



A message from the SCTC executive committee

Our community continues to meet the challenges caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and our hearts go out to any of our members and their patients who may have been personally affected by Covid-19.

In the meantime, the SCTC has continued to strive to grow as an organization that can meet the needs of our research community and patients. Work continues on the NIH-SCTC match-funded White Paper initiative and a meeting at the NIH is planned later in the year to draw together the recommendations of the individual taskforces examining the current status of outcome measures in clinical trials of SSc. The SCTC will be undertaking grant-funding calls this Spring for our working groups and a 3rd Betty Benedict project call later in the year. We are also hosting our first Collective Working Group meeting, bringing together the leaders of our working groups for an interactive update on their progress and aspirations.

We wish you all the very best in the months ahead.

Lori, Sherwin, Tracy & John

New Members

We are delighted to welcome the following new member institution in 2021:

Fiona Stanley Hospital *Murdoch, Australia*

International Betty Benedict Fellowships

The fellowships will provide individuals early in their career with the opportunity to spend time in a SSc centre with mentorship by a senior SSc clinician. The overall aim is to foster the next generation of clinicians and clinician scientists with an interest in systemic sclerosis-spectrum disorders. It is anticipated that 2-3 fellowships will be awarded per year. Further details on our website:

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

Inaugural SCTC Collective Working Group Meeting

We are pleased to announce a new initiative to hold an 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 April 16th and commence at 12:00pm Eastern Summer Time (6pm CET). The meeting is free to attend and does not require prior registration.

Details about the meeting, including links to the meeting itself, will shortly be made available on our website. The meeting has been timed to start immediately after the following meeting.

EUSTAR Meeting: 'Scleroderma in the time of Covid-19'

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the EUSTAR Board decided to postpone the traditional EUSTAR Course to September. Instead, EUSTAR is organizing a virtual seminar on Friday 16th April 2021, 3.00-5.45 pm CET focused on the impact of SARS-Cov-2 infection in systemic sclerosis patients. We are sure that the meeting is a unique opportunity to exchange opinions, personal experiences and data collected so far in the scleroderma universe. The meeting is co-sponsored by Lancet Rheumatology.

Registration is free and no pre-meeting registration is required. We are looking forward to having you with us on April 16th 2021. The meeting can be accessed using the following link:

<http://aenetcast.com/Univpm/scleroderma.html>

The EUSTAR Board *Armando Gabrielli, Anna-Maria Hoffmann-Vold, Oliver Distler*

The 2021 SCTC Working Group Research Grants

The purpose of the 2021 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 current 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 \$20,000 (USD) for a one-year period 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 Annual Scientific Conference and at future virtual Collective Working Group Update meetings.

Please go to our website for further details on how to apply:

https://sclerodermaclinicaltrialsconsortium.org/images/PDFs/SCTC_WG_RFA_2021.pdf

17th International Workshop on Scleroderma Research

Owing to the anticipated restrictions on movement, the organising committee for the 17th International Workshop on Scleroderma Research have postponed the next scheduled meeting which shall now be held on:

July 30-August 3, 2022 ~ Seaport / Boston, Massachusetts

2021 SCTC-SRF Betty Benedict Award

Please look out on our website for forthcoming details about the 2021 SCTC-SRF Betty Z. Benedict Award.

The award shall provide support for a high impact, collaborative project that advances a shared mission of the SCTC and Scleroderma Research Foundation: to advance the conduct of clinical trials for patients with SSc.

<https://sclerodermaclinicaltrialsconsortium.org/grants-awards/working-group-grant-awardees-2>