matter, excellence in methodology, and concern for study participants.
- It overcame obstacles in implementation.
- The presentation of its design, execution, and results is a model of clarity and intellectual soundness.

The first award was given to Barbara Schmidt and her colleagues for their trial of IV caffeine for premature infants with apnea, a treatment that had been in irregular use for decades but never rigorously tested. In a challenging multicenter international trial of 2006 babies, they demonstrated not only reduced mortality from caffeine, but also reductions in cerebral palsy and developmental delay (*N Engl J Med* 2007;357:1893-1902).

The second award was presented to Christopher Bulpitt and his colleagues for the Hypertension in the Very Elderly

We are now accepting nominations for the outstanding Trial of the Year published (electronically or on paper) in 2011. The deadline for nominations is January 31, 2012, and the award will be presented at our annual meeting in Miami. To nominate the trial you think best meets our standards, simply send an email to Larry Friedman (L.m.friedman@verizon.net) with its citation and the reasons why you think it deserves the award.

Trial. The investigators enrolled 3,845 women and men with persistent hypertension (systolic blood pressure of 160 mmHg or more) who were 80 years of age or older and were living independently. Over the next two years, the octogenarians randomized to mild blood pressure lowering drugs were a third less likely to suffer strokes, two-thirds less likely to go into heart failure, and one-fifth less likely to die than those who had been randomized to placebos (*N Engl J Med* 2008;358:1887-98).

The next award was presented to Prof. Fritz Schroder and his colleagues for the European Randomized Study of Screening for Prostate Cancer Trial. They identified 182,000 men between the ages of 50 and 74 years and randomized them to be/not be offered Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) screening every 4 years. The rate ratio for

(Continued on page 7)

Treasurer's Report

By Joseph Collins, SCT Treasurer

After I accepted the position of Treasurer for the Society in July 2009 and started to see the Society's financial state, I thought 'Oh, my goodness, what have I gotten myself in to?' It appeared that things were going downhill fast. In 2008, we had lost \$65,370 and 2009 was looking much worse. In fact, we lost \$244,360 in 2009. This left our cash reserves at about \$115,000. The losses were due to many things: dwindling membership, reduced attendance at our annual meetings, expenses related to the changeover of the Society's management company, and the investment in needed improvements to the Society's website.

I am pleased to report, however, that the Society's leadership—including our Presidents, the Executive Committee, the Board of Directors and the various Committees (e.g. Membership and Program)—have worked hard over the last two years to turn things around and we

have. Membership has increased from 868 in 2008 to 1,195 in 2010 and we expect higher yet in 2011. Meeting attendance has increased from the low to mid 400s in 2008 and 2009 to the 600s in 2010 and 2011. We have successfully made our change in management to Fernley & Fernley and our website has been improved. As a result, the Society had a net increase of \$80,000 between revenues and expenses in 2010 and we are projecting a net increase of about \$80,000 to \$85,000 between revenues and expenses for 2011.

While the Society appears to have turned the corner, there is still much work to do to maintain our fiscal position. This may include future dues and meeting registration fee increases, but we will work to keep these at a minimum. So encourage your friends and colleagues to join or continue in the Society and to attend the Society's annual meetings.

See you in Miami.

Education Committee Plans the Pre-Meeting Workshop Program

By Christopher S. Coffey, Education Committee Chair

SCT Education Committee 2011-2012

Chair:

Chris Coffey

Committee Members:

Kristel Aman
Marie Benavente
Jodi DeStefano
Devin Hunt
Thomas Moritz
Emily Van Meter

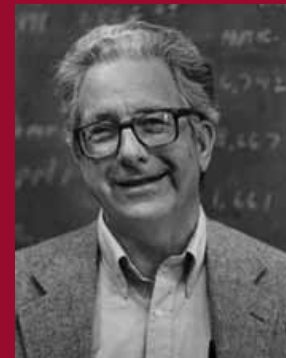
Carol Baker
Jeffrey Blume
Marta Gilson
Jingyee Kou
Wendy Parulekar
Paul Wakim
and David Wright.

Michael Benatar
Li Chen
Susan Halabi
Oscar Moreno
Roberta Scherer
Julie Weston

The overall workshop program is selected to appeal to the diverse backgrounds of SCT membership. Individual workshop proposals may have broad appeal to the diverse membership of the Society or may be focused towards specific interest groups in the Society (e.g., clinical investigators, site coordinators, trial monitors, information technology specialists, or biostatisticians). Although the committee is already hard at work planning pre-meeting workshops for the 2012 meeting in Miami, we are

always looking for good ideas. We are eager to hear from members if they have any suggestions for potential workshops, particularly if you or someone you know is interested in presenting a workshop. In general, pre-meeting workshops should be four hours long, although eight-hour workshops will also be considered by the committee. If you have suggestions for a workshop, please contact Chris Coffey at christopher-coffey@uiowa.edu.

In Memoriam Paul Meier 1924-2011



Professor Paul Meier, founding member and Fellow of the Society, longtime participant in its meetings, friend to many of its members, and President during the years 1986-1987, died at home on August 7, 2011. Paul was faculty in the University of Chicago's Department of Statistics from 1957-1992 and in Columbia University's Departments of Statistics and Biostatistics subsequently; he chaired all three departments at various times. He had a distinguished academic and scientific career and his many published works and writings have had a huge influence on the application of statistics to medical research — particularly the design, conduct, and analysis of randomized clinical trials and in the advancement of evidence-based medicine in general.

Paul could be counted on to deliver a spontaneous but carefully reasoned and extraordinarily well-spoken comment on almost any issue in the discipline. We will miss him.

QSPI: A New Committee of the SCT

By QSPI Committee Chair, José Pinheiro, and Vice-Chair, Dave Stock

In July, the SCT added a committee focused on statistical, data management, and programming issues that are critical to the development of pharmaceutical products and biologics. This committee, Quantitative Sciences in the Pharmaceutical Industry (QSPI), provides a strong link between the SCT, the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries, and regulatory agencies.

The QSPI is the continuation of the Biostatistics and Data Management Technical Group (BDMTG) that oversaw quantitative sciences issues for the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA). After a PhRMA reorganization that resulted in the release of all standing technical committees, the BDMTG found a natural home in the SCT. The name was changed to QSPI to reflect the committee's expanded scope, which now includes scientific programming.

As part of the SCT, the QSPI will continue a tradition of fostering communication between quantitative science leaders in Industry and the FDA. Each year, the QSPI organizes, in conjunction with the FDA and DIA, a workshop on quantitatively-focused methodological issues in drug development. The next workshop will be on October

25, and is titled, "Tailored Therapeutics: Practical Issues and Methodologies for Selecting the Right Patients." Visit www.diahome.org for more information.

The QSPI is currently organizing a meeting to bring together quantitative leaders in Industry and the FDA. It will be held on March 8, 2012, at FDA headquarters. The QSPI also forms working groups to address current quantitative issues of importance to the industry. As part of the SCT, the QSPI will be developing industry focused workshops for the SCT's annual meeting, and the head of the QSPI will chair the SCT's Industry and FDA Affiliation Group.

The leadership of the QSPI is a steering committee consisting of statisticians (clinical and nonclinical), data managers, and computational scientists elected by the industry. However, any interested member of the SCT is encouraged to join the extended membership of the QSPI, attend open meetings of the QSPI, and participate in QSPI working groups. Those interested in further information on the QSPI contact the committee chair, José Pinheiro (JPinhei1@its.jnj.com), or the vice-chair, Dave Stock (stockd@bms.com).

News about our Journal, *Clinical Trials*



Congratulations! The journal of our Society is highly ranked.

The Impact Factor is the most widely-used metric to assess a journal's performance. It is a straightforward calculation which gives the average number of times articles in the journal are cited

in other scholarly publications. Governments, universities and funding bodies around the globe use the IF to make decisions — including,

crucially, those on research funding — about academics and clinicians. Put simply, authors want to publish their research in journals with the highest Impact Factors. So, *Clinical Trials'* success in increasing its IF to 2.356 in 2010 from 1.917 in 2009 is a great achievement. The journal has also marched up the rankings, up to 43rd out of 106 in 2010 from 53rd out of 93 in 2009. This will be a significant factor in attracting the best papers from the best authors. Editor Steve Goodman, Managing Editor Bobbi Scherer, and the rest of the editorial team are to be congratulated on this fantastic achievement.

Trial of the Year *(continued from page 5)*

death from prostate cancer in the screening group, as compared with the control group, was 0.80 (95% confidence interval [CI], 0.65 to 0.98; adjusted P = 0.04), but this reduction was associated with a high risk of over-diagnosis (*N Engl J Med* 2009;360:1320-8).

Last year, the award was given to Prasanta Tripathy and colleagues for the Ekjut Trial in Jharkhand and Orissa. This cluster randomized trial conducted in 36 clusters in tribal and

rural areas in India demonstrated that used of a facilitator to enhance women's learning about and participation in addressing maternal and neonatal health issues reduced neonatal mortality by about one third over three years. For the first three years, the neonatal mortality rates per 1000 births were 55.6, 37.1, and 36.3 in the intervention clusters versus 53.4, 59.6, and 64.3 in the control cluster (*Lancet* 2010;375:1182-92).

Easy Access to *Clinical Trials*

Now, visit *Clinical Trials* right from our SCT website home page. You'll find a boxed live feed on right-hand side that automatically updates with the:

- most recent table of contents
- most cited articles
- most read articles.

You can add this widget to your group's website too. Give your students or research group a direct link to our Journal with one click. Contact Marianne Gill at SAGE for more information, marianne.gill@sagepub.co.uk.

Top Honors to Society Fellows: Nominations for Class of 2012

The Society established the title of “Fellow of the Society for Clinical Trials (FSCT)” in 2005 to honor past or current Society members who have made significant contributions to the advancement of clinical trials. This title is granted to a number of Society members each year at the Annual Meeting.

Nominations for the Class of 2012 are currently being accepted. Any member of the Society may nominate a candidate; Fellows are encouraged to nominate candidates. Complete nomination packets will be due by January 3, 2012 to this year’s Fellows Committee Chair, John Lachin of The Biostatistics Center at George Washington University.

Who May be Nominated

Candidates must have been an SCT member for at least five of the last 10 years or for a total of at least 10 years. Each nominee will be evaluated by the Committee on the basis of contributions to the advancement of clinical trials in one or more of the following areas:

- methodologic development
- coordination, conduct, or leadership of individual clinical trials
- education
- ethics
- promotion of a better understanding by the general public of the importance of randomized clinical trials
- service to the Society.

How to Submit a Nomination

If you know someone who meets these qualifications and is deserving of this particular Society honor, please follow this two-part process:

Email Dr. Lachin (jml@bsc.gwu.edu) with the name of your intended nominee. This will eliminate duplicate nominations.

Prepare a Nominations Packet and send it to the SCT Office before the January 3 deadline. The nomination package is to include:

- candidate’s current curriculum vitae (CV)
- three or more letters of support of this nomination from individuals qualified to describe the candidate’s contribution to the Society. At least two of the letters should be from individuals at an institution, agency, or organization other than the candidate’s.

The nominator may request the candidate to provide a current CV; it is nominator (not the nominee’s) role to request the letters of recommendation and to prepare a cover letter (if they are not one of the authors of one of the letters of recommendation) to document the criteria.

Please visit the SCT website for complete nomination submission details and mailing address.

Class of 2011 SCT Fellows

Ivan S.F. Chan, PhD

Kenneth E. James, PhD

Wendy R. Parulekar, MD

Kay Dickersin, PhD

Theodore Karrison, PhD

Julie Weston, BScN, MSc

Robert J. Hardy, PhD

Pamela S. Moke, MSPH

We Want Your Content...

A “re-fresh” of the SCT website is planned for this Fall, and with it the Society wants to renew its commitment to our member and other site users. Consider participating on our Website committee, where you will help to continuously review and recommend updates to sctweb.org. You’ll be asked to create or submit content, with consideration of what will be of interest to SCT members and our site architecture. Contact sct@fernley.com if you would like to participate.

How about Social Media?

In addition to re-invigorating our website, the Society wants to make better use of social media channels in our communications (see article on page 9 for details). We have a few volunteers who are willing to help introduce Society members to these tools, and we’d like to sign up a few others. If you like to tweet, or are an experienced user of Linked In, please contact sct@fernley.com about using these tools for the Society.

Update your Profile

Visit the SCT website and verify your contact information – make sure we have your correct email, street address and employer/institution. Once you log in, select View/Edit your profile.

Are you Connected?

As social media touches many other parts of our lives, we want to bring it into your interactions with the Society too. SCT has accounts on LinkedIn and Twitter, and we are revising our Facebook page. Why is this important to our professional Society? Use of social media –

- Allows for quick communication, notices and updates to interested parties
- Encourages the participation of all members, regardless of geography or other limitations
- Facilitates an exchange of ideas that can start before and conclude long after the actual in-person meeting
- Engages all types of Society members – from our most senior leadership to students who seek input, opinions and perspectives

The Society’s social media doesn’t need a committee. It needs your involvement. Don’t hesitate to jump right in! Share ideas,

articles, meeting notices; ask questions; make recommendations. Look for us here:



LinkedIn Find the Society for Clinical Trials group and submit a request to join



Twitter Soc4ClinTrials



Facebook The Society’s Facebook page is soon to be revised, but you can Like us now and you’ll receive updates

Renew Your SCT Membership for 2012

Continue your involvement with the Society...and encourage others to join! Our annual dues renewal period will commence in late fall. SCT members enjoy exclusive website privileges, special conference pricing and a subscription to the journal, *Clinical Trials*. Dues for 2012 cover the calendar year for \$170 for full membership and \$60 for students. Current members should watch for email renewal notices; for several years now the Society has not sent paper dues notices.

Get a head start by visiting the SCT website and verifying your contact information – make sure we have your correct email, street address and employer/institution. Once you log in, select View/Edit your profile.

Your AD here

Advertising opportunities with SCT

SCT accepts advertising in both our newsletter and on our website. All requests to advertise and advertisement content and artwork are subject to the approval of the Executive Committee of the SCT Board of Directors.

Contact Heidi Wunder, SCT Associate Director, at hwunder@fernley.com for more information and deadlines.

SCT Newsletter • 4-color, PDF newsletter • Emailed 2x per year to full SCT membership; archived on SCT website	Full page, run of book	\$1,000
	½ page, run of book	\$800
	¼ page, run of book	\$500
SCT website	Homepage ad, placement in right rail, 30 days; ad specs provided separately	\$2,000
	Any other page of website, placement right rail, 30 days, ad specs provided separately	\$1,250