SOCIETY FOR CLINICAL TRIALS

NEWSLETTER

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SCT PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



ALEXIA IASONOS, PHD, FSCT, FASCO
Society for Clinical Trials
President 2026-2027

Welcome to the Fall issue of the SCT Newsletter! The SCT Committees have been busy since the May 2026 meeting in Phoenix as we prepare for our next annual meeting in Chicago, Illinois May 16-19, 2027. I hope everyone can join us in Chicago to share ideas, connect with colleagues, meet new colleagues and collaborators, and continue to advocate the importance of clinical trials in the advancement of human health. Please see the abstract submission portal on the SCT website to find details on submission types, award applications and submission deadlines (Society for Clinical Trials).

This year, SCT has developed a new track for Clinical Epidemiology to attract Invited Sessions and Contributed Presentations that align with screening, prevention, pragmatic, and other trial types that may include a combination of trial data and observational data. Also, new this year are Speed Presentation Sessions, which will be 60-minute sessions allowing 5-minute oral presentations of posters followed by Q&A. The 2027 meeting theme is "Data Augmentation in Clinical Trials: Current Practices and Challenges." We continue to explore the utilization and integration of artificial intelligence (AI) in the clinical trial setting and there are also so many other technological capabilities and resources that we need to consider as we continue to advance clinical trial design, operations, data analysis and dissemination of results. Wearable devices to capture daily activity, real-time remote monitoring of vitals such as blood pressure or glucose levels, study resupply and shipment algorithms, and utilization of the electronic health records are just a few data aspects that come to mind; but there are also innovations in protocol and consent development, study design, database and statistical programming, recruitment and retention and dissemination of study results. Bring your experiences to the May 2027 meeting and share the successes and challenges you have encountered so together we can continue to move research and education in clinical trials forward and improve outcomes for patients.

SCT PRESIDENT'S COLUMN - CONTINUED

In addition, please join me on November 12th for the annual SCT Giving Day. All donations will be applied towards SCT programs that advocate the importance of clinical trials and support the education and development of clinical trial professionals. Check out the SCT LinkedIn page as well as our email blasts for additional information on how to donate (Society for Clinical Trials).

Sincerely,
Alexia Iasonos, PhD, FSCT, FASCO

OCTOBER 2026 ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

CLINICAL TRIALS
Journal of the Society for Clinical Trials



COLIN BEGG, PHD
Editor

The October issue of Clinical Trials highlights two papers that dwell on ethical aspects of clinical trials in the context of the evolving landscape of new study designs. Both are accompanied by commentaries.

In the first of these, **Sarah Heynemann** and colleagues examine the relevance of equipoise as the fundamental concept supporting the ethical conduct of clinical trials. **Jonathan Kimmelman** provides the accompanying commentary.

In the second article, a large group of clinical trial experts led by **Stef Baas** report on a conference that took place in Cambridge in 2025, focused on the role of ethics in determining the relative appropriateness of adaptive versus fixed designs for clinical trials. Commentaries on this article are provided by **Stephen Senn** and **Janet Wittes**. Both articles are motivated by the substantive changes in clinical trial design that have become commonplace in recent years.

Another notable article was penned by **Maximilian Siebert** and colleagues who catalogued the evidence base supporting recent drug approvals in Europe, reporting that 78% were supported by at least one randomized trial, while 55% relied exclusively on a surrogate endpoint. As always we welcome submissions of your best papers to the Society journal.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF CLINICAL TRIALS

SCT is pleased to announce the appointment of a new Editor-in-Chief for ***Clinical Trials*** effective January 2027.

Daniel F. Heitjan, PhD, Professor of Statistics and Data Science at Southern Methodist University and Professor of Biostatistics in the O'Donnell School of Public Health at UT Southwestern Medical Center, will be the new Editor-in-Chief. Dr. Heitjan has served as Deputy Editor for the journal since 2020 and Associate Editor since 2008. He is an elected Fellow of the SCT who has served in several leadership roles in his institutions and in professional societies. He will work alongside Colin Begg, PhD, the current Editor-in-Chief, until December 2026.

Dr. Heitjan has published extensively in clinical trials; his expertise in the field is an asset to the journal readers and the broader clinical trials community. He will embark on several new initiatives next year; stay tuned for opportunities to submit your research to *Clinical Trials*.

SCT is grateful to **Colin Begg** for his 12 years of dedicated service as Editor-in-Chief, during which time he expanded the editorial board and strengthened the journal's contribution and impact. We also thank the Search Committee for successfully concluding this important search for a replacement.

MEMBERSHIP SPOTLIGHT



EMILY RIVES
Project Manager
Wake Forest University School of Medicine

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU HAVE FOR JUNIOR RESEARCHERS JUST STARTING OUT IN THE FIELD OF CLINICAL TRIALS?
Don't be afraid to ask questions and work to cultivate a reputation as someone that others want to work with – treat all people working with you on research as equals will create a wonderful team environment.

WHAT IS ONE STRATEGY YOU HAVE USED TO MAINTAIN YOUR SANITY DURING THE RECENT MONTHS/YEARS?
Working out and getting outside has been really helpful.

WHAT IS YOUR CURRENT POSITION?
I'm a project manager in the department of Biostatistics and Data Science in Wake Forest University School of Medicine Division of Public Health Sciences. I serve as lead project manager for the Data Coordinating Center across multiple studies. My work includes overseeing data and site management, partnering with programmer analysts, statisticians, and faculty, and supporting grant proposal and budget development.

WHAT ARE YOUR PAST POSITIONS?
I started out as an Assistant Project Manager and have worked my way up through several positions to get to where I am now. In my previous career I was actually a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist with a focus on child and family behavioral health.

WHAT IS YOUR TRAINING?
My undergraduate degree is in broadcast journalism and then I went to graduate school and received a masters in Marriage and Family Therapy. Most of my current training is on-the-job. But I also have taken several Project Management classes and recently completed two different leadership training certifications through Advocate Health (parent institution of Wake Forest School of Medicine now). I think my background in communication and then behavioral health has really helped shape the person I am within a work environment – I'm able to work with a variety of different personalities and communicate well with others.

WHAT ARE YOUR SPECIFIC RESEARCH INTERESTS OR YOUR SPECIFIC INTERESTS WITHIN CLINICAL TRIALS?
I am very interested in cognitive function and cognitive assessments, particularly looking at cognitive decline. Obviously, with my background, I am also interested in mental and behavioral health studies. I also just wrapped up a weight loss trial which I found very interesting because it looked at medication for weight loss but incorporated lifestyle (behavioral) interventions as well.

WHAT ARE YOUR HOBBIES (OUTSIDE OF WORK)?
Spending time with my husband and two sons, we love to travel whenever we can! I also enjoy playing pickleball and home improvement DIY projects. I just recently re-tiled our laundry room which was challenging but fun!

WHAT ROLE(S) DID/DO YOU PLAY IN SCT?
This is my fourth year serving on the program committee, it's been fantastic.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART ABOUT BEING INVOLVED IN CLINICAL TRIALS?
Feeling like I am a part of making a difference in mental and physical health for future (and sometimes current!) individuals. I also really love working with amazing teams of individuals as part of a data and/or clinical coordinating center to accomplish a common goal and answer the study question(s).

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT ATTENDING THE SCT ANNUAL MEETING?
The networking and getting to know colleagues from other institutions and then seeing them again each year!

SCT'S NEW EARLY CAREER GROUP







Update from the Early Career Special Interest Group (SIG)
At the 2026 Annual Meeting, the Early Career Special Interest Group (SIG) hosted the 2nd annual Early Career & First-Time Attendee Gathering. This event took place on Sunday afternoon to welcome new SCT members and Annual Meeting attendees to Phoenix. Attendees of the Gathering had a chance to meet others who were new to SCT, as well as several experienced SCT members. There was great energy throughout the event, and we greatly appreciate all who attended!

Who Attended the Gathering?
There were 22 attendees of the 2026 Gathering who filled out a brief survey at the event. Of these respondents, 96% were first-time attendees of the SCT Annual Meeting and 68% reported being new SCT members. 32% reported being a current student, while 46% reported being a recent graduate. There was representation of a variety of specializations, including biostatistics, epidemiology, clinical/medicine, data science/informatics, project management, and regulatory/compliance, with the majority reporting being a biostatistician (68%). 73% of those who attended the Early Career & First-Time Attendee Gathering reported that one of their main reasons for being at the conference was a recommendation by a mentor or colleague. This demonstrates the huge impact that current SCT members can have on growing the Society.

Stay tuned!
We are preparing for even more exciting early career programming at the 2027 Annual Meeting in Chicago. More details will be provided in the coming months. In the meantime, please share this information about opportunities within SCT for early career folks within your networks and encourage your mentees, peers, and colleagues to submit their ideas for the 2027 Annual Meeting.

UNICORN NETWORK UPDATE

UNICORN
UNiversity data COoRdinating ceNters

The UNIversity data COoRdinating ceNters (UNICORN) Special Interest Group (SIG) continues to thrive since our wonderful gathering at the SCT Annual Meeting in May. Sally Jo Zuspan (Utah) was elected to the Executive Committee, and Denise Scholtens (Northwestern) was elected as chair of our Steering Committee. Additionally, Katie Colborn and Emine Bayman were elected to the Steering Committee. As of October, we have nearly 130 members and more than 30 DCC/institutional members that comprise UNICORN.

UNICORN members have been busy contributing to manuscripts that describe the network, articulate the roles and responsibilities of DCC, develop best practices, and provide guidelines for how to collaborate with DCCs. There are currently 5 manuscripts that are in various stages from in development to under review.

Looking toward the future, we have 6 current working groups focused on a variety of important topics:

- DSMB Activities within a DCC – led by Bret Hanlon and Haley Hedlin
- Outline for digital textbook- led by Brian McCourt
- UNICORN Clinical Research Quality and Policy Working Group – led by Soledad Fernandez and SallyJo Zuspan
- Financial models and sustainability of DCCs – led by Larry Cook and Katy Colborn
- Generative AI – led by Laine Thomas
- Landscape Survey and Analysis – led by Cristina Murray-Krezan, Chris Lindsell, and Emine Bayman

Lastly, the UNICORN is focused on advocacy from and visibility of the Network. These include working to establish clear definitions and standards for DCC operations and capabilities.

https://unicorn-dcc.org/

SCT GIVING DAY

SAVE THE DATE

SCT Giving Day

Thursday, November 12, 2026

SCT Mission:

The Society for Clinical Trials is a 501(c)(3) scientific, educational, and charitable organization established for the purpose of working to advance human health through advocating the use of clinical trials, leading the development and dissemination of optimal methods and practices in clinical trials, and educating and developing clinical trial professionals.

DONATE

Together, we can strengthen the future of clinical research and the professionals who make it possible.

Your donation will

- Positively impact the careers of students, researchers and health care providers who want to pursue advanced clinical trial training.
- Improve member resources, professional development, and clinical trial collaboration.
- Accelerate new initiatives and expand SCT's impact on the clinical trials community.

SCAN ME!

CREDIT CARD

SCAN ME!

VENMO

SCT
SOCIETY FOR CLINICAL TRIALS

SCT is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, and donations are tax deductible

Donations are tax deductible.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM SCT'S 47TH ANNUAL MEETING

The SCT's 2026 Annual Meeting "Advancing Public Health: Clinical Trials in an Era of Cutting-Edge Information Capabilities" was held on May 17-20 in Phoenix. The meeting brought together the clinical trials community from academia, the pharmaceutical and device industries, government agencies, medical groups and clinical research entities. It was a huge success!



The Class of 2026 Fellows



Alexia Iasonos & Valerie Durkalski-Mauldin



Cyrus Hoseyni: Curtis Meinert Lecturer



Brandy Fureman giving the Founder's Lecture

SCT'S 2027 ANNUAL MEETING: CALL FOR SPONSORS/EXHIBITORS

"Data Augmentation in Clinical Trials: Current Practices and Challenges"

May 16-19, 2027

Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile

Chicago, Illinois



The Annual Meeting of the Society for Clinical Trials is a multidisciplinary program with broad participation. The Meeting brings together the clinical trials community from academia, the pharmaceutical and device industries, government agencies, medical groups and centers and clinical research entities.

There are two new additions to this year's Annual Meeting:
Clinical Epidemiology Track: The Clinical Epidemiology Track has been created to attract proposals for Invited Sessions, Contributed Presentations, Roundtable Discussions, or Posters that align with methodology, operations, or management of screening, prevention, pragmatic, and other trial types.

Speed Presentation Sessions: The Speed Presentation Sessions will be 60-minute sessions allowing for 5-minute oral presentations of posters followed by Q&A. If you are interested in submitting content for consideration as a Speed Presentation, we invite you to submit a Contributed Oral/Poster Proposal for review.

Highlights include:

- Cutting edge pre-conference workshops by leaders in the field
- Invited sessions, targeted sessions, contributed sessions, and poster presentations
- Founders and Curtis Meinert Keynote Lectures
- Annual Thomas C. Chalmers Student Scholarship competition
- Presentation by the Sylvan Green Award winner
- Exhibitors showcasing publications, technology innovators and other resources for clinical trials
- Discussions of timely issues and research experiences among colleagues in the field
- Presentation of the SCT Class of 2027 Fellows
- Presentation of the 2026 David Sackett Trial of the Year Award
- Roundtable small group discussions on a wide range of topics
- Networking with your colleagues

This year's meeting will be Chicago, Illinois, USA.

The program is being developed by the SCT Program, Education, and Student Scholarship Committees, and promises to make the best of this unique opportunity for global collaboration.

We look forward to welcoming you!

SCT'S 2027 ANNUAL MEETING SUBMISSION PORTAL IS OPEN!

"Data Augmentation in Clinical Trials: Current Practices and Challenges"
May 16-19, 2027
Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile
Chicago, Illinois

All submissions must be made via the SCT website.

The Society for Clinical Trials is pleased to announce two new changes to this year's Annual Meeting:

Clinical Epidemiology Track: The Clinical Epidemiology Track has been created to attract proposals for Invited Sessions, Contributed Presentations, Roundtable Discussions, or Posters that align with methodology, operations, or management of screening, prevention, pragmatic, and other trial types.

Speed Presentation Sessions: These 60-minute sessions allow 5-minute oral presentations of posters, followed by Q&A. If you are interested in submitting content for consideration as a Speed Presentation, we invite you to submit a Contributed Oral/Poster Proposal for review.

As the deadline for Invited Session Proposals is quickly approaching, we encourage you to submit today!

Fellows of the Society for Clinical Trials Nominations
Submission Deadline: November 6, 2026, by 11:59 pm ET
Do you know someone who has made significant contributions to the advancement of clinical trials and to the Society who is currently an SCT member and has been for at least five consecutive years at any time or a total of at least 10 years? If so, we encourage you to contact the SCT office to confirm their eligibility by October 25th, 2026, and then submit a nomination form and packet.

Representation, Inclusion, Support & Engagement (RISE) Emerging Leader Award Applications
Submission Deadline: December 1, 2026, by 11:59 pm ET
Are you early in your career with an interest in pursuing a career in clinical trials and involved in any aspect of clinical trials methodology, development, conduct or dissemination? If so, we encourage you to submit an application for the Representation, Inclus8ion, Support & Engagement (RISE) Emerging Leader Award.

Contributed (Oral/Poster) Proposals
Submission Deadline: December 1, 2026, by 11:59 pm ET
If you're interested in sharing novel research on the design, organization, operations, analysis, ethics, or reporting of clinical trials, we invite you to submit a proposal for consideration as an oral/poster presentation.

David Sackett Trial of the Year Award Nominations
Submission Deadline: January 4, 2027, by 11:59 pm ET
Do you know of a clinical trial that has been peer reviewed within the 2026 calendar year and improves the lot of humankind, provides a basis for substantial, beneficial change in health care, and overcame obstacles in implementation? If so, we encourage you to submit an nomination.

All content entered in the submission portal by the designated deadlines will be considered final. No extensions will be given.

Visit the SCT website for more information.

SCT'S 2027 ANNUAL MEETING SUBMISSION PORTAL IS OPEN!

"Data Augmentation in Clinical Trials: Current Practices and Challenges"
May 16-19, 2027
Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile
Chicago, Illinois

All submissions must be made via the SCT website.



SCT'S 2027 ANNUAL MEETING SUBMISSION PORTAL IS OPEN!



SCT SPONSORED WEBINAR SERIES

If you are interested in presenting a webinar for SCT members, please complete the SCT Webinar Proposal Form and submit to contact@sctweb.org for review and consideration by the SCT Education Committee. The Webinar Proposal Form should be no more than two pages long.

Click here for a sample SCT Webinar Proposal Form. Please contact contact@sctweb.org with any questions.

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Amgen harnesses the best of biology and technology to fight the world's toughest diseases, and make people's lives easier, fuller and longer. We helped establish the biotechnology industry, and we remain on the cutting-edge of innovation, using technology and human genetic data to push beyond what's known today.

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At Johnson & Johnson, we believe health is everything. Every day, our approximately 140,000 employees globally are building a world where complex diseases are prevented and cured, treatments are smarter and less invasive—and solutions are personal. For 140 years, we have aimed to keep people well at every age and every stage of life.

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The University of Utah Data Coordinating Center (DCC) is a full-service Academic Research Organization supporting academic, government, and industry investigators. We provide end-to-end expertise in research design, data and project management, regulatory support, statistical analysis, and large dataset management, delivering a frictionless experience to improve patient outcomes.

Bronze Sponsor

STATACORP

Stata statistical software provides everything for your data science needs—data manipulation, visualization, statistics, and automated reporting. Whether you prefer a GUI, a command line, or scripts, Stata puts the statistics you want at your fingertips. Stata is easy to use and has your back with world-class support.

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ABBVIE

AbbVie is a global biopharmaceutical company focused on discovering and delivering innovative medicines that address serious health conditions. By developing treatments across immunology, oncology, neuroscience, eye care, and aesthetics, etc., the company combines scientific research, advanced technology, and patient-centered innovation to improve health outcomes worldwide.

Silver Sponsor

BERRY CONSULTANTS

Berry Consultants ("Berry") is a scientific consulting company specializing in innovative clinical trial design, Bayesian analysis, adaptive trial implementation, and software solutions for the pharmaceutical and medical device industry. Berry's primary services include designing adaptive clinical trials, conducting comparative effectiveness research such as decision analysis and meta-analysis, providing strategic operational excellence and knowledge of advanced trial implementation, supporting interim analysis and trial updates during the implementation of adaptive trials, participating on Data Monitoring Committees, and the development and licensing of software solutions. These commercially available software solutions include QUOTES (Quantification and Optimization of Trial Expectations Simulator), ADDPLAN (Adaptive Design Planner), and FACTS (Fixed and Adaptive Clinical Trial Simulator) which is the most powerful, flexible, and fastest simulation tool on the market for advanced clinical trial design.

Silver Sponsor

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At Merck, known as MSD outside of the United States and Canada, we are unified around our purpose: We use the power of leading-edge science to save and improve lives around the world. For more than a century, we've been at the forefront of research, bringing forward medicines, vaccines and innovative health solutions for the world's most challenging diseases.

Bronze Sponsor

ASA BIOPHARMACEUTICAL SECTION

The American Statistical Association is the world's largest community of statisticians, the "Big Tent for Statistics." It is the second-oldest, continuously operating professional association in the country. Since it was founded in Boston in 1839, the ASA has supported excellence in the development, application, and dissemination of statistical science.

Bronze Sponsor

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA DEPARTMENT OF BIOSTATISTICS

The University of Iowa Department of Biostatistics serves as home for the Clinical Trials Statistical and Data Management Center, the Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center Biostatistics Core, the Biostatistics Consulting Center, and provides leadership to the Statistics & Analytics Core of the Institute for Public Health Practice, Research and Policy.

INFORMATION ABOUT SCT

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Jonathan Cook (Past Chair)

FUTURE SCT MEETINGS

Save the Dates - Upcoming SCT Annual Meetings



48th Annual Meeting
Chicago, IL, USA



49th Annual Meeting
Charlotte, NC, USA