



# 2015-2016 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

SRNT continued to thrive, to foster and promote exceptional investigators and their research, to advance the careers of trainees, and to expand its reach in 2015. This was an exciting year for SRNT, as we increased the Society's visibility and presence, and I am pleased to report on a number of our efforts and accomplishments.

A key element to SRNT's enhanced organizational effectiveness was the realization of SRNT 2.0, complete with an integrated strategic communications plan and refreshed visual branding. We successfully launched a new website, which will serve as the nexus of our member interactions and operations. The new website provides easy-to-access forums for members to promote discussion, debate, and commentary about a broad range of research and topics, and as with our prior listserv, allows members to ask for guidance or quick answers and suggestions to research questions. SRNT members can search the online membership directory to find potential collaborators and to view updates and recent news about both members and the field. To further provide members with a "go to" site for resources, all of the Society's webinars are archived on the website. Beyond these benefits, the website enhances our administrative efficiency by having a fully integrated membership renewal and conference registration process on the website, and easy ways for members to update their own profiles. Our hope is that members fully utilize the website and become active and frequent visitors! SRNT 2.0 also introduced a new Facebook page for the Society, with features such as access to a free Editor's choice article from our journal, *Nicotine & Tobacco Research*, announcements about upcoming webinars and events, and links to our Twitter feeds. Yes, SRNT is now on Twitter! Our increased social media presence will help members to stay up-to-date on the latest news and research reports as well as to expand our reach to other key stakeholder audiences. We are looking forward to having an active social media presence at our Annual Meetings and increased interactions with media about our research. SRNT has been fortunate to have Sheila Alessi heading up our Electronic Communications Committee, and helping the Society to move forward thoughtfully with our social media presence.

We have also made significant progress on one of SRNT's longstanding goals—to help expand research in lower/middle income countries (LMIC) by enhancing research capacity among front-line workers in the tobacco control and treatment fields. Many LMICs have only a relatively small group of advanced-degree researchers, yet their country's needs for local data to help advance treatment and policy are large. To help overcome this gap and to help improve the evidence-base in LMICs, SRNT is moving forward with developing the ***Global Nicotine & Tobacco Foundational Research Certification Program (Global NTFR Certification Program)***. The Global NTFR Certification Program is envisioned as a series of online educational modules, developed in cooperation with people from LMICs, to teach individuals how to access and understand a relevant evidence base to address research questions; how to pose and answer locally-relevant research questions; and how to prepare brief research "field reports" to communicate and disseminate their results. The Global Certification Program is the first element in what we envision as a broader, web-based online educational initiative, **SRNT-University (SRNT-U)**. SRNT-U will become SRNT's online educational hub, the home of Network-specific webinars, selectively recorded Annual Meeting sessions, virtual poster sessions, and other topical educational offerings. SRNT-U also has the potential to be a new revenue-generating stream. As a first step in realizing this vision, we formed a high level Advisory Committee, chaired by former SRNT President, Ken Warner. The Advisory Committee assessed the need for and feasibility of creating this online training program for front-line workers, and issued a report back to the SRNT Board of Directors outlining a general approach for the program and recommending a pilot project to gather formative data on a set of brief educational modules. Robert West and Marcus Munafo have generously agreed to develop and record these initial test modules, and a pilot test will be launched during the Spring 2016. The Global NTFR Certification Program is likely to fill a critical gap in tobacco control efforts in LMICs and will further serve as valuable educational tools for front-line workers in other countries as well.

SRNT also increased our efforts to provide needed background research to address policy and regulatory issues, and we provided a record number of comments and letters to government agencies and other groups. For example, SRNT submitted a formal comment, in collaboration with the College of Problems of Drug Dependence and the American Psychological Association, on the FDA's "Investigational Products Draft Guidance," and as President of SRNT, I gave an in-person presentation to staff from the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs about our members' concerns with draft guidance for Investigational Tobacco Products and how this guidance may severely impair our members' ability to conduct needed research. SRNT also solicited member input to provide comments on the OBSSR Strategic Plan and on NIDA's Strategic Plan. Given the landmark changes occurring with the tobacco product landscape and potential regulations, SRNT is increasingly asked to provide input and comment on a variety of time-sensitive policy and regulatory issues. To help respond to these requests, we have developed a clear process with our Policy Network to seek member input, to review potential responses, and to submit comments or letters. Our two co-chairs of the Policy Network, Sara Hitchman and Andrea Villanti, bring tremendous engaged and responsive leadership to this effort. We are fortunate, too, in having Sara's international perspective (from the U.K), which is also increasingly critical as policy issues cross many international borders and can have more global repercussions.

SRNT continued to flourish this year with increased activity and engagement of its Networks. The Networks represent one of SRNT's most effective vehicles for engaging, connecting, and educating members. SRNT added a new Network, the Adolescent Research Network, co-chaired by Suzanne Colby and Kim Horn. All of the Networks have been developing comprehensive work plans, with substantial efforts going into developing and hosting webinars, collaborative topic symposia and preconference workshop submissions, and an impressive number of collaborative network-led papers for publication.

SRNT's strength has always rested in its talented and dedicated membership pool. As we launched SRNT 2.0, with our new logo, members reaffirmed a key message: SRNT is the communal hub and spokesgroup for leading nicotine and tobacco research. Our SRNT brand is seen as cooperative, dedicated to scientific rigor, and universal, and many individuals have been at the forefront of exemplifying this brand. I want to thank our Board of Directors (Tom Gould, Debbie Ossip, Megan Piper, Jodi Prochaska, Martin Raw, Naowarut Charoenca, and Telervo Korhonen) for their hard work and commitment to SRNT, and the Network Co-Chairs for their energy and vibrant leadership. I also want to applaud the Program Committee (led by Natalie Walker, Maciej Goniewicz, and Rachel Grana for their stellar efforts to develop another outstanding Annual Meeting. Finally, I want to extend a deep and special thank you to SRNT's Executive Director, Bruce Wheeler, who has provided exceptionally skillful management leadership, experience, and caring to SRNT.

It has been an honor to serve as SRNT's President and to gain an even deeper appreciation of the tremendous value and talent within our Society. I look forward to continuing to work with our new President, Debbie Ossip, as SRNT continues on its successful trajectory.

Robin Mermelstein, Ph.D.  
President, 2015-2016



# TREASURER'S REPORT

## 2015 Year-End Financials

The 2015 budget included a planned loss of \$91,000 because we spent SRNT resources on non-incoming-generating initiatives designed to meet the Strategic Goals. However, we had an actual loss of only about \$40,000. Thus, while SRNT will be ending the year in the red for the first time in many years, we are doing considerably better than expected, despite the loss. This loss does not impact SRNT's financial reserves, which are accounted for separately. In sum, this year's \$40,000 deficit was planned and SRNT's financial situation continues to be strong and allows the Society to engage in activities and initiatives to promote tobacco science.

Notes: The 2015 year-end financials are preliminary, as SRNT hasn't yet received the 2015 journal royalties from Oxford University Press or the invoice for member journal subscriptions. Therefore, year-end net is based on estimates that include outstanding budgeted income and expenses. In addition, interest income (or loss) will be determined based on December 31 actuals and added to the financials by our audit firm at the time the books are formally closed.

## Revenue

SRNT's main sources of revenue are (a) membership dues, (b) conference registration, and (c) journal royalties. Financial support from the pharmaceutical industry represents approximately seven percent of SRNT's 2015 revenues (included in the Other category). Of that amount, 70% was an unrestricted educational grant for the 2015 conference that was received through a competitive review process.

## Expenses

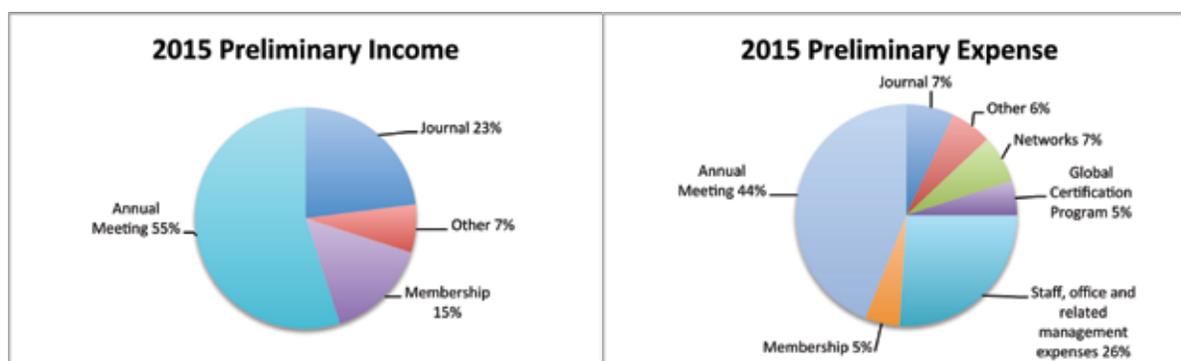
SRNT's two largest expenses are (a) management and staff/office support of SRNT, provided through a contract with The Rees Group, and (b) the Annual Meeting. We also had additional expenditures this year as we have implemented more components of our Strategic Plan. In 2015 we debuted our new logo, launched our new website ([www.srnt.org](http://www.srnt.org)), and implemented a new abstract submission system for the Annual Meeting. In addition to these infrastructure improvements, we supported the World Conference on Tobacco or Health, invested in development of a Global Certification program to engage new tobacco scientists in developing countries, and continued to invest in our eight networks that support the research of all of our members (Adolescents, Basic Science, Genetics, Global, Health Disparities, Public Policy, Trainees, and Treatment).

### Assets

SRNT currently has just under \$1.5 million in assets at year-end. In 2015, some of these assets were used to further the goals of the Society, as specified in the Strategic Plan.

We currently have \$622,873.86 in the Reserve Fund. Based on the 2014 Financial Reserve Policy, the amount held in reserve exceeds the policy requirement by approximately \$200,000. Therefore, no money will be added to the Reserve Fund this year.

We continue to work closely with our professional investment firm to ensure that our funds are being properly managed. This means that funds needed for operations are readily available and that funds that will be needed within the next 12 months (e.g., funds for the 2017 Annual Meeting in Florence, Italy) are in appropriate investment vehicles that meet the Investment Policy laid out by the SRNT Board.



### 2016 Budget

We currently project a budget deficit of \$37,000 for 2016. This deficit is primarily due to the Board's decision to continue to invest in strategic initiatives including the Global Certification Program, our eight Networks, and improved technology infrastructure.

It should be noted that the costs for the SRNT Networks, which will total nearly \$70,000 in 2016 (including travel awards, webinars, and other projects, as well as staff/office support), are now broken out into a separate category. This was done to illustrate for the Board and Members how the Society is using funds to support the networking, research, and professional development needs of Members through the Networks, as well as the generation of Network-specific projects, such as research papers and preconference workshops.

Please note that the SRNT Finance Committee and staff budget very conservatively. If history is any guide and investments continue to do well the deficit will likely be smaller. Despite the projected deficit budget for 2016, SRNT is in a very strong financial position.

Megan Piper, Ph.D.  
Treasurer



# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

During this year's Annual Meeting, SRNT President, Robin Mermelstein, will present the 2016 President's Award to Ovide Pomerleau, SRNT's first President. This has prompted me to take this opportunity to reflect on the job of SRNT President and share my sincere appreciation for those who have served in this role.

Managing a Board, working with office staff, dealing with the occasional and sometimes serious legal concern, handling politics (members don't always agree on every issue!), thinking strategically, dealing with science in the age of social media, balancing the competing needs to both spend and to save SRNT's limited financial resources, and keeping a non-profit membership association moving forward are not exactly the skills that come easily to everyone. Nor are they, necessarily, the skills honed over a career spent in research, in teaching, or in related fields.

Yet, those are some of the most important skills needed to effectively serve as SRNT President, and SRNT has consistently elected people who truly understand their leadership role.

With a strategic plan (or, at the very least, a strategic direction) in place and only one year in office, the President doesn't have much opportunity to make a measurable, personal impact on the organization. But what she or he can do—must do—is lead: lead the Board, lead the membership, and lead the staff. Also, they must look beyond where we are to where we need to be, and then help move us toward that place, even if only incrementally, based on many, many internal and external influences over which they have no control.

And, always with the best interest of the Society, with the best interest of the members, as the guiding principles.

I have seen more than one President set aside a personal goal/project/opinion because of the Greater Good. Likewise, I have seen Presidents inherit programs (or challenges) that they had no part in bringing to the table. I have seen Presidents take those programs and improve them, or find incredibly creative solutions to issues facing the organization.

The fact is I see most of the email exchanges when issues arise (actually, I tend to be the one initiating those exchanges!), so I know how much work goes into being the President. I see the nature of the challenges that need to be addressed. And I see Presidents affect change and solve problems quietly, without raising the concern of the members they have been elected to serve.

And rightly so.

Members should enjoy the results of problem solving, project management, Board discussions—and everything else the President does—without ever having to get caught up in the details of how we got to a particular place. Or, heaven forbid, the politics involved in getting us there!

SRNT's founding President, Ovide Pomerleau, is being honored during this annual meeting with the President's Award in recognition of all that he did to help make SRNT a reality, and to get SRNT off the ground during its first year of existence. Such a well deserved honor! But Ovide's is not the only hand that has helped to guide and shape SRNT. Therefore, I would like to recognize all of the Presidents, the women and the men who have seen SRNT through good times as well as not so good times, who have had a direct role in helping to make SRNT the strong, vibrant, and forward-looking Society that it is today:

Ovide Pomerleau, John Hughes, Neal Benowitz, Maxine Stizer, Jack Henningfield, Dorothy Hatsukami, Bill Corrigal, Ken Perkins, Harry Lando, Nancy Rigotti, Ken Warner, David Balfour, Ellen Gritz, Ray Niaura, Scott Leischow, Sue Curry, Caryn Lerman, Robert West, Gary Swan, Anne Joseph, Tom Gould, and Robin Mermelstein.

If you see any of these amazing, dedicated, member-volunteers during this meeting (almost all will be here!), please take a moment to pull them aside and say, "thank you." Or, send an email when you get back to the office. Or, both! We can never say "thank you" enough to those people who have so generously volunteered their time and energies to help make SRNT the Society it only imagined it one day could become!!

So, here is my heartfelt message to the many elected volunteers, and especially to the presidents, who have dedicated their time and energy to SRNT: We would not be where we are today without you.

On behalf of a grateful membership and staff, thank you!

Bruce Wheeler  
Executive Director



# NETWORKS REPORT

## Summary

2015 was a year of building for SRNT Networks—they built content, administrative structures, diversity of leadership, and member-driven communications. A new Network, the Adolescent Network was formed, and two pilot mentorship programs were launched.

Network content built in 2015 included:

- 6 webinars (planning completed for two additional webinars that were delivered in 2016). A library of 13 recorded webinars is now available to SRNT members.
- 2 manuscripts accepted for publication
- 4 manuscripts in progress
- 1 presentation to the US Food and Drug Administration
- 3 preconference workshops delivered at SRNT 2015
- 3 preconference workshops planned for SRNT 2016
- 10 member spotlights
- 5 symposia delivered at SRNT 2015 and SRNT-Europe
- 3 symposia accepted for SRNT 2016.

**Administrative structures** were added or reinforced as necessary:

- 5 Networks (Adolescent, Basic Science, Health Disparities, Trainee and Treatment) now have standing subcommittees that meet regularly to move work forward
- The Public Health Policy Network is in the process of building subcommittee structure
- The Genetics Network and the Treatment Network stood up a joint working group to develop two manuscripts
- Liaisons from each Network to the Electronic Communications Committee were appointed
- Board liaisons were assigned to each Network to increase communication between Networks and SRNT's Board of Directors.

The Networks increased the **diversity** of their leadership by adding:

- 5 Advisory Committee members (2 of them Co-chairs) from outside North America
- 5 trainee or early career Advisory Committee members to ensure all career stages are represented in leadership positions.

Networks began the process of developing **member-driven communications** centered on the new website. Each Network Liaison to the Electronic Communications Committee completed a two-hour orientation session on the new site. Seven of eight Networks added content to the public side of the Network and three Networks began adding content to the members-only side of the site.

In addition to developing webinars, Networks worked in other ways to meet the **career development** needs of their members. During SRNT 2015, the Trainee Network held its mixer event to match Trainees with openings at 17 institutions; a similar event is being held at SRNT 2016. The Trainee Network also updated the *Trainees' Guide to the Annual Meeting*. Two mentorship programs (the Health Disparities Network's "It's Just Coffee" program and the Trainee Network's Mentored Poster program) will be piloted at SRNT 2016.

Cross-network collaborations were also established:

- Education Subcommittee members and Network Co-Chairs from seven Networks held a call to share information on training and mentoring activities and to discuss potential collaborations.
- The Basic Science and Genetics Networks collaborated to develop two webinars
- The Genetics and Treatment Networks are writing two manuscripts together
- The Health Disparities and Treatment Networks are discussion collaboration on a potential data-sharing project.

The reports below, submitted by Network leadership, contain details on these achievements.



# ADOLESCENT NETWORK

**Network Co-Chairs: Suzanne Colby, PhD and Kimberly Horn, PhD**

**No. of Members: 182**

In 2015, the formation of the Adolescent Network was approved by the SRNT Board of Directors. Our first priorities were to:

1. create an administrative structure to manage work
2. establish an online presence within SRNT
3. develop an online member survey to learn about member interests and needs in order to prioritize network initiatives.

## **Administrative Structure**

An Advisory Committee was formed. We have held four organizational meetings via conference call since August 2015.

In addition to the co-chairs, members include: Michele Bloch, Maria Cooper, Geri Dino, Grace Kong, Suchitra Krishnan-Sarin, Alex Loukas, Laura MacPherson, Robin Mermelstein, Leslie Robinson (on medical leave), Cassandra Stanton, Jennifer Unger, Jonathan Winikoff.

Subcommittees were formed as follows:

1. *Membership*: Leslie Robinson, Cassandra Stanton, Grace Kong, Geri Dino
2. *Communications*: Maria Cooper (Liaison to the SRNT Electronic Communications Cmte), Jennifer Unger, Jonathan Winikoff
3. *Education/Training*: Laura MacPherson (Lead), Suchitra Krishnan-Sarin
4. *Annual Meeting/Program*: Alex Loukas (Lead), Laura MacPherson, Michele Bloch, Kim Horn, Suzanne Colby
5. *Evaluation*: Suzanne Colby (Lead).

Also, Robin Mermelstein was assigned as the SRNT Board of Directors Liaison to our Network.

## **Online Presence**

All Adolescent Network members have received via email a welcome to the Network from the co-chairs including a “save the date” for our member meeting at the SRNT conference.

Maria Cooper set up the Adolescent Network page on the newly launched SRNT website. Currently, we have a discussion forum, information about the network leadership, and the mission statement posted.

All Adolescent Network members have received via email detailed instructions for how to subscribe to our Network forums (i.e., discussion boards); they can choose either instant updates or a weekly summary.

## **Member Survey**

We developed a detailed member survey, which Mona Johnson put into a Survey Monkey format for us. All Network members have received a link to the survey (via email). Findings will be used to set priorities for projects and initiatives in 2016, including content for electronic communications, educational activities such as webinars, and Network events at the 2017 annual meeting. Survey results will also be presented at the Network member meeting at SRNT 2016.

## **2016 Goals:**

- We will develop priorities for network communications, training, and scientific initiatives.
- We will explore opportunities to work with other networks on events/activities (for example, the Trainee Network and the Treatment Network).
- We will further refine our administrative structure. We may consider reducing the size of our advisory committee to facilitate coordination/logistics while expanding the membership actively working on subcommittees.
- We will also work to achieve greater international representation on our committees.



# BASIC SCIENCE NETWORK (BSN)

**Network Co-Chairs: Mariella De Biasi, PhD and Christie Fowler, PhD**

**No. of Members: 244**

## **Administrative Structure**

This past year, we expanded the number of Advisory Committee members to 15 to assist with our goal of promoting basic science within SRNT. The current members for each subcommittee include:

1. *Communications*: Suzi Gage, Laura Ruppert, Annie Kleyklamp
2. *Collaborations*: Vaughan Rees, Jason Oliver, Jill Turner, Paul Harrell
3. *Education/Scholarship*: Alex Duncan, Caroline Cobb, Melissa Blank, Imad Damaj
4. *Program*: Mark LeSage, Jerry Stitzel, Heath Schmidt, Cassandra Gipson-Reichardt

In an addition to the Advisory Committee, Thomas Gould joined our efforts as SRNT Board Liaison.

## **Webinars**

In 2015, the BSN expanded its educational efforts by co-sponsoring with the Genetics network the webinar entitled 'Influence of Nicotine Metabolism Genes on Smoking Throughout the Tobacco Use Continuum: From Adolescence to Adulthood'. This event was successful, with 63 attendees. In conjunction with the Genetics Network, we also completed planning of a second webinar entitled "Genetic and Pre-clinical Findings on OPRM1 in Drug Abuse," which was held in February 2016.

## **SRNT 2015 Symposia**

The Network developed and put on four symposia on basic science at SRNT 2015.

### **Collaborative BSN Review Manuscript**

The BSN also worked on a plan for a collaborative review intended for publication in *Nicotine & Tobacco Research*. The piece was conceived to provide an overview of the many ways in which basic science has contributed evidence-based information to tobacco policy makers, while discussing new strategies that can be used to fill current information gaps. The outline for the review, entitled "How basic science informs public policy (or not)" was presented at the SRNT Board Meeting held in January 2016 and was approved. The Network expects to submit the manuscript in May 2016.

## **Website**

Content was transferred and updated on the new SRNT website by the network. After completing the public side of the BSN webpage, we are now undertaking the members-only site. In addition to the content on the public side, we hope to expand our information to reach and involve more members of SRNT. Specifically, we are developing a BSN-suggested itinerary for SRNT 2016, in which basic research will be highlighted for Network members. This website will also contain information regarding current and past BSN-sponsored webinars, minutes from our Advisory Committee meetings, and a member information submission form to provide members with the opportunity to submit their information/achievements to support social networking efforts (see below).

## **Social Networking/Electronic Communications**

The BSN has begun to make progress with social networking efforts via postings on Facebook and Twitter.

## **Scientist Spotlight Interviews**

Interviews with current scientists in the field were conducted and posted on the BSN website. The goal of these interviews is to provide research and career perspectives from emerging and established leaders in the field.

## **SRNT-E Conference:**

Network funds were used to support speaker travel to a BSN-organized session at SRNT-E. These efforts were taken to promote the BSN of SRNT at the international level.



# GENETICS NETWORK

**Network Co-Chairs:** Marissa Ehringer, PhD, Nancy Saccone, PhD (until February 2015), Jennifer Ware, PhD (February 2015 – August 2015), Anu Loukola, PhD (starting September 2015)

**No. of Members:** 142

## **Administrative Structure**

In February, Nancy Saccone finished her term as Genetics Network Co-Chair, and Jen Ware was appointed as Co-Chair to serve with Marissa Ehringer. In August, Jen stepped down due to a career change, and Anu Loukola was appointed as Co-Chair.

Other Advisory Committee members are Nancy Saccone, Andrew Bergen, Jaakko Kaprio and Sean David. Tellervo Korhonen was added as SRNT Board Liaison.

Together with the Treatment Network, the Genetics Network set up a joint working group to develop the papers discussed below. Genetics/Treatment Working Group members: Tom Piasecki, LiShiun Chen, Sean David, Marilyn Foreman, Andrew Bergen, Caroline Relton, Hannah Elliott, James Baurley, and Laurie Zawertailo.

## **Educational Efforts**

The Genetics Network focused on educational efforts in 2015, including co-sponsoring a webinar on ‘Influence of Nicotine Metabolism Genes on Smoking Throughout the Tobacco Use Continuum: From Adolescence to Adulthood’ with the Basic Science Network. In 2015 the Genetics Network, together with the Basic Science Network, completed planning for a second webinar, “Genetic and Pre-clinical Findings on OPRM1 in Drug Abuse,” which was held in February 2016.

The Network sponsored a preconference workshop, “Genetics of Smoking - Biology, Biomarkers, and Health Impact” at SRNT 2015. Also among the Genetics Network activities in 2015 was a symposium proposal (“Incorporating genomic data into treatment research: consensus approaches, genome-wide analyses of the nicotine metabolite ratio, and prospects for translation”), which was selected for presentation as a podium (symposium) presentation at the 2016 SRNT Annual Meeting in Chicago.

## **Manuscripts**

The Genetics Network worked together with the Treatment Network on two SRNT Network Work Proposals. First, we proposed to publish a peer-reviewed scientific review on key results that demonstrate the value and utility of data generated from biosamples in a clinical treatment trial setting. Second, we proposed to publish a peer-reviewed scientific review providing practical advice and guidance for incorporating the collection of genomic and other ‘omic’ data within a clinical trial setting. For these two papers, the work proposals submitted to the Board were accepted, and rough drafts of both papers were completed in December 2015. A final draft will be submitted to the Board for review in Spring 2016.

## **Communications**

David Vandenberg and Eric Tricou worked on Genetics Network content for the new SRNT website.



# GLOBAL HEALTH NETWORK

**Network Co-Chairs: James Thrasher, PhD and Carla Berg, PhD**

**No. of Members: 313**

## **Administrative Structure**

We are currently in the process of establishing a new co-chair to take Jim Thrasher's place (he cycles off this year) alongside Carla Berg, who began serving as co-chair in 2015. Debbie Ossip was added as SRNT Board Liaison to our Network. To provide input into short- and long-term goals and activities, we have quarterly conference calls with our Advisory Committee, which includes representatives from major regions around the world.

## **Building Research Capacity**

Below we highlight the SRNT Goal each of our GHN goals address along with our capacity-building activities within each goal.

SRNT STRATEGIC GOAL 1: SRNT recruits and retains an inclusive, engaged membership.

GHN GOAL: Enhance reputation of SRNT as global leader on the science of nicotine and tobacco.

- We pursued formal status as an NGO in an official relationship with the World Health Organization but were unable to do so related to the involvement of tobacco industry members in SRNT activities.
- We have begun discussions with partners that may allow us to establish relationships with other global tobacco control stakeholder organizations (CDC, JHSPH, NIH). For example, we are planning to provide a seminar on SRNT at the 2016 Johns Hopkins Summer Certificate Program training.

SRNT STRATEGIC GOAL 2: SRNT delivers programs and services that are highly relevant, valuable and essential for all members.

GHN GOAL: Enhance utility of SRNT activities for LMIC members of SRNT.

- We will present a preconference workshop at the 2016 SRNT annual meetings to highlight research by SRNT members working in global tobacco control to provide case studies on policy-relevant tobacco research capacity building, discuss challenges, and lessons learned.
- We are pursuing a special issue on tobacco research capacity building in LMICs related to the preconference workshop abstracts and synthesis.

SRNT STRATEGIC GOAL 3: SRNT systematically informs and helps to influence clinical practice, public health policy, regulation, prevention, treatment, and tobacco control globally for the betterment of public health.

GHN GOAL. Increase utility of SRNT activity to tobacco research stakeholders in LMICs.

- We participated in the planning and development of a SRNT Global Certificate course.

## **Communications**

The Global Health Network also carries out communications activities related to an SRNT strategic goal:

SRNT STRATEGIC GOAL 6: SRNT has a cohesive identity that supports proactive Communications strategies for the organization and the scientific field.

GHN GOAL. Communicate with SRNT membership about core global tobacco control activities.

- We have disseminated quarterly newsletters to GHN members to document: global tobacco-related conference activity (upcoming conferences and deadlines; summaries of conference activity); NTR publications in the realm of global tobacco control; and activities of the GHN, including opportunities for participation.



# HEALTH DISPARITIES NETWORK

**Network Co-Chairs: Steven Fu, MD, MSCE and Norval Hickman, PhD, MPH**

**No. of Members: 468**

## **Administrative Structure**

Members of the 2015-2016 Network Advisory Committee include Erik Augustson, Jennifer Cantrell, Kelvin Choi, Joanne D'Silva, Shadi Nahvi, Aashir Nasim, Patricia Nez Henderson, Donna Shelley, Jennifer Vidrine, and Monica Webb Hooper.

Subcommittees are as follows:

1. *Program*: Jen Cantrell, Erik Augustson
2. *Scholarship*: Kelvin Choi, Jennifer Vidrine
3. *Evaluation*: Aashir Nasim, Shadi Nahvi
4. *Communications*: Monica Webb Hooper
5. *Funding*: Patricia Nez Henderson

During 2015, Donna Shelley rotated off the Advisory Committee, and Dr. Erik Augustson of the Tobacco Control Research Branch at the National Cancer Institute was added as Program Co-Chair.

Jodi Prochaska was added as Board Liaison.

## **Disparities-Themed Issue of *N&TR***

A major accomplishment in 2016, with the support of SRNT, was the publication of a special themed issue of *Nicotine & Tobacco Research* on interventions to reduce tobacco-related health disparities. Guest editors for the themed issue containing 20 wide-ranging papers were Kola Okuyemi, Pebbles Fagan, and Lorraine Reitzel.

## **Preconference Workshop and Symposia**

Program co-chairs Jennifer Cantrell and Donna Shelley developed a preconference workshop for SRNT 2015 titled “Integrating Mobile Technology into Research with Disparities Populations: Methodological Challenges and Solutions,” which brought together a panel of experts from universities and federal government agencies to share their first-hand experiences with using mobile technologies to track behavior and deliver cessation treatment to disadvantaged populations. There were over 80 attendees, and a post-workshop evaluation indicated that a large majority of respondents reported they learned something new they could use in their current research. The Program Workgroup also worked with Disparities Network members to encourage disparities-related abstracts and symposia submissions for the SRNT 2016 conference. In particular, Disparities Network members submitted 5 symposia, on topics ranging from dual tobacco and marijuana use among African Americans, to mental health and smoking, to tobacco control policy and health disparities research. Two of the five symposia were accepted and individual abstracts from the other 3 submissions that were not accepted as symposia were accepted as presentations or posters.

## **Webinars**

In addition, the Program Workgroup hosted two webinars in the Fall of 2015: the first webinar was “Asian Smokers’ Quitline: A Case Study in Dissemination & Implementation Research” with Dr. Shu-Hong Zhu, director of the California Smokers Helpline. The second webinar was “The Application of Integrative Data Analysis in Substance Use Research” with Dr. Patrick Curran, of UNC-Chapel Hill, and this was co-sponsored with the Treatment Network.

### **Scholarships**

Through the 2015 Health Disparities Network Travel Scholarship Program supported by Legacy, ClearWay Minnesota, and Tobacco-Related Disparities Research Program, we sent 9 scholars to attend the 2015 SRNT Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, PA. Second, we secured funding from the Oklahoma Tobacco Research Center to support the Health Disparities Network Travel Scholarship Program. The funding will be used to support Travel Scholars from Oklahoma. Third, in an effort to encourage former travel scholars to continue their engagement with SRNT, we opened the 2016 Health Disparities Network Travel Scholarship Program to scholars who had received awards in the past three years. Fourth, expert reviewers from the Network reviewed 52 applications, and with the available funding, we awarded 13 Travel Scholars (11 new scholars, 2 returning scholars) to travel to Chicago, IL to attending the 2016 SRNT Annual Meeting. We appreciate that SRNT waived the membership fee for all new scholars and conference registration fees for all scholars.

Finally, with the assistance from Cendrine Robinson and Mona Johnson, we will launch a meet-a-mentor program called “It’s Just Coffee” at the 2016 SRNT Annual Meeting. The program provides opportunities for Travel Scholars to meet with senior scientists in the field for guidance in their research and career development.



# PUBLIC HEALTH POLICY NETWORK

**Network Co-chairs:** Sara Hitchman, MASC, PhD and Andrea Villanti, PhD, MPH

**No. of Members:** 420

## **Administrative Structure**

In 2015, the Public Health Policy Network began to develop the infrastructure to improve SRNT's ability to participate in public opportunities for comment on policy issues. A new Advisory Committee was put in place, with the following members: Andrea Villanti, Sara Hitchman, Paula Keller, Rob Schwartz, Jonathan Foulds, David Hammond and Desmond Jenson. Martin Raw was added as SRNT Board Liaison.

We attempted to form a joint Monitoring Subcommittee with the Global Health Network monitor nicotine and tobacco-related regulatory agency calls and opportunities to comment, but received no volunteers. We also put out a call for representatives to the Communications subcommittee with little response.

## **Response to Regulatory Requests**

With support and guidance from our Network Advisory Committee, our activities for the year have included:

- Monitoring comment opportunities and posting them on the Network's public site, along with SRNT's response (SRNT Position Statements).
- Drafting and implementing a protocol to route requests for comment by SRNT.
- Participating at varying levels in several comment opportunities
  - SRNT Joint Comment on Investigational Tobacco Products Draft Guidance, November 2015
  - SRNT Input on OBSSR Strategic Plan
  - SRNT APA Petition Letter, November 2015
  - SRNT Comment on ANPRM, September 2015
  - Coalition Letter on House Appropriations Issues, September 2015
  - Letter to FDA on American Spirit Marketing, August 2015
  - Public Health Letter to the USTR, July 2015
  - USPSTF Recommendation on Tobacco Cessation, June 2015
  - Language to Change "Grandfather Date" in the House Agriculture Appropriations Bill, June 2015
  - Request for the Obama Administration to Finalize Deeming Regulation, April 2015
  - Brief of Amici Curiae Public Health Groups, March 2015
  - Representation of Consent to File Amici Curiae Brief, March 2015
  - SRNT Joint Letter to FDA on Tobacco, February 2015
  - Letter to HHS and OIRA, February 2015
  - SRNT Comment on NIDA Strategic Plan, January 2015
  - Public Health Letter to HHS, January 2015.
- Notifying the full SRNT membership about comment opportunities
- Developing a presentation on tobacco biomarkers, delivered by Dr. Ray Niaura to the FDA's public workshop in August 2015 (see minutes 53:30 – 1:10:45; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5OxnIUcsJYw&feature=youtu.be>), with assistance from several scientific experts and the Genetics and Basic Science Networks.

## **Webinar**

The Network developed a webinar on the UK approach to e-cigarettes, following the release of the Public Health England report; the webinar was held on January 29, 2016 and had over 100 attendees.

## **2016 Plans**

In 2016, we hope to hold two policy-related webinars, form three subcommittees (Monitoring, Communications, Education), and propose a symposium for the 2017 SRNT Annual Meeting. We hope that the formation of these subcommittees will help facilitate SRNT's and its members' capacity to submit or sign onto relevant public comments and expand the membership's knowledge of global nicotine and tobacco policy.



# TRAINEE NETWORK

**Co-Chairs: Emily Zale, MS; Erika Bloom, PhD; and Steve Heishman, PhD**

**No. of Members: 364**

The Trainee Network is excited to report that we remained highly active in 2015. Our Advisory Committee meets monthly via teleconference, and our established subcommittees (Networking, Education, and Communications) meet via teleconference and emails to discuss individual projects on an as-needed basis. Projects completed by each subcommittee have emphasized the Trainee Network's mission to support an emerging generation of tobacco scientists by facilitating networking and career development opportunities. We regularly solicit feedback following our events and incorporate that information into subsequent planning.

## **Administrative Structure**

This year we transitioned Advisory Committee Leadership roles, with Emily Zale and Erika Bloom stepping into the role of co-chairs. Our subcommittee members are:

1. Networking Subcommittee: Jen Dahne (Chair), Elana Hoffman, Omar El Shahawy
2. Communications Subcommittee: Olga Rass (Chair), Lauren Pacek, Jesse Kosiba, Melissa Mercincavage
3. Education Subcommittee: Paul Harrell (Chair), Meg Fluharty (social media contact), Laura Twyman, Meryem Grabski.
4. Nao Charoenca was added as Board Liaison, and we are grateful to her for participating in Advisory Committee Calls at 10 PM her time!

## **Networking**

To provide networking opportunities for Trainee Network members:

1. We hosted our third annual trainee/senior investigator mixer event at SRNT 2015, which drew attendance from 17 institutional representatives and over 200 members. The event was highly rated, with the vast majority of respondents indicating that they were satisfied with the event (84%) and would attend next year (93%). Preparations for the fourth annual mixer in Chicago are underway.
2. We maintained activity on the listserv, and regularly communicated with trainees by soliciting input and feedback via online surveys (e.g., preferred topics for webinars).
3. We have developed content for the new network webpage, including resources for trainees and advertising for upcoming events, and we are utilizing the social networking platforms (Facebook and Twitter). Members have also begun to utilize these features. For example, after initial postings by Advisory Committee members on our website forum, network members have also begun posting information relevant to trainees (e.g., job opportunities, post-doctoral positions).
4. We have continued the Trainee Spotlight Series, which will be produced semiannually. Each installment highlighted 4 outstanding trainees, who were selected from 22 unique nominations solicited via the listserv. Both 2015 Spotlight installments are available on the trainee network webpage, and the first 2015 installment was also featured in the Society Pages of Nicotine & Tobacco Research. Trainees included in the 2014 spotlight were highlighted with ribbons at the 2015 annual meeting, and we are working with Mona Johnson to highlight our 2015 winners at the upcoming meeting in Chicago. Given our commitment to mentorship and trainee career development, we also plan to highlight an outstanding mentor in each future spotlight edition.
5. We developed a "Trainees' Guide to the Annual Meeting" and distributed it to trainees for the 2015 SRNT conference. The guide provides trainees with tips for travel, networking, and how to get the most out of conference attendance. The guide also advertises the Trainee Network Mixer. We have updated the guide for SRNT 2016, and plan to distribute it electronically prior to the conference.

## **Career Development**

To address the career development needs of our Network members:

1. We continued the trainee webinar series, with a new webinar titled “Getting Published in N&TR.” The webinar featured Marcus Munafo and Margaret Searle and was hosted by our Advisory Committee Representative Trish Grebenstein. A total of 59 members registered for the webinar and 27 attended. Feedback indicated that participants were satisfied with the content, relevance to their research, learning experience, presentation quality, and ability to interact with presenters.
2. We are sponsoring our second preconference workshop, which has been accepted to the 2016 annual meeting. The workshop, “NIH and FDA Funding Opportunities for Early Career Researchers,” will feature speakers from NIDA, NCI, and the FDA, and will be moderated by Judith Prochaska and our Advisory Committee Representative Meg Fluharty.
3. We have initiated a Mentored Poster Program, which will match trainees and senior investigators to facilitate mentorship and networking at the annual meeting. Trainees who are presenting a first-authored poster will be visited by a senior investigator, who can provide feedback on the research study and presentation during trainees’ poster sessions at SRNT Chicago. We have developed a set of guidelines for trainees and mentors in order to facilitate the interaction. Five trainees responded to our listserv program announcement, and we are working with Mona Johnson to match them with senior investigators. Feedback will be obtained from trainees and senior investigators after the meeting.

## **Other**

The Heckman et al. paper was cited by: Nonoyama et al. (2015). Past, Present and Future of Respiratory Research: A Survey of Canadian Health Care Professionals. *Canadian Respiratory Journal*, 22, 275-281.

## **Goals for 2016**

We are excited to continue our networking and career development efforts at the 2016 annual meeting in Chicago by hosting the annual mixer event, a preconference workshop, and the mentored poster program. We also intend to continue facilitating networking and education opportunities for trainees throughout the year via webinars, web and social media content, and the spotlight program.

Additional goals under consideration include:

1. Evaluation of the first year of the Mentored Poster Program
  - a. Potential to expand the program in the future, and/or pair with other mentorship opportunities
2. Cross-network coordination of education and mentorship efforts
  - a. We will participate in a teleconference with representatives from SRNT networks to determine opportunities for collaboration
3. Monitor metrics available with the new web/social media platforms to determine how trainees are using/accessing our content.



# TREATMENT NETWORK

**Network Co-Chairs: Benjamin Toll, PhD and Lisa Fucito, PhD**

**No. of Members: 499**

## **Administrative Structure**

Treatment Network Advisory Committee Members in 2015 were Lisa Fucito (co-chair), Ben Toll (co-chair), Megan Piper, Anne Joseph, Leonie Brose, Marc Steinberg, and Nancy Rigotti. [Nancy Rigotti rotated off the Committee in 2015. Megan Piper will replace Ben Toll as co-chair in 2016.] The Treatment Network Advisory Committee continues to meet monthly to provide high level guidance for all Treatment Network activities.

In addition to providing guidance for each of the Treatment Network Sub-committees, key activities of the AC in 2015 included:

- Sponsored a successful pre-conference workshop at the 2015 annual meeting, and sponsored a pre-conference workshop for the 2016 meeting entitled, “The Changing Landscape of Nicotine and Tobacco Use: What Tobacco Treatment Clinicians and Researchers Need to Know Treating Patients with Common Clinical Co-morbidities: What Clinicians and Researchers Need to Know.”
- Benjamin Toll will end his term as co-chair of the AC in March 2016, but remain on the AC. Megan Piper has been named as his replacement, with prior approval from the SRNT Board.
- Explored SRNT Board interest in an update to the Tobacco Clinical Practice Guidelines, but was advised not to pursue this topic as an official publication. [See discussion of other publication efforts under Writing sub-committee below.]
- Adding new members to our Advisory Committee including at least one member from outside North America. Anne Joseph (US), Leonie Brose (United Kingdom), and Marc Steinberg (US) joined the Advisory Committee in 2015, with prior approval from the SRNT Board.

Treatment Network Subcommittee and working group members are:

1. ATTUD/SRNT Synergy Subcommittee: Peter Hendricks (chair), Erin McClure, Erica Peters, Chris Kotsen, Sharon Czabafy, Peter Hendricks, and Donna Richardson.
2. Education Subcommittee: Jan Blalock (chair), Darla Kendzor, Michael Businelle
3. Communications Subcommittee: Marc Steinberg (stepped down as chair to join Advisory Committee in 2015), Audrey Darville, Peter Selby, Andrea Weinberger (became new chair in 2015). Sally Adams, Michael Burke, and Peter Selby rotated off the Committee in 2015.
4. Genetics/Treatment Working Group: Tom Piasecki, LiShiun Chen, Sean David, Marilyn Foreman, Andrew Bergen, Caroline Relton, Hannah Elliott, James Baurley, and Laurie Zawertailo.
5. Comorbidities Working Group: Graham Warren, Alana Rojewski, Ellen Gritz, Benjamin Toll, Frank Leone, Megan Piper, Stephen Baldassarri, Nancy Rigotti, Bidyut Sarkar, Steffani Bailey, Steven Bernstein, Maher Karam-Hage, Nina Cooperman, Mohamed Ismail.

In 2015, it was agreed that a formal Writing Subcommittee was no longer necessary and each workgroup could nominate a chair to guide the work.

## Education

The goal of this Subcommittee is to host educational webinars of interest to the Treatment Network and broader SRNT membership. Key activities of the Subcommittee in 2015 included:

- Sponsored a successful preconference workshop at the 2015 annual meeting, and sponsored a preconference workshop for the 2016 meeting entitled, “The Changing Landscape of Nicotine and Tobacco Use: What Tobacco Treatment Clinicians and Researchers Need to Know.”
- Sponsored 3 webinars:
  1. Dr. Adam Leventhal, “Transdiagnostic Processes Linking Psychology and Tobacco Addiction” [June 2015] (total attendance = 59)
  2. Dr. Patrick Curran, “The Application of Integrative Data Analysis in Substance Use Research [September 2015]. This was collaboration between the Health Disparities and Treatment Networks. Interest was expressed by approximately 40 of the attendees in a cross-network collaboration for data sharing led by Jen Cantrell from the Disparities Network and Michael Businelle from the Treatment network. Network members plan to discuss this potential collaboration further at the Network meetings at SRNT 2016 conference. (total attendance = 60)
  3. Dr. Wynne Norton, “Dissemination & Implementation Research in Health” [October 2015] (total attendance = 40)

## Manuscripts

1. The ATTUD/SRNT Synergy Subcommittee wrote a position paper calling for smoking cessation treatment to be offered in conjunction with lung cancer screening. The manuscript received joint Board approval and was just accepted for publication in Cancer.
2. Submitted a paper proposal to the SRNT Board on smoking cessation for patients with medical and psychiatric comorbidities. The paper was drafted by the SRNT Treatment Network Comorbidity workgroup. Alana Rojewski was the lead author and Graham Warren the senior author. The paper was approved by the SRNT Board and accepted in Nicotine and Tobacco Research in January 2016.
3. Submitted a paper proposal to the SRNT Board on ways to overcome barriers to tobacco treatment for patients who have comorbidities. This proposal was approved with comments by the SRNT Board in July, and work on the paper is underway.
4. Submitted two paper proposals to the SRNT Board on key genetics findings and practical guidance for researchers regarding genetics. The Board approved these proposals in July. These papers are a joint collaboration with the Genetics Network. The group plans to have submit these papers to the Board for review in Spring of 2016
5. Explored SRNT Board interest in an update to the Tobacco Clinical Practice Guidelines, but was advised not to pursue this topic as an official publication.
6. A paper proposal on cytosine was submitted to the SRNT Board for consideration with Natalie Walker as the lead author. Other collaborators include: Nancy Rigotti, Martin Raw, Robert West, and Carolyn Dresler. The Board advised the authors not to pursue this topic as an official publication.
7. Submitted a paper proposal on relapse terminology to the SRNT Board for consideration with Natalie Walker as the lead author. Other collaborators include Hayden McRobbie, Eden Evins, Erin McClure, Ariadna Forray, Andrea Weinberger. The Board approved the proposal in October 2015.

## **Communications**

The Communications Subcommittee is focused on building membership within the Treatment Network Listserv and facilitating active discussions on the Listserv. Key activities in 2015 included:

- Increased Treatment Network Listserv membership from 99 to 139 (from January 2014 to January 2015)
- Modestly increased engagement (i.e., responses to Listserv posts) with Treatment Network listserv posts
- Began Treatment Network Member Highlights, to introduce and spotlight different network members. The first edition will be posted to the members only website and distributed via the network Listserv before the February 2016 meeting.

In addition, Marc Steinberg transferred content from the old website to the new, edited several Resources pages for the public side of SRNT.org, posted Treatment Network content to the members-only side of the site, and beta-tested many of the features of the new site. He also handles social networking communications for the Treatment Network and continues to provide input to SRNT staff on implementation of new website features and functions.

## **ATTUD/SRNT Synergy Committee**

The goal of this Subcommittee is to enhance synergy between SRNT and ATTUD. This Subcommittee authored the lung cancer screening position paper described above.

The Subcommittee continues to discuss the role they might play going forward, and continues to work on the Dissemination and Implementation survey project. They have decided not to focus on publications, but rather on the development of webinars and workshops at conferences. Topics of interest include the treatment of tobacco and cannabis comorbidity, and the importance of certified tobacco treatment specialists.

## **Plans for 2016**

For the upcoming year, we will continue to provide educational webinars for the members, continue to sponsor treatment-relevant papers, and explore the possibility of presenting tobacco science to other treatment-relevant clinical and scientific societies (e.g., American College of Chest Physicians, American Psychological Association, etc).