



A message from the SCTC executive committee

The SCTC is excited to witness the continued growth of our organization in 2024, as we welcome new members and further expand our impact. This past year has been marked by the successful conclusion of grant-funding calls for our Working Groups and the Betty Benedict Grant. We are also proud to continue supporting international fellowships, which have proven to be a resounding success. These fellowships offer a valuable opportunity to inspire early-career investigators to develop an interest in systemic sclerosis while broadening their professional networks. Looking ahead, we are pleased to announce that our Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held in a hybrid format during this year's ACR meeting. In addition to regular business, we will provide important updates on SCTC initiatives and progress. We will also conduct elections for the secretary and treasurer positions, as the current officeholders conclude their two-year terms. We look forward to connecting with many of you in person in Washington, DC.

Robyn, Tracy, Jerry & Antonia

Forthcoming meetings:

17th Hamburg Symposium on Juvenile Scleroderma

The SCTC is proud to support the 16th Hamburg Symposium on Juvenile Scleroderma, taking place on December 7th, 2024, in Hamburg, Germany.

SCTC AGM

All SCTC Members, Industry Roundtable Members, and Advisory Board members are invited to attend our Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2024, scheduled for Friday, November 15th, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the National Press Club in Washington, DC. For those unable to attend in person, a remote participation option will be available. Prior to the AGM, working group meetings will begin at 4:00 p.m., followed by dinner served from 5:00 p.m. Along with our regular business agenda, we will present the One-Year Overview of SCTC Activities, as well as highlights from the Working Groups and the Betty Benedict Grant. The meeting will also feature a panel discussion on **"The Challenge of Cell Therapies in SSs"**. We look forward to your participation in this important event.

New SCTC Members

We are delighted to welcome the following five institutions to our consortium:

- Medical Sciences Campus (MSC) University of Puerto Rico (Grissel Rios)
- University of Iowa, Carver College of Medicine, Division of Immunology and Rheumatology (Gulsen Ozen)
- Royal Prince Alfred Hospital Sydney and University of Sydney (Mandy Nikpour)
- Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, India (Shafali Khanna Sharma)
- North Bristol NHS Trust (John Pauling)

SCTC WG Research Grants

We are delighted to announce the recipients of the 2024 Working Group Grants:

Juvenile Systemic Sclerosis Working Group (Clare Pain)
Project Title: "Development of a novel efficient, patient-centred sequential randomised controlled trial (RCT) in juvenile localized scleroderma (jLS)"

Calcinosis Working Group (Antonia Valenzuela)
Project Title: "Safety and Efficacy of topical sodium metabisulfite for the Treatment of Calcinosis in Patients with Systemic Sclerosis"

We warmly congratulate the deserving grant winners and extend our thanks to all who submitted their projects. We look forward to more applications in the future.

Secretary and Treasurer election

We are pleased to announce the nominations for the SCTC executive positions:

For the role of Secretary:
Dr. Vanessa Smith (Ghent, Belgium)
Dr. Antonia Valenzuela (Santiago, Chile)

For the role of Treasurer:
Dr. Jerry Molitor (Minnesota, USA)

Their personal statements have been shared and will be uploaded to our website in the coming weeks. Voting will take place both in person at the AGM and via email. Each member institution has one single vote, and for the vote to be valid, annual dues must be current and fully paid.