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Howdy Texas Members!

I am sure the summer of 2020 has been busy for you all. Hopefully, the numbers of hospitalized SARS-CoV-2 patients are decreasing in your individual facilities. I also pray that you are all safe and well.

Your President-Elect and Interim Programs Chair Daniel Arellano has been busy coordinating programs in our new virtual programming world. We are fortunate to have Laura Blackburn assuming the helm as the new Programs Chair. We are appreciative of Laura accepting this most important position and look forward to upcoming programming.

As you may know the 2020 SCCM Texas Chapter Symposium will be going virtual this year. The theme of our symposium is ‘Closing the Knowledge Gap’. The symposium will be held September 25-26, 2020. Our keynote speaker this year will be Lewis Kaplan, SCCM President. Registration is open and information can be found on the chapter’s website, www.sccmtexaschapter.org.

The chapter is excited to be able to support members with carrying out research activities to improve care for the critically ill. The chapter is please to announced the winner of this year’s Joseph Nates Research Grant, Dr. Nicholas Ettinger. Dr. Ettinger’s project is, “Teaching Critical Care Skills Remotely in a Resource Limited Setting – A Pilot Study” His team will receive $4000 in aid in their research.

Nominations
The Nominations Committee has been working on the FCCM mentor program. The program has been set up to assist qualified members interested in pursuing the honored designation of FCCM. Also be aware the call for leadership position nominations will be going out starting September 28, 2020. Remember the continued success of the chapter relies on dedicated individuals filling these positions and giving time for the advancement our chapter.

Volunteer Positions
Want to get involved, but not in a leadership capacity? There are several volunteer positions available on the committee level. Please visit the chapter website for information on available positions. These position provide a great start to learning the inner working of the chapter.

I would like to finish by thanking our volunteers for all of their hard work so far in 2020. The chapter benefits tremendously from the efforts of our volunteers, who help us implement changes and new ideas based on member feedback. Please don’t hesitate to reach out to me with an idea, or feedback about how we can better serve the chapter (presidenteccmtexaschapter.org). Hope you have a safe fall…. ‘see’ you soon at our 9th Annual Symposium in September.

Stay safe,

Darrell E. R. Alley, MD, MBA, FACS, FCCP, FCCM, President, SCCM Texas Chapter 2020
SAVE THE DATE!
Virtual Zoom Webinar | September 25 & 26, 2020

9TH ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM
Closing the Knowledge Gap

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
LEWIS J. KAPLAN, MD, FACS, FCCM, FCCP
Society of Critical Care Medicine President

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Registration available:
https://www.sccmtexaschapter.org/annual-symposium/
Take advantage of early bird rates and register prior to September 1, 2020!
Registration closes September 25, 2020

If you are interested in joining the symposium planning committee or have any questions, please contact the Symposium Committee Chair, Utpal Bhalala (utpal.bhalala@bcm.edu).
The Communications Committee is responsible for the dissemination of information between our chapter and its members. With that being said, we have created an Instagram account (@SCCMTXChapter) in addition to our other social media platforms. Please follow to see our latest pictures of our events, membership, and any special announcements. Did you stop by our recent community engagement event? Have you attended the SCCM Texas Chapter Symposium? Did you enjoy the most recent evening educational programming in your area? We love to share what our members are doing across the state of Texas. So, tag us in your pictures! You can tag us on Instagram by using the hashtag #SCCMTexasChapter.

Since most of the volunteers on the Communications Committee work behind the scenes, I'd like to introduce myself, as the Communications Chair. I am a Critical Care Clinical Specialist in the Neurosurgical ICU and PGY2 Critical Care Residency Coordinator at Houston Methodist Hospital in Houston, TX. I believe that continued education and multidisciplinary cooperation are cornerstones of providing high level ICU care and I look forward to helping expand these efforts through my role as the Communications Chair. If you have any creative ideas or suggestions on how to improve our communication and social media outreach, please feel free to email me at communications@sccmtexaschapter.org.

We are also looking for a San Antonio Communications Chair. Please email communications@sccmtexaschapter.org if you are interested in the following volunteer opportunity.

- Duties:
  - Send communications for San Antonio programming
  - Work with the Programming Committee to collect RSVPs and prepare sign in sheet for San Antonio Programming
  - Average time commitment: 2-3 hours/month

Please continue to look for our emails (texaschapter.sccm@gmail.com), website (www.sccmtexaschapter.org), Facebook and Twitter (@SCCMTXChapter), and now Instagram (@SCCMTXChapter) for meeting announcements and general organizational communications. Don’t forget to follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to stay up to date on each of our events!
The Research Committee is excited to announce that the **2020 Joseph L. Nates Grant** has been awarded to **Nicholas Ettinger, MD, PhD** for his project, "**Teaching Critical Care Skills Remotely in a Resource Limited Setting – A Pilot Study**." This grant awards one individual or research group $4000 towards clinical research that is designed to enhance the care and outcomes of critically ill patients.

The portal for submitting an abstract for presentation at the Annual Symposium has closed. We are currently in the process of reviewing the high-quality abstracts we have received. If you are planning on attending the Annual Symposium this year, please be sure to join in on the **virtual Research Snapshot Theatre Presentations** that will be held throughout the day on **September 25-26th**! These 4-minute PowerPoint presentations highlight the impactful critical care research conducted throughout the state of Texas. Thank you to those who submitted a grant proposal or symposium abstract, and to everyone who contributes to the field of critical care research. We look forward to your grant and symposium submissions next year!

Did you have an abstract accepted for presentation at the Virtual SCCM Congress? Once accepted, consider submitting your abstract for the **Alan I. Fields award**. The Alan I. Fields Award will be presented to two members of the SCCM Texas Chapter for their scholarly work. There will be one award for a critical care trainee or practitioner with less than 2 years of experience, and one to a practitioner with 2 or more years of experience. Recipients will receive up to $1250 (see website for details). Recipients are expected to present their work as a research snapshot presentation at the SCCM Annual Congress and at the end of the year SCCM Texas Chapter meeting.

- Submission portal opens: **October 7, 2020**
- Applications due: **November 6, 2020**

Please be on the lookout for updates via emails and on our webpage, in early October.

Lastly, the research committee is currently in need of **reviewers** who are advanced practice nurses, physician assistants, respiratory therapists, or other allied health professions. We would love to have you as part of the team. Please review the information on the SCCM-Texas Chapter website Research tab or contact research@sccmtexaschapter.org for more information on the research committee.
The next election cycle for leadership positions in the SCCM Texas Chapter will begin soon!

Positions open for election for 2021 are:

**Executive Committee:**
1. President-elect (3-year progressive term for president-elect, president, immediate past president)
2. Secretary (2-year term)

**Board of Directors (3-year terms):**
1. Physician seat (1 position)
2. Nurse seat (1 position)

Information about officer responsibilities and required qualifications can be found on the SCCM Texas Chapter website under the Chapter Leadership tab. Information regarding opening of nominations will be emailed at the end of September. We look forward to your nominations and involvement in the chapter!

In addition, the **FCCM Mentorship Program** for the 2021 application cycle is underway. Thank you to everyone who signed up as a mentor or mentee through our enrollment survey. Mentor-mentee match information will be communicated early September. We look forward to another successful application year!

If you have any questions about the nominations process, FCCM Mentorship Program, or would like to get involved with the committee please email us at nominations@sccmtexaschapter.org.
A huge thank you to our President-elect, Daniel Arellano, for managing the Programs Committee over the past few months as interim Chair. It has been an interesting six months since our last update. Due to the challenges associated with the pandemic, most of the regularly scheduled programming was canceled or postponed. After much discussion about proceeding with events and the safety of our members in mind, the Programs Committee was able to coordinate two great events recently.

**Program Committee**

Laura Blackburn, PharmD, BCPS, BCCCP

As we monitor the situation, the plans for programming in the coming months are uncertain, but we are committed to providing educational opportunities that interest our members. If you have ideas, please reach out to your local programming coordinator. Below are the fabulous individuals who make your local events possible:

- **Austin**: Robert Huff, RN, CCRN
- **Dallas and Fort Worth**: Michael Mandapat, RN
- **El Paso**: Susan McLean, MD and Jennifer Hartman, PharmD, BCPS, BCCCP
- **Houston**: Laura Blackburn, PharmD, BCPS, BCCCP
- **San Antonio**: Patrick Cullinan, DO, FACOEP, FACOI, FCCM and Andro Herrera-Mendoza, DBA, RRT-NPS, RPFT, FACHE

I encourage all members to take advantage of the free educational and networking opportunities that are offered as a benefit of your continued support to the Texas Chapter. We are eager to see you again in person soon. In the meantime, stay safe and thank you for the excellent care you continue to provide to our critically ill community!
Would you like to be featured in our next newsletter? The Texas Chapter would like to introduce a new ‘Member Spotlight’ section that will appear in upcoming newsletters. This will provide an opportunity for some of our members to showcase themselves and some of their work. If you would like to be featured, please send an email to the membership chair at membership@sccmtexaschapter.org.

Our current chapter membership is a little over 530 members. Please continue to refer your friends and colleagues! Remember that referrals can earn you free Texas Chapter membership. You only need to refer 3 new members (if you are an SCCM member), and 4 new members (if you are not an SCCM member) to earn a free membership (referrals need to be emailed to membership@sccmtexaschapter.org). As always, please send any membership questions or concerns to Maggie Ma (Membership Chair) at membership@sccmtexaschapter.org.
The mission of the awards committee is to acknowledge SCCM Texas Chapter members for their accomplishments and contributions to the care of critically ill patients throughout the previous year. We accomplish the mission by:

1. Developing the online nomination process
2. Reviewing submitted nominations
3. Selecting award recipients
4. Reviewing and revising the process for the following year

SCCM Texas Chapter Awards include the following:

1. Outstanding Member Award (one member will be awarded from each of the Dallas, Houston, El Paso, San Antonio, and "Other Texas" areas)
2. Excellence in Service Award (one award for each category)
   a. Education
   b. Clinical Practice
   c. Research/Quality Improvement
3. Professional Development Award (four in total)

It’s been a difficult year! Take this time to reflect and identify individuals who have really gone above and beyond that deserve recognition for their efforts! The committee will be accepting submissions beginning in early fall. More information will be provided in the upcoming weeks, including criteria for each award category and deadlines for submissions.

If you have any questions, please contact the committee chair at awards@sccmtexaschapter.org.
COMMITTEE

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Vicky Fan, PA-C

Hello SCCM!

I hope everyone has been staying safe during inclement weather in the setting of a pandemic! 2020 has proven to be full of surprises, one of which has included a plethora of virtual educational opportunities to stay up to date with current events. While we have not been able to host any in person events, the community engagement committee is preparing to take things virtual with short informational videos on topics like adult/child CPR, stopping the bleed, etc. If you are interested in presenting on a topic, please reach out! Open to all members. You can email communityengagement@sccmtexaschapter.org.