

NAME OF SPECIALTY SECTION ____Stem Cells_____

ANNUAL REPORT: 2016-2017

May 1, 2016 to April 30, 2017

I. Officers/Committees:

<u>Officers</u>	<u>2016-2017</u>	<u>2017-2018</u>
President:	Erik J Tokar	Harry Salem
Vice President:	Harry Salem	Kameshwar Singh*
Vice President-Elect:	Anna Vetrano	To be elected
Secretary/Treasurer:	Colleen Hegg	Colleen Hegg
Past President	B. Alex Merrick	Erik J Tokar
Councilors:	Chidozie Joshua Amuzie	Aaron Bowman
	Aaron Bowman	Jason Richardson
PDA Representative:	Joshua Robinson	Anthony Luz
GSLC Representative:	Joseph Shearer	Rachana Nitin

*Moved up to Vice President from VP-elect due to departure of regularly-elected 2017-2018 VP.

Committees: This year's Awards committee, Endowment committee, and Program committee are being established and will be finalized soon.

II. Activities:

2017 SOT Annual Meeting Reception was held in Baltimore, MD, on March 14, 2017.

Approximately 25-30 people were in attendance.

Dr. Erik Tokar (SCSS President) called the meeting to order at 6:00PM on March 14, 2017.

Business Meeting Speaker: Dr. Erik Tokar

Meeting Minutes: (see Attachment I)

Awards:

Graduate student Award

Rachana Nitin, Depts. of Pediatrics, Biochemistry, and Neurology, Vanderbilt University, Iowa State University, Nashville, TN

Title: *MEIS1 genetic association with Restless Legs Syndrome*

Post-doctoral Award

Joseph Shearer – Dept of Basic Medical Sciences, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN

Title: *Exposure to Inorganic Arsenic Modulates Differentiation Potential of Adipose-Derived Mesenchymal Stem Cells*

2016 SOT Annual Meeting Courses/Sessions:

Continuing Education Course: *Technologies and Applications of Stem Cells for Use in Toxicology*

Sunday, March 12th, 8:15AM to 12PM

Chairs: Erik Tokar and Aaron Bowman

Endowment Fund Details:

SCSS Endowment Fund is being established. The Endowment Fund committee will be in charge of this.

Newsletters: Fall newsletter will be sent out sometime in October/November.

Teleseminars: N/A

White Papers: N/A

Contributions to SOT website:

SCSS website is continually being updated and was last updated in March 2016.

Other Specialty Section 2015-2016 Activities:

Attachment I

Stem Cells Specialty Section Annual Meeting Minutes

March 14, 2017

Reception and meeting were held at the Hilton Baltimore in Baltimore, MD. Dr. Erik Tokar (SCSS President) called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM on Monday, March 14, 2017. Dr. Tokar discussed the SCSS activities and then announced the newly-elected officers and thanked the outgoing officers for their hard work. The following topics were discussed during business meeting:

Newly elected officers were introduced:

- Vice President Elect: Kameshwar Singh
- Junior Councilor: Jason Richardson
- Postdoctoral Rep: Sankhet Gadhia
- Student Rep: Rachana Nitin

SCSS Goals and Plans were discussed.

1. Membership Drive: The importance of continuing to increase the membership was emphasized. Goal: increase membership by $\geq 20\%$ by 2018. Challenge: every member bring in 1-2 new members by 2018 meeting.
2. Fund Drive: Goal is to establish Endowment Fund for Student/Postdoc Awards.
3. Program Drive: Goal is to endorse several scientific sessions for 2018. Program committee will be established again. SCSS endorsed 1 approved Session for the 2017 Annual Meeting.
4. New Committees will be established for each Drive.

SCSS program contributions were reviewed by Dr. Tokar. The CE course was very well attended with approximately 150 attendees:

- **Continuing Education Session Symposium Session:**
Technologies and Applications of Stem Cells for Use in Toxicology.
Chairs: Erik Tokar and Aaron Bowman

Programmatic themes and submission guidelines for SOT 2018 were presented by Dr. Tokar. Tips for successful proposals were discussed.

The treasurer's report was presented by Dr. Tokar

- SCSS estimated balance as of March 2017: approximately \$598. Estimated income after membership dues and meeting revenue: approximately \$2,700.

SCSS student and post-doctoral awards for research excellence were presented by Dr. Erik Tokar (SCSS President):

Graduate student Award

Rachana Nitin, Depts. of Pediatrics, Biochemistry, and Neurology, Vanderbilt University, Iowa State University, Nashville, TN

Title: *MEIS1 genetic association with Restless Legs Syndrome*

Post-doctoral Award

Joseph Shearer – Dept of Basic Medical Sciences, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN

Title: *Exposure to Inorganic Arsenic Modulates Differentiation Potential of Adipose-Derived Mesenchymal Stem Cells*

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:00PM.