



A message from the SCTC executive committee

We're excited to share our newest newsletter with you, highlighting our organization expansion and achievements.

In line with our commitment to support the research community, we're currently reviewing the working group grant applications we've received, with decisions on funding to be made by June 15, 2024.

We were able to provide travel awards to support 10 recipients in attending the Systemic Sclerosis World Congress held in Prague in March 2024. Additionally, we remain committed to assisting early-career applicants who seek opportunities to spend time at domestic or international Scleroderma centers affiliated with SCTC.

Our progress in advancing scleroderma research wouldn't be possible without the assistance of our members, industry partners, and patients. We deeply appreciate your ongoing support.

Wishing you continued success in the upcoming months.

Robyn, Tracy, Jerry & Antonia

SCTC Site Infrastructure Database

We are in the process of updating our database of personnel and facilities at member institutions. This information will assist industry sponsors in identifying sites for SSc clinical trials. Kindly complete and return the institution profile information pack, which will be circulated shortly. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

SCTC Executive Committee Positions

Thank you Shervin!

The executive committee expresses sincere gratitude to Shervin Assassi for his outstanding two-year tenure as the SCTC president. Shervin's dedication, diligence, and meticulous approach have significantly strengthened the governance and future prospects of our organization. Through his leadership, we have broadened our grant funding, instituted regular roundtable meetings with industry partners, and elevated our initiatives. We deeply appreciate his invaluable contribution and eagerly anticipate continuing to benefit from his ongoing service.

Welcome Tracy!

We extend congratulations and a warm welcome to Tracy Frech from Vanderbilt University, US, who will serve as vice-president for the term Nov 2023-Nov 2025.

2024 SCTC/SRF Betty Benedict Award

Please stay tuned to our website for forthcoming details about the 2024 SCTC/SRF Betty Z. Benedict Award. This award is dedicated to supporting innovative, impactful, and collaborative projects that align with the missions of both the SCTC and the Scleroderma Research Foundation (SRF). It offers funding opportunities for projects employing clinical, epidemiological, or translational scientific approaches to enhance the design and implementation of clinical trials. We strongly encourage our members to consider submitting collaborative proposals involving multiple institutions. Please check our website for updates: <https://sclerodermaclinicaltrialsconsortium.org/grants-awards/working-group-grant-awardees-2>

SCTC Roundtable Spring Meeting

The SCTC Roundtable Spring Meeting, held at the Hospital for Special Surgery in New York on April 19th, 2024, brought together the SCTC executive committee and industry representatives to discuss various topics related to SSc research.

The meeting covered challenges and experiences in conducting Investigator-Initiated Clinical Trials, highlighted the revised Comprehensive Response Index for Systemic Sclerosis (CRISS), explored the role of focused geographic site enrollment in understanding SSc phenotypes, and shared lessons learned from permitting background therapy in clinical trials for SSc.

We are confident that the outcomes of this meeting will inform and guide future research on in SSc and ultimately lead to better treatment options and outcomes for our patients.

The next roundtable is scheduled for October 4th, 2024, in Philadelphia.

SCTC Visiting Fellowships

The SCTC visiting fellowships program is designed to offer early-career individuals the chance to spend time at an SSc center under the mentorship of a senior SSc clinician. The primary goal is to nurture the next generation of clinicians and clinician-scientists interested in SSc-spectrum disorders. With increasing interest in this program, applications are now considered twice a year, with next closing date on October 1st.

For more information, please visit our website:

<https://sclerodermaclinicaltrialsconsortium.org>