



SOCS Symposium Summary – March 2015

The Skin of Color Society (SOCS) hosted their 11th Annual Scientific Symposium on Thursday, March 19, 2015, at the San Francisco Marriott Marquis.

The day began with the General Business Meeting and the President's Report by Dr. Marta Rendon and was followed by a full program of speakers. The President's report included statistics on increased membership for the Society. Several major accomplishments of the Society in the past year were celebrated, including:

- 1) A new and improved website, complete with Twitter and Facebook links
- 2) A new 501c3 designation that will allow non-profit status for SOCS
- 3) 4 new educational videos completed by SOCS members and available on the new SOCS website
- 4) The formation of a new mentorship program for young career dermatologists, students, and residents interested in skin of color

SOCS committees reported on their activity over the past year. Exciting new initiatives were discussed, some of which included: repeating a video series on a new topic, continuing to increase the Society's international presence with SOCS members attending a Vitiligo Conference in India hosted by Dr. Rashmi Sakur.

Outgoing officers and committee members were thanked for their service and the new slate of officers was presented and accepted: Dr. Marta Rendon as Immediate Past President, Dr. Amy McMichael as President, and Dr. Seemal Desai as Secretary/Treasurer.

The official program of the SOCS began with a resident / fellow seminar where 6 trainees presented reports from their original research. They included: **Linda Amah, MD**, **Cathy Yunjia Zhao**, **Danielle Giambone**, **Isha Lopez**, **Alicia Stallings**, and **Shivani Bashyan**. Topics discussed ranged from Perceptions of acne treatment in Hispanic patients to the best laser settings for melasma in skin of color. Lively discussions and questions followed each of these excellent talks.

There were 3 excellent expert talks during the SOCS Annual Scientific Symposium as well. **Dr. Tania Cestari, MD, PhD** spoke on her experience in Brazil with melasma in skin of color. **Dr. Vicki P. Werth, MD** presented updates in Connective Diseases in skin of color patients with a concentration on Lupus, and our final speaker of the day was **Dr. Ophelia E. Dadzie, BSc, MBBS, MRCP, DipRCPath** who spoke on the United Kingdom perspective on ethnic skin issues.

After the conclusion of the Scientific Symposium, there was a Skin of Color Awards Reception, sponsored by Valeant Pharmaceuticals where the Valeant Research Grant Award was presented to the mentor of winner, **Giang Huong Nguyen from University of Colorado**.

Winners of the Resident/Fellow presentations were also noted: medical student, **Isha Lopez** for first place and research fellow, **Dr. Shivani Bashyan** for second place.

SOCS President, Dr. Marta Rendon and SOCS Secretary-Treasurer, Dr. Amy McMichael thanked all attendees and welcomed everyone to stay and continue their lively discussions as well as view the new SOCS educational video series on a continuous loop during the reception.