



### A message from the SCTC executive committee

It has been a year of immense change and we sincerely hope that all our members are managing to cope with the major challenges faced by our patients, clinical services and research programs over the course of the last 8 months.

Thankfully the work of the SCTC has continued and we have adapted to our post-Covid environment where required. We are currently making the final preparations for our first virtual annual general meeting. We hope this virtual meeting may allow increased participation amongst our membership and shall be seeking your views on proposed changes to our by-laws and other SCTC initiatives from over the course of the previous year. Further details about this and other recent SCTC initiatives are included in this newsletter.

**Lori, Shervin, Tracy & John**

### Virtual Annual General Meeting

**November 4th, 2020 11:00am - 1:00pm Eastern Time**

Please save the above date for the Virtual Annual General Meeting. A full programme will be posted nearer the time. At the Annual General Meeting, members will be asked to approve [Amended and Restated Bylaws of the SCTC](#).

*A two-thirds vote of the Members is required to approve the updated Bylaws. In order to ensure a sufficient number of votes, the President of the SCTC will vote on your behalf as your Proxy if you do not attend the Meeting.*

If you wish to appoint a different individual to vote on your behalf as your Proxy, you may complete [the attached Proxy form](#) and return it to [sctcinc01@gmail.com](mailto:sctcinc01@gmail.com) no later than **November 3, 2020**.

Note that if you return a completed Proxy form but you do attend the Meeting, your Proxy form will be destroyed when you sign in at the Meeting so that you can vote in person.

### 2020 Betty Z Benedict Award

Congratulations to Andrea Murray at the University of Manchester who is the recipient of this year's Betty Z. Benedict Grant for her application:

"Sensitivity Analysis of Thermal Imaging in Systemic Sclerosis-Related Digital Vasculopathy (SATISS)"

### Executive Committee Roles

Tracy Frech (Treasurer) and John Pauling (Secretary) have completed 2-year terms in office and SCTC members have had the opportunity to nominate replacements. Nominations and voting arrangements shall be circulated in advance of the AGM and appointees announced after the meeting.

### New Members

The SCTC continues to grow in numbers and stature. We have 135 member institutions and are pleased to welcome the following new members:

Yale University, New Haven, CT, USA  
PI: Monique Hinchcliffe

University of Groningen, Netherlands  
PI: Udo Mulder

University of Ulsan, Seoul, South Korea  
PI: Chan Keun Lee

Selayang Hospital, Selangor, Malaysia  
PI: Shereen Ch'ng

### Forthcoming meetings:

We all look forward to the resumption of in person meetings to allow us to meet with each other again. Hopefully the forthcoming meetings will give us that opportunity soon:

**13th Hamburg Symposium on Juvenile Scleroderma**, 12th and 13th Dec 2020 in Hamburg, Germany

Please contact Ivan Foeldvari on [foeldvari@t-online.de](mailto:foeldvari@t-online.de) for further details on registration

**The 17th International Workshop on Scleroderma Research** shall be held on July 31-August 4, 2021 in Seaport / Boston, Massachusetts.

Further details shall be announced on the website:

<https://sscworkshop.wordpress.com/>

### Benedict Visiting Fellowships

The new international fellowship programme aims to provide individuals early in their career with the opportunity to spend time in an SCTC member institution to support their development as an independent researcher and/or plans to establish new SSc programs. Further details can be found at:

<https://sclerodermaclinicaltrialsconsortium.org/about-the-scleroderma-clinical-trials-consortium/visiting-fellowships>