



A message from the SCTC executive committee

We are excited about sharing this newsletter with you. We continue to thrive and grow and bring together all members of community interested in advancing research in scleroderma, including Industry partners, patients, and researchers.

We are, working on consolidating our fellowship program and travel awards. Additionally, we are excited to announce that we have launched grant-funding calls for our working groups.

We are hosting the 3rd Collective Working Group meeting, bringing together virtually the leaders of our working groups for an interactive update on their progress and aspirations.

Shervin, Robyn, Jerry & Antonia

SCTC Collective Working Group Meeting

We are pleased to announce our third annual Collective Working Group meeting to provide investigators and industry collaborators to learn more about the progress of our working groups.

The meeting will be held on May 19, 2023 and commence at 09.00am Eastern Summer Time (03.00pm CET). The meeting is free to attend and does not require prior registration. The meeting is free to attend and does not require prior registration.

For details about the meeting, including links to the meeting itself, please visit our website:

<https://sclerodermaclinicaltrialsconsortium.org/>

The 2023 SCTC Working Group Research Grants

The purpose of the 2023 SCTC Working Group Research Grants is to provide support for projects that advance the mission of the SCTC and particularly to enhance the productivity of established or new Working Groups.

Applicants must be from SCTC member institutions whose membership is current and in good standing at the time of application. A maximum of four awards of up to \$25,000 (USD) for one-year are anticipated. We will consider continued funding for past awardees based on merit and depending on availability of funds.

Each funded Working Group is expected to present updates at the SCTC Annual General Meeting during the American College of Rheumatology Convergence and at future virtual Collective Working Group Update meetings. The deadline for receipt of the application is midnight (U.S. Eastern Time) on June 1, 2023.

Please go to the SCTC website for further details on how to apply: <https://sclerodermaclinicaltrialsconsortium.org/grants-awards/working-group-grant-awardees>

New SCTC Members

The SCTC are delighted to welcome the following institutions to our consortium:

Hospital Universitari de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau
Barcelona, Spain

Instituto Mexicano del Seguro Social
San Luis Potosi, Mexico

SCTC Industry Roundtable (Spring Meeting) 2023

Our SCTC Spring Industry Roundtable Meeting was held on Friday, March 17th, 2023, in Philadelphia, PA, both virtually and in person and reunited members of the executive committee with industry partners.

The focus of the discussion was on interstitial lung disease (ILD), a pressing issue for patients with systemic sclerosis (SSc). We explored cohort enrichment strategies for therapeutic trials of SSc-ILD necessary to identify and recruit the right patient population for clinical trials. We also discussed risk factors for progression of ILD, essential in predicting disease progression and designing effective treatment strategies. Finally, we reviewed SSc-ILD trial endpoints, which are critical to measure the effectiveness of treatments and advance our understanding of the disease.

The insights and knowledge shared during the meeting were invaluable, and we are grateful to everyone who contributed to the discussion.

SCTC Executive Committee Positions

Having each completed 2 consecutive terms, John Pauling and Tracy Frech stepped down from their roles as SCTC Secretary and Treasurer, respectively. The Executive Committee extends their heartfelt thanks to both for their excellent service. Despite the challenges faced with Covid-19, their dedication, hard work, and commitment greatly enhanced the functioning of our organization.

We welcome Antonia Valenzuela from Universidad Católica de Chile who will serve as Secretary and Jerry Molitor from the VA in Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA who will be our Treasurer for the term Nov 2022-Nov 2024.