Preface

Message from the SMS President

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The Sexual Medicine Society of North America, Inc., is committed to furthering the study of sexual medicine and providing this area of investigation and treatment as an established, respected subspecialty in both the research and the clinical medical sciences. The past two decades have witnessed giant leaps in the basic science understanding of central nervous system control of sexual function, neurotransmitters associated with erectile function, and the introduction of the first truly effective safe oral treatment for erectile dysfunction. In this same environment, investigators and clinicians have established the science and practice of female sexual dysfunction, increasing its acceptance and scientific investigation. Now through basic science and clinical investigation as well as pharmacological developments, we can now understand the anatomy, physiology, and pathology of sexual medicine both for the men and women. These developments are resulting in improved care for all our patients with sexual dysfunction.

There remains work to be done! Scientific investigation, pharmacologic development, and clinical practice will continue the strides made over the past two decades. Only through scientific congresses and communication can these strides be continued. In this 5th Annual Research Meeting of the Sexual Medicine Society of North America, Inc., the contributions of investigators, presenters, and participants are key to maintaining the momentum of this new and important subspecialty of medicine. Since the inauguration of the Society for the Study of Impotence in 1994 and its successor, the Sexual Medicine Society of North America, Inc., many of the advances in sexual medicine both in the laboratory and in the clinic have been furthered by this organization. During that time, an annual spring meeting in association with the American Urological Association has evolved from a half to a full day of scientific communication. The addition of the Fall Research Meeting to promote basic science and encourage young investigators in sexual medicine has been successful for three previous meetings. The

SMS has been active in obtaining generous financial support for this meeting as well as two associated seminars. The associated seminars designed to reach both urology residents for the understanding of surgical treatment of erectile dysfunction and family practice physicians in furthering the identification and management of men and women with sexual dysfunction will increase the interest in and understanding of sexual medical problems. Similarly, this supplement to the *International Journal of Impotence Research* will be circulated both nationally and internationally to 'spread the word' about SMS, sexual medicine, and the future of these scientific endeavors.

I must express my sincere appreciation to Dr Larry Hakim, Program Chair, for his scientific contributions; Dr Joel Kaufman, Local Meeting Chairman; Dr Gregory Broderick, Secretary of the SMS; and Susan O'Sullivan, Executive Director of the Sexual Medicine Society, but this only touches the surface of the many contributors and hard workers who have made this meeting and indeed the Sexual Medicine Society of North America, Inc., as successful as it is. As we go forward, the Sexual Medicine Society will continue its commitment to sexual medicine as a clinical and research specialty. Indeed, through the assistance of Bayer Healthcare Corporation/GlaxoSmithKline and the Sexual Medicine Society, research grants for young investigators have been established to encourage young clinicians and investigators to pursue careers in sexual medicine. Indeed, this society is only in its beginning and its possibilities are endless. I must express my appreciation to all those who have attended the 5th Annual Research Meeting and hope that you will continue to be active participants in the Sexual Medicine Society of North America and in the specialty of sexual medicine.

Culley C Carson III, MD, SMS President
Professor, Division of Urology
University of North Carolina
Chapel Hill, NC, USA