



A message from the SCTC executive committee

The SCTC has had a successful year, launching new initiatives (Visiting Fellowships), new grant calls (for Betty Benedict award and our working group grants) and establishing a new SCTC Board of Advisors.

We are delighted to see our organization continue to grow with new members joining in 2021.

We have been forced to meet virtually for our forthcoming Annual General meeting but we look forward to excellent participation amongst our members and shall provide updates on recent SCTC initiatives and announce the awardee for the 2021 Working Group grants and Betty Benedict Award.

Our program includes updates from Betty Benedict Award winners from 2019 and 2020. We dearly hope that 2022 will permit in person meetings to resume, allowing us to meet with friends and colleagues once more.

Lori, Shervin, Tracy & John

Virtual AGM

November 3rd, 2021, Virtual Meeting
9:00am to 11:00am Eastern Time

Please save the above date for the Virtual Annual General Meeting. The full program is available at: https://sclerodermaclinicaltrialsconsortium.org/media/attachments/2021/10/21/2021_agmage_nda_final.pdf

Vice president election

We have 2 nominations for the role of vice-president of the SCTC in Dr Robyn Domsic (Pittsburgh, US) & Dr Francesco Del Galdo (Leeds, UK). Their personal statements shall be circulated and uploaded onto our website. Each member institution has a single vote. Further details available at:

<https://sclerodermaclinicaltrialsconsortium.org/meetings>

Thank you Lori

The executive committee wishes to extend their heartfelt thanks to Lorinda Chung for 2 years of excellent service as the SCTC president, despite the challenges faced with Covid-19. Lori's dedication, hard work and attention to detail have greatly enhanced the governance and future standing of our organisation. Under her careful stewardship, we have expanded our grant funding, undertaken a major revision of our by-laws, held new virtual meetings and established an independent board of advisors. We are hugely grateful for her vital contribution and look forward to benefitting from her continued service.

SCTC Board of Advisors

The executive committee met with our new independent Board of Advisors (BoA) earlier this month. Our BoA bring external expertise from industry, the charitable sector, patient organisations and academia. They shall help the SCTC expand and explore opportunities in areas of unmet need not being addressed by industry and collaborator organisations.

New members

We welcome new SCTC sites at the universities of Vanderbilt (Frech), Alberta (Osman) and Szeged (Kovacs).

SCTC database

We are updating our database of member institution personnel and facilities. This information shall support industry sponsors when identifying sites for SSc clinical trials. Please complete and return the institution profile information pack that will be circulated shortly.

Forthcoming meetings

The 7th SSc world Congress that shall be held virtually on March 10th-12th 2022. Details of the preliminary program and registration can be found at:

<https://web.aimgroupinternational.com/2022/sclerosiscongress/>

We all look forward to the resumption of in person meetings including

14th Hamburg Symposium on Juvenile Scleroderma, 4th and 5th Dec 2021 in Hamburg, Germany

<https://kinderrheumatologie.de/veranstaltungen/>

The 17th International Workshop on Scleroderma Research shall be held on July 30-August 3, 2022 in Seaport / Boston, Massachusetts. Further details shall be announced on the website:

<https://sscworkshop.wordpress.com>

SCTC Visiting Fellowships

The visiting 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.

<https://sclerodermaclinicaltrialsconsortium.org/grants-awards/visiting-fellowships>