



SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF REPRODUCTION Newsletter

Volume 15, Number 2

June 1998

From the President—

A banner year for SSR

This message will be my last written communication to you, the members and trainees, as your President. One could call this my “lame duck” swan song.

In reflecting upon my term at the helm of this prestigious scientific body, I take pride in what we have accomplished this past year to further strengthen and promote SSR. This year for the first time a grant proposal was submitted to NICHD to partially defray the costs of our Annual Meetings for the next 5 years. In previous years, each incoming President was faced with the responsibility of submitting an application to NIH to help cover the expenses associated with the next year's meeting. This new type of proposal, referred to as a U13 application, is based upon a cooperative agreement with NICHD in which staff of the institute work with the President and Program Committee to establish the program content of the meeting. I am pleased to report that our grant proposal to NICHD to cover the meetings of 1998 through 2002 has received a favorable priority score. Final word regarding funding should be received in the near future. If the funding materializes, you may in future years see some topics in the program that encompass or have a more clinical slant on reproduction. This could have far-reaching benefits for the Society because of increased interest and participation by clinically oriented reproductive scientists. These latter individuals who participate in our meetings will hopefully be interested in becoming members of our Society. Additional spin-off benefits might include increased interest by pharmaceutical and allied industries to advertise in *Biology of Reproduction*, thus lowering cost of journal publication, and increased vendor participation at our Annual Meetings.

In line with the possible inclusion of topics related to clinical aspects of reproduction in our Annual

Meeting program has been effort expended this past year to develop a greater interaction with the American Society of Reproductive Medicine. ASRM and SSR share common concerns regarding NIH budgets that impact on availability of funds for extramural research, as well as other issues that impact on our respective endeavors. The opportunity exists for greater interaction through cooperative program development. I am pleased that the Board of Directors has sanctioned our Executive Secretary and your new President to attend the meeting of ASRM this fall to continue exploring possibilities for cooperative interactions.

We now have a well-developed Web site (thanks to the efforts of Fraser Gurd) which is visited numerous times daily. The high number of hits indicates that establishing this Web site was an appropriate decision by the Board. It provides a convenient way of keeping the membership, as well as other interested parties, informed about our Society.

Biology of Reproduction continues to be ranked as the number-one journal in our field of study. And now, beginning with the July issue, *BOR* will be published electronically. For more details regarding online publication of *BOR*, see the report of the Publications Committee in this issue of the newsletter. We are fortunate to have our journal placed online by HighWire Press, which also publishes the online versions of *Science*, *PNAS*, *JBC*, and *Cell*. Publication by HighWire will provide members “toll-free” access to full-text hyperlinks to related papers in the HighWire family of journals. We will, of course, continue to publish a hard copy of the journal for distribution as required by some subscribers.

Recently, I represented SSR at a forum at the National Academy of Sciences honoring “the 20 years of competitive research grants in agriculture.” At an associated reception was a display of the covers of vari-

ous scientific journals that have published papers by prominent scientists whose research was funded through the National Research Initiative. And right there next to *Nature*, *Science*, *PNAS*, and *Cell* was our very own *BOR*, which had featured NRI-supported research conducted by Gerald Schatten. What a great feeling of pride I had upon seeing *BOR* posted there with the so-called giants of scientific journals.

By the time you receive this newsletter, SSR will be an Associate Member of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology. Your Board of Directors has voted to join FASEB as an Associate Member effective this year. The advantages to SSR will include an opportunity for the Society to have a voice regarding critical issues on funding and science policy and timely communiques about impending legislation that may impact on our members. For details please see the message from the Public Affairs Committee in this issue. In addition, we will continue to be kept abreast of critical issues specifically related to reproductive biology by Sean Tipton of the Washington office of ASRM.

The Finance Committee has wrestled with the budgetary issues facing the Society, especially how to cover the increased costs associated with electronic publication of *BOR*, expenses associated with the Annual Meeting not covered by grant funds, and general membership expenses. I believe the committee has addressed these issues in as fair a manner as possible. More information on this subject can be gleaned from the Finance Committee's report in this issue.

In my "State of the Society" letter to the membership last fall, I proclaimed that the "Society for the Study of Reproduction is on the move." I believe the accomplishments of the Society noted above serve as evidence that SSR is indeed moving forward.

I hope all who read this message are planning to attend our Annual Meeting at Texas A&M University, which by all accounts will be excellent. The scientific content is all-encompassing and the Local Arrangements Committee has worked hard to ensure that the meeting and scheduled events will be enjoyable and memorable. If you do not attend this meeting you will definitely be missing the greatest extravaganza east of the Pecos this year.

In closing, I wish to thank all committee chairs, committee members, directors, fellow officers, and the administrative office staff who have worked so diligently to make this year a banner year for SSR. ■

—Fredrick Stormshak

Arrangements set for meeting

With planning for our 31st Annual Meeting at Texas A&M University essentially complete, the Local Arrangements Committee is now working to ensure that the meeting will be a profitable and memorable experience for you. The program book contains updated information, including maps, directions, and several room changes, that will facilitate your preparation for and participation in the meeting. Although, the weather likely will be warm, we assure you that all the facilities are efficiently air conditioned. If you plan to stay in one of the hotels off campus, consider making your reservations soon. The recently dedicated George Bush Presidential Library and Museum on campus is a very popular tourist attraction, with visitation exceeding projections. You may wish to spend some time at the Presidential Library and Museum during your stay.

If you have specific questions regarding the activities of the Local Arrangements Committee, please do not hesitate to call me or any member of the committee listed below. You can reach us by calling 409-845-3560.

Facilities/scheduling	Tom Welsh Laurie Jaeger
Finance	Jim West Tim Cudd
Housing/food/registration	David Forrest Duane Kraemer
Public relations/publicity	Bob Burghardt Gary Newton
Signage	Larry Johnson Tom Champney
Social	Fuller Bazer Jorge Piedrahitak Mark Westhusin
Trainee	Nancy Ing Gary Williams Stan Glasser
Transportation	Max Amoss Martha Vogelsang

We look forward to seeing you this summer. ■

—Paul Harms, Chair
Local Arrangements Committee

Society elects new officers, directors

The Society's membership has chosen four new officers and directors to serve on the Board of Directors. John J. Eppig is the new President-Elect and Joy L. Pate has been elected Secretary. Harold R. Behrman and Douglas L. Foster will be new Directors. They will join the Board at the Annual Meeting this August in College Station, Texas. Please extend your earnest congratulations and appreciation for the immense and creative efforts these new representatives will make on our behalf.

Ballots, together with a brochure summarizing the qualifications and personal statements of each candidate, were mailed to members in April. This year 768 ballot cards were returned to the Nominating Committee, including 652 from members in the United States and 116 by members abroad. Of all active and emeritus members in the Society, 48.7% participated in the election. ■

—Anthony Bellvé, Chair
Nominating Committee

Bylaws change approved

The Bylaws Committee thanks those SSR members who voted on the issue of changing the Bylaws to include the Minority Affairs Committee as a Standing Committee of the Society. The vote was 369 FOR and 68 AGAINST the proposal. The Board of Directors accepted the vote at their midwinter meeting. Currently, the Bylaws Committee is working on the following issues: 1) a proposal to add the Nominating Committee to the list of SSR Standing Committees, 2) a recommendation regarding whether a non-member may serve as the Editor-in-Chief of *Biology of Reproduction*, and 3) a proposal to change the term "Board of Directors" to "Executive Board" and the term of appointment for the positions of Treasurer, Secretary, and Director of the Society. Committee members will evaluate these issues and make recommendations to the Board before the Annual Meeting in August. I ask any member who has an issue involving the Bylaws of the Society or who has an opinion on the issues stated above to please contact me or another member of the Committee. We appreciate your input regarding the rules that govern our Society. ■

—James G. Berardinelli, Chair
Bylaws Committee



John J. Eppig, Ph.D., President-Elect, has been elected to serve on the Board of Directors for a one-year term, to be followed by one year as President, and one year as Past-President. Currently, John is a Senior Staff Scientist, Jackson Laboratory, Bar Harbor, Maine (jje@jax.org).



Joy L. Pate, Ph.D., Secretary, has been elected to serve on the Board for a three-year term. Currently, Joy is a Professor, Department of Animal Sciences, Ohio State University (pate.1@osu.edu).



Harold R. Behrman, Ph.D., Director, has been elected to the Board for a 3-year term. Currently, Hal is Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Pharmacology, and Director, Section of Reproductive Biology, Yale University (harold.behrman@yale.edu).



Douglas L. Foster, Ph.D., Director, has been elected to serve on the Board for 3 years. Currently, Doug is Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Professor of Biology, and Research Scientist, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (dlfoster@umich.edu), where he also serves as Director, NIH Training Program in Reproductive Endocrinology, and Associate Director, Reproductive Sciences Program.

Award winners, travel fellows, and trainee finalists announced

The SSR Awards Committee is pleased to announce the recipients of the three major awards recognized by the Society. We thank all of the nominators and those who provided letters of support. The pool of candidates was of such high caliber that our decisions were indeed difficult. The awards will be presented at the Annual Meeting in College Station, Texas. This year's winners are:

Carl G. Hartman Award

(sponsored by R.W. Johnson Research Institute)

Anita Payne, Stanford University

SSR Distinguished Service Award

(sponsored by Serono Laboratories, Inc.)

John Resko, Oregon Health Sciences University

SSR Research Award

(sponsored by Society for the Study of Reproduction, Inc.)

Geula Gibori, University of Illinois

A generous grant from the Burroughs Wellcome Fund was received by the SSR to support travel fellowships for 20 postdoctoral trainees to attend the Annual Meeting. The fellowships were awarded competitively based on the merits of an expanded abstract submitted for presentation. There were 27 abstracts submitted for this competition. Recipients of the 1998 Burroughs Wellcome Fund Travel Fellowships are:

Greg M. Anderson, West Virginia University
Patrick Blondin, North Carolina State University
Aida M. Cancel, University of North Carolina
Mary Jo Carabatsos, Tufts University
Charles L. Chaffin, Oregon Regional
Primate Research Center
Lisa A. Eccles, Eastern Virginia Medical School
Saryu Goel, University of Michigan
Jonathon Green, University of Missouri
Michelle Lane, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Chandra P. Leo, Stanford University
J. Suzanne Lindsey, Oregon Regional
Primate Research Center
Ming-Jae Lo, National Yang-Ming
University, Taiwan
Derek J. McLean, Northwestern University
Shoji Nagatani, University of Michigan
Gulnar A. Surveyor, Ohio State University
Shiow-chwen Tsai, National Yang-Ming
University, Taiwan
Ursula A. Vitt, German Primate Center, Germany

Christine R. West, University of Michigan
Brett R. White, Colorado State University
Deanne J. Whitworth, University of Texas

The Awards Committee also received 33 extended abstracts for the Trainee Research Award competition (formerly the Young Investigator Award). Each finalist will make an oral presentation in a relevant scientific session at the Annual Meeting. The six finalists for the 1998 Trainee Research Award are:

Faye A. Bradbury, University of Michigan
Charles L. Chaffin, Oregon Regional
Primate Research Center
Sister Telchilde Hinckley, University of
Connecticut
Dale A. Porter, Cornell University
Cheryl S. Rosenfeld, University of Missouri
Brett R. White, Colorado State University

We hope you will attend each of the awards ceremonies preceding the President's Symposium and the State-of-the-Art lectures; check your meeting program for details. Judging by the high quality of the abstracts submitted by the trainees, this year's Annual Meeting will include many excellent scientific sessions. We urge you to attend the trainees' presentations to get a glimpse of the future generation that will maintain SSR as one of the premier scientific societies worldwide. ■

—Mary Zelinski-Wooten, Chair
SSR Awards Committee

Opportunities for Minorities in the SSR

The Minority Affairs Committee
invites you to attend a panel discussion
at the Annual Meeting on
Networking in the Society

*Sunday, August 9
12:15–1:15 pm
Room 707 Rudder Tower*

◆ Please bring your own lunch ◆

If you have questions or would like to participate on the panel, contact Barbara Durrant at 619-557-3947 or bdurrant@ucsd.edu.

Committee announces care guide changes

The Animal Care and Use Committee's recent recommendations were accepted with one amendment by the Board at its midwinter meeting. Recommendations were to 1) reference the FASFAS (now FASS) *Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals* and NRC's *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* instead of the currently referenced New York Academy of Sciences guide, 2) change the manuscript submission form to reflect the preceding changes and require a signed affirmation by the investigator of adherence to these or similar guidelines, and 3) plan for educational activities at the SSR meetings involving animal care and use. The amendment related to the Board's desire that animal care topics be addressed by the Committee without affecting the annual SSR program, which is focused on reproduction. The Trainee Committee was suggested as a potential vehicle for organizing educational events on animal care and use. The consensus appears to be that a minisymposium or other related event during the regular part of the meeting is not a widely shared desire. Hence, we will be interacting with the Trainee Committee this summer to determine how and when such educational programs might be implemented.

Links to relevant sites have been established under the Animal Care and Use Committee heading on the SSR Web site (<<http://www.ssr.org>>).

News and Commentary

- The Foundation for Biomedical Research has released a report, entitled *Bleeding Hearts, Broken Promises*, that reveals glaring contradictions of individual Hollywood stars who advocate on behalf of disease research while at the same time supporting animal rights groups. An article also appeared in *USA Today* about the Foundation's report. "Stars" profiled in the report include Alec Baldwin, Kim Basinger, Sandra Bernhard, Jennie Garth, and Bill Maher. (For a copy, contact FBR's Andy Shea at 202-296-0263)

- Ingrid Newkirk and PETA have been at it again with undercover videotaping and recording, as well as illegally copying approximately 8,000 documents, at Huntingdon Biosciences in New Jersey. However, the plan backfired, as the company sued PETA under the Racketeering Influenced Corrupt Organization Act. The case was settled out of court, with both sides claiming victory. Evidence indicates no wrongdoing by the company. Huntingdon president Alan Staple

has urged other companies to fight PETA's reckless activities in the courtroom. (For a copy of the *New York Times* report, contact Andy Shea at FBR.)

- USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has placed summaries of APHIS animal welfare inspection reports on the Web. Inspection listings can be accessed at <<http://foia.aphis.usda.gov/>>. Any discrepancies found regarding one's own inspection records can be corrected by contacting your APHIS regional office.

- The FDA has approved a product derived from cows' blood developed by Biopure Corp. as a blood replacement for use in dogs. The product reached the market in February 1998. A blood substitute for humans is currently being tested in the U.S. and Europe.

- Class B dog and cat dealer compliance with APHIS regulations is currently at 95% in the U.S. ■

—Gary Williams, Chair
Animal Care and Use Committee

Plans emerge for SSR support

The Development and Endowment Committee has been working on a systematic plan to initiate a continuous campaign for future annual giving to SSR. The strategy is to develop the endowment and to encourage support for the Annual Meeting from corporations and businesses. The plan is to employ a development officer to design a program for a successful campaign. In the past, such efforts depended on goodwill between people in corporations and members of SSR, and on SSR members who give generously each year to the endowment. An SSR development officer would be our contact person for receiving annual gifts from the membership. In addition the person in this post would compile a mailing list of corporations and businesses with ties to reproductive sciences. These establishments would receive quarterly updates on SSR activities and eventually an annual solicitation. The updates would make the corporate contact person aware of SSR and encourage companies to incorporate a gift to SSR in their annual budgets. This venture will establish the financial foundation for the continuance of SSR and its goals. ■

—Gordon MacDonald, Chair
Development and Endowment Committee

Independent counsel targets Trainee Affairs

Inside sources close to the investigation have leaked plans of an alleged social gathering for trainees at the upcoming Annual Meeting. The outgoing trainee representative purportedly will introduce his replacement (Charles Chaffin of the Oregon Regional Primate Research Center) at that event. The independent counsel promises to produce some incriminating evidence of serious fun at the outset of the Annual Meeting.

In related news, T-shirt sales are expected to skyrocket to an all-time high despite a minor correction in the Dow. All the wrinkles have been ironed out of a new and improved design, making this year's T-shirt a must-have to impress all your friends. Trainees should enjoy a healthy return on their investment in the form of travel expense reimbursement (but only if you submit your travel request to Peggy Petroff by June 15! Thanks Peggy!). In Texas, it is always a bull market, so Buy! Buy! Buy!!

For the concerned trainee, mentors have been advised not to wear wires to the Trainee-Mentor Lunch on Monday, August 10. Although this limits the likelihood of a big book deal, it should ensure casual conversation on numerous topics. Everyone is encouraged to attend the gourmet meal to chat with the mentor of your choice. The Trainee Affairs Committee thanks Oladele Gazal for assistance (without threat of indictment) in lining up the participating mentors, as well as the mentors themselves.

Lunch on Sunday, August 9, also promises to be an intellectually stimulating time as Beth Armstrong will speak at the Trainee Symposium. Dr. Armstrong, the Conservation Director at the Columbus Zoo, has been instrumental in establishing the Zoos Committing to Conservation movement. She will discuss the importance of in situ conservation efforts as well as holistic approaches to captive husbandry of endangered species. If you miss this talk, your uncle might go bananas!

To top it all off, Boot-scootin! ■

—Craig Morrey, Chair
Trainee Affairs Committee

Techniques Workshop

The Education Committee would like to remind SSR members of the upcoming SSR Techniques Workshop to be held in association with the SSR Annual Meeting at Texas A&M University. This year's workshop will deal with *Genetic Manipulation for the Study of Reproductive Function*. Three speakers at the workshop will address topics that include practical considerations and expectations for the use of transgenics/knockouts to assess gene function, use of green fluorescent protein as a marker for gene expression, and the use of ribozymes as an alternative methodology to inhibit gene expression/mRNA function.

Dr. Martin M. Matsuk (Baylor College of Medicine) is well known for his work with transgenic mice produced via gene targeted embryonic stem cells to study the roles of inhibins, activins, activin binding proteins, and activin receptors in both the hypothalamic-pituitary-gonadal axis and mammalian development. He will address some practical considerations and expectations for researchers contemplating the use of this approach to study reproductive development and function.

Dr. David W. Piston (Vanderbilt University School of Medicine) is widely known for his work in the area of application of green fluorescent protein (GFP) as a marker for gene expression and function. His laboratory has investigated and characterized variants of GFP for use as markers for quantification of protein secretion in pancreatic beta-cells and other cultured cell types. In addition he and his coworkers have used GFP-fusion proteins for studies localizing gene transcription in living cell nuclei and for fate mapping of cell lineages in sea urchin embryos. Dr. Piston, who also participates as a guest instructor at the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratories will address the use GFP-based techniques for assessing gene expression and protein function.

Dr. Arnold Hampel (Northern Illinois University) and members of his laboratory have published numerous papers detailing the identification and characterization of hairpin ribozymes, a type of catalytic RNA molecule that can be engineered to cleave highly specific mRNAs. Ribozymes have been used to inhibit the expression of specific genes both in vitro and in vivo and are currently being developed as therapeutic agents for eliminating in vivo viral (HIV) replication. Dr. Hampel will address the use of various types of

ribozymes as tools for researchers interested in an alternative method to inhibit gene/mRNA expression.

We look forward to an exciting workshop and encourage you to participate. The Techniques Workshop is scheduled for Saturday, August 8, from 9 am to 12:30 pm. Individuals registering for the workshop will receive a copy of the proceedings as well as lunch immediately following the workshop. The luncheon provides a great opportunity to visit with the speakers on a one-on-one basis in a more relaxed atmosphere. Registration details for the workshop are included in the SSR Annual Meeting information packet. ■

—Char Farin, Chair
Education Committee

Enhancing opportunities for minorities

The Minority Affairs Committee will again host a visit by high school students to the Annual Meeting. Members who have volunteered to be hosts will escort students to the Monday morning poster session and spend some time with them discussing careers in reproductive biology. Anthony Archibong (archib26@ccvax.mmc.edu) is in charge of this activity.

The committee will also host a brown bag lunch on networking in the Society (please see the announcement on page 4 of this issue). Several SSR officers and committee chairs have agreed to take part in an informal panel discussion on how to get appointed to committees, become a session chair, and meet potential mentors. We hope this session will also serve to introduce minority trainees and members to SSR officers and committee chairs. Barbara Durrant (bdurrant@ucsd.edu) is planning this session.

The members of the Minority Affairs Committee would like to help people make connections within the Society. Society members who know trainees and junior faculty who are members of an underrepresented minority are invited to introduce these people to members of the committee and to encourage them to join the SSR if they have not already done so. ■

—Susan S. Suarez, Chair
Minority Affairs Committee

LINES

(Composed at 35,000 feet above the Midwest on returning from a CMA meeting, July 27, 1994.)

We are said to be drowning in a sea of estrogen.

Let's thank the goddess for this estrogen!

Because of it we are here

*The eggs from which we came were ovulated
in response to a surge of estrogen*

*The sperm that fertilized that egg was deposited
during estrogen-controlled behavior*

*The fertilized egg was pushed through the oviduct
by estrogen-controlled movements*

*The zygote implanted in an endometrium that
developed under the impact of estrogen and
progesterone*

*The pregnancy continued in a uterus that functioned
under the influence of estrogen and
progesterone*

*The fetus was expelled by estrogen-stimulated
uterine contractions after the cessation of the
progesterone block*

*The infant was nurtured by milk from a breast
that developed in response to estrogen*

*The female children became women under the
influence of estrogen*

And the whole cycle started over again!

*As the woman ages the endogenous estrogen is
supplanted by exogenous estrogen that*

Helps to keep her on an even emotional keel

Suppresses hot flashes

Permits normal sleep patterns

Prevents osteoporotic fractures

Protects against cardiovascular accidents

In short—VIVE L'ESTROGEN!

—Dick Edgren, Ph.D.

Committee outlines financial plans for SSR

The ad hoc Finance Committee met in November 1997 to develop recommendations concerning the financial health of the SSR. Our recommendations and the actions of the Board of Directors at the midwinter meeting are presented below.

We asked whether our revenues cover the expenses of our three major cost centers—**membership services, Annual Meeting, and publication of *Biology of Reproduction***—and whether they are sufficient to cover anticipated costs of taking *BOR* online (see the Publication Committee's report in this issue).

Brief background: *SSR operating revenues* derive from *annual dues* paid by members, *registration fees* paid by attendees of the Annual Meeting, *subscriptions* paid by libraries, and *page and reprint charges* paid by authors. In addition, certain aspects of the Annual Meeting may be supported by grants and gifts from companies and individuals. Also, variable income from our general investment account can help cover operating expenses. (In contrast, Endowment Fund income is not used for operating expenses but is reinvested until the total fund can provide sufficient interest income to support a specified activity.)

Current expenses exceed revenues: A helpful way to understand how these revenues are dispersed is to consider that a portion of your annual membership dues goes to cover general operating expenses of SSR (e.g., the Business Office, membership services, insurance, Board expenses) and the rest pays for your "subscription" to *BOR*. In theory, subscriptions (personal and library), and page and reprint charges, should cover production of *BOR*, while registration fees and grants should cover the costs of the Annual Meeting. However, when administrative expenses are included, all our cost centers are operating in the red. In the past few years, we have used *investment income* to partially offset these deficits.

Expenses are going up: Start-up and ongoing costs for electronic publishing need to be factored into our financial plan. Also, to meet an increasing demand, the format of *BOR* was changed to fit significantly more text per page, and the Board authorized publication of more pages. **This means that subscribers (you) are getting more articles for the same fee and paying less per page in page charges.** We all look forward to accessing *BOR* online, and it's easy to forget that it costs money to establish and maintain a Web site and to put text and figures online. Eventually we expect the costs of producing hard copy to be offset, at least in part, by some subscriptions being

electronic only. But for the near term, with the need to produce both hard and soft copies, the costs of publishing *BOR* will be higher.

1. Should we increase dues? The Board is sensitive to the need for keeping dues reasonable. We want members to feel that they are getting a "good deal," and we want to attract new regular and trainee members. Accordingly, the Board deferred a decision on 1999 dues until this summer, to give you a chance to offer feedback and to evaluate the actual costs and savings of going online. Our recent dues history indicates that regular members who met the early payment deadline paid \$65 in 1995, \$68 in 1996, \$80 in 1997, and \$90 in 1998. For comparison, American Society of Andrology dues are \$100.

2. Increase page charges. The board voted to *increase member page charges from \$50 to \$60*, effective with the next volume. **Nonmember** page charges will increase from \$75 to \$100 (which, we hope, will induce authors to join SSR). Page charges have stayed the same for many years, while the amount of text per page has increased. Thus, page charges have not kept pace with actual costs, and this is really an overdue adjustment.

3. Increase library subscriptions. The board voted *an increase from \$175 to \$250*, which will include electronic access as well as hard copy (which saves libraries money). For comparison, the *Journal of Andrology* library rate is \$256 for six issues per year.

4. Increase charges for reprints. A review showed that reprint charges are low relative to those of similar journals and have not increased since 1989. Accordingly, *reprint charges will increase 25%* (100 copies of a 10-page article will go from \$87 to \$109).

5. Use investment income to cover the start-up costs for *BOR* online. Our investments have grown substantially in recent years, with interest and dividends reinvested. Since we have sufficient contingency funds on hand, investment income is available *to help offset operating deficits* and also *to invest in new projects that will enhance the strength of SSR in the future, such as putting *BOR* online*. Therefore, the start-up costs will be paid up-front from our investments and not passed on to the membership. Continuing costs will be factored into future budgets.

We welcome your feedback on these issues, now or at the Annual Meeting. ■

—Sally Perreault Darney, Treasurer
Chair, Finance Committee



IFFS '98



16TH WORLD CONGRESS ON FERTILITY AND STERILITY
 held conjointly with the
54th Annual Meeting of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine
 San Francisco, California, USA • October 4-9, 1998

SPECIAL FEATURES

- ASRM Postgraduate Courses
- Opening Ceremony, Reception, Cultural Event
- Over 70 Invited Speakers
- Seven Key Note Lectures
- Prize Papers
- Gala Banquet
- Closing Ceremony
- Industry Supported Symposia

This program will bring together experts from around the world to address current topics related to human reproduction. The meeting will offer lectures, seminars, workshops, symposia, abstract and poster presentations, and videos. Selected presentations will feature simultaneous key word translation.

For registration information, contact:
 American Society for Reproductive Medicine
 1209 Montgomery Highway, Birmingham, Alabama 35216-2809
 TEL (205)978-5000 • FAX (205)978-5005
 asrm@asrm.com • www.asrm.com

New Members

Regular

Daniel Bousquet
 Manuel Carrillo Estevez
 Silvia Cerolini
 Francois Cuzin
 Marcelo de las Heras
 Jean Djiane
 Joel R. Drevet
 Raina N. Fichorova
 Catherine Finaz
 Kate Hardy
 Hong-Yuan Huang
 Graciela Jahn
 Seiji Kamiya
 Sabine Koelle
 Mala Mahendroo
 Mohan Manikkam
 Steven Meredith
 Geralyn Messerlian
 A. Moens
 Alicia B. Motta
 Yoshinobu Nakanishi
 Enrico Panfili
 Neelakanta Ravindranath
 Martin Ronis
 Lena Sahlin
 M. M. Singh
 Yoshiyuki Takahashi
 Dagmar Waberski

Anne A. Wiley
 Barry L. Williams
 Guang-Quan Zhao

Trainee

Jon E. Anderson
 Futoshi Arakane
 Karen Bozak Jelks
 Connie Chamberlain
 Ana Cristina Clarkson Gaspar
 Debora J. Cohen
 Alice A. S. de Moraes
 Wynne Aubin DiGrassie
 Lisa Dufresne
 Christoph Gabler
 Carrie Golash
 C. Allison Gray
 William D. Hazlett
 Jason Herrick
 Margaret Hillier
 Jennifer Kaldor
 Laurie Kim
 Melissa L. McCormick
 Shannon M. McCourt
 Bradley Moe
 Bryan D. Reinert
 Karina F. Rodriguez
 Becky L. Sartini
 Jennifer Snyder O'Neil

Hugh Taylor
 Jiangen Tong
 Hong Wang
 Christine R. West
 Shan C. Wilkinson
 Jennifer Williams

Associate

Nira N. Desa
 Marciane Maia
 Masato Mikuni
 Steven D. Rost

Change of status

Carlos F. Arechiga
 Regular
 Viktor Y. Butnev
 Regular
 Jeffrey W. Clemens
 Regular
 Serdar Coskun
 Regular
 Alyce Ann DeMarais
 Regular
 Ina Dobrinski
 Regular
 Douglas C. Eckery
 Regular

Margaret M. Hinshelwood
 Regular
 Mesut Muyan
 Regular
 Yasuhiko Nakamura
 Regular
 Warren Ben Nothnick
 Regular
 William A. Reed
 Regular
 John H. Richburg
 Regular
 Gary D. Smith
 Regular
 George W. Smith
 Regular
 Halina M. Zaleski
 Regular

Emeritus

C. Wayne Bardin
 Donald J. Dierschke
 A. Ainsworth Hagen
 Raphael Jewelewicz
 John B. Josimovich
 Nicholas Ling
 R. F. Seamark
 B. Dianne Smith

Committee outlines ASRM, FASEB affiliation

The Public Affairs Committee has been exploring ways to enhance the SSR's public affairs efforts. A small society such as ours cannot afford to hire its own public affairs staff; rather, it makes sense to combine our advocacy efforts with groups having similar interests. We have looked at informal partnership with the American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM, formerly the Fertility Society) and formal membership in the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB).

Partnership with ASRM

Last year, the ASRM expressed an interest in working with the SSR to promote research in reproductive biology. After discussions with Sean Tipton, ASRM's Public Affairs Director, we agreed to do so. Over the last few months, Sean has been apprising us of issues of mutual interest and offering helpful advice on public affairs strategies. We look forward to working closely with the ASRM in the future.

Joining FASEB

Founded in 1912, FASEB is the largest organization of life scientists in the U.S., representing 14 biomedical research societies with a combined membership of over 52,000. Its mission includes providing a means for coalition activities among the societies, particularly the effective representation of the interests and concerns of investigators in the life and biomedical sciences. FASEB issues statements on such important issues as federal research funding levels and policies, research integrity, graduate education, animal research, peer review, indirect costs, the regulatory burden, and human cloning. FASEB's public affairs activities are guided by representatives from each of the FASEB Member societies (including Associate Members). Associate Member societies have a representative on both the Public Affairs Advisory Committee and the Public Affairs Executive Committee. While Associate Members may not vote, they participate fully in the activities of the committees, including bringing matters before the committees for discussion. Over the last few years FASEB has led the fight for increased funding for biomedical research. Representatives of FASEB's Member societies annually review the progress and opportunities in biomedical research and make recommendations for support of this research by federal agencies in the next fiscal year. The success of that

effort is reflected in the healthy increases in NIH funding in each of the last 3 years and the pending proposals to further increase NIH funding by 50% to 100% over the next 5 years (see below).

FASEB recently created the Associate Member category for societies with fewer than 2,000 members; the Associate Membership fee is a flat \$5,000 per year. The only other restriction to membership is that no more than 50% of a society's members can already be members of FASEB through other societies; a review of our membership list by FASEB's staff showed just 7% overlap. The \$5,000 fee is a bargain when one considers the many benefits and increased exposure FASEB membership will bring, and the fact that the actual cost of FASEB's public affairs activities is over \$20 per member (against the approximately \$3 per member that we will pay in dues).

In summary, the advantages to the SSR of joining FASEB include:

- ◆ A stronger voice for the SSR in funding and science policy debates
- ◆ Increased visibility of the SSR to other scientists and science policy-makers
- ◆ Accurate, timely information on public affairs issues

For these reasons, the Public Affairs Committee recommended to the Board of Directors that the SSR apply for Associate Membership in FASEB. This proposal, presented to the Board by President Stormshak, received enthusiastic support. Dr. Stormshak subsequently requested membership for the SSR in a letter to FASEB Executive Director Michael Jackson. The FASEB Board has accepted the SSR's application.

Funding Results and Outlook

Biomedical research enjoyed unprecedented success on the funding front for FY98. The increases in funding for the NIH and NSF were 7.15% and 5%, respectively. Dr. Stormshak sent letters to Representative John Porter and Senator Arlen Specter (Chairmen of the Labor, HHS and Related Agencies Subcommittees in the House and Senate, respectively) expressing the appreciation of SSR members for their leadership in increasing funding for biomedical research. More important, there seems to be a broad-based consensus in Congress, now supported for the first time by the executive branch, that funding for the NIH should be increased from 50% to 100% over the next 5 years. For

FY99, the Administration proposes a \$1.15 billion increase (8.4%) for the NIH (to \$14.8 billion). The Administration further says that this proposal is part of a plan to increase the NIH budget to \$20 billion by FY03. The proposed 1999 funding level would enable one-third of approved grants to be funded. We recently added our endorsement to the proposal of the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research Funding that calls for a 15% increase in NIH funding for FY99. More information about the Ad Hoc Group's efforts can be found at <adhoc@aamc.org>. **SSR members are strongly urged to contact their own representatives in Congress to ask them to support the 15% increase in NIH funding for FY99.**

One other issue of importance to SSR members was the proposal to eliminate the tax exemption for tuition waivers for graduate students. Fortunately, this amendment to the tax bill was dropped during conference, due largely to strong opposition from the scientific community.

Human Cloning Ban

The announcement last winter by Richard Seed (not an SSR member) that he would attempt to clone humans led to efforts in Congress to ban or limit cloning research. The SSR had already announced its support for a voluntary human cloning moratorium that was developed by the Society for Developmental Biology (SDB). Despite this, various bills were introduced limiting research on cloning. This led to a concerted effort, headed by Roger Pedersen of the SDB and Sean Tipton of the ASRM, to prevent the passage of legislation that would restrict legitimate cloning research. Dr. Stormshak added the support of the SSR to several letters opposing such legislation. The effort was successful when a bill limiting cloning research failed to win the 60 votes needed to cut off debate. ■

—Robert D. Koos, Chair
Public Affairs Committee

BOR launches online version on July 24

The Publications Committee is in the final phases of its search for successors to Gordon Niswender and Terry Nett, whose terms as Editor-in-Chief and Associate Editor of *Biological Reproduction* end in June 1999. The Committee plans to make its recommendations to the Board of Directors in May, and the new editorial office will be announced at the Annual Meeting.

The Board of Directors has acted on the recommendation of the Publications Committee to award the online publication of *BOR* to HighWire Press, the Internet Imprint of the Stanford University Libraries. The planned launch date is July 24, 1998, with the July (Vol. 59, No. 1) and August (Vol., 59 No. 2) issues. The site will be fully operational and featured at the Annual Meeting in August. Access to the electronic version of *BOR* will be open for a period of 6 months from the launch date. After that, members will have subscription options for electronic and/or paper versions. SSR members are encouraged to access the HighWire Press URL (<http://highwire.stanford.edu/>) to examine the journal offerings affiliated with HighWire. The Web address assigned to *BOR* online is <<http://www.biolreprod.org/>>.

The Committee selected HighWire Press for *BOR* online after reviewing bids from several online journal providers. HighWire provides an impressive

array of services, state-of-the-art technology, and considerable experience in electronic production of top-tier journals (including several of the top ten journals cited in *BOR*, such as *JBC*, *PNAS*, *Science*, and *Cell*). *BOR* online will broaden emphasis on attracting the best papers in the field as well as enhance citation frequency, impact factor, and citation half-life (HighWire online journals already enjoy the highest citation record in the life sciences). Subscribers to *BOR* online will be able to have full text access to related and/or cited articles in the HighWire family of journals. Similarly, subscribers to other HighWire journals will have full text access to related and/or cited articles in *BOR* online. The effect of this reciprocal access will be to enhance awareness of *BOR* and to increase citation frequency and impact factor. You will also be able to set up your own customized alert strategies to inform you about papers related to a specific topic or when a specific article is cited.

The Committee acknowledges the hard work of Judy Jansen, Executive Secretary of SSR and Managing Editor of *BOR*, in preparing the request for proposals, assisting in the review of bids, and participating in visits to vendors. ■

—Bob Burghardt, Chair
Publications Committee

Report from the President-Elect

At the midwinter meeting the Board approved assignments to the SSR committees and the appointment of committee chairs for the 1998–99 term. The list below includes the chairs of the committees and the members of the 1999 Program Committee for the Annual Meeting at Washington State University in Pullman, Washington, July 31 to August 3. I have some familiarity with this site and predict that it will be an outstanding meeting. The Program Chair for this meeting is Richard Schultz from the University of Pennsylvania. Anyone who knows Richard and his enthusiasm for science will be assured of an excellent scientific program. The 1999 meeting is in the planning phase, so please feel free to contact Richard or any of the members of the Program Committee with suggestions.

1998–99 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Animal Care (standing)	Alan Conley CA
Awards (standing)	Margaret A. Shupnik VA
Bylaws (standing)	Matt Hardy NY
Development and Endowment (ad hoc)	Gordon Macdonald
Education (standing)	Dale B. Hales IL
Future Meeting Sites (ad hoc)	Beverly Chilton TX
Local Arrangements (ad hoc)	Michael Skinner WA
Membership (standing)	Michael Fields FL
Minority Affairs (standing)	Anthony Archibong TN
Nominating (ad hoc)	Judy Luborsky IL
Outreach (ad hoc)	J. J. Ford NE
Public Affairs (standing)	Robert Koos MD
Publications (standing)	Robert Burghardt TX
Program (standing)	Richard Schultz, Chair PA
	Deborah O'Brien NC
	Eli Adashi UT
	V. Padmanabhan MI
	John Eppig ME
	Ken Roberts MN
	Erwin Goldberg IL
	Steven Sylvester WA
	Deb Hamernik DC
	Richard Tasca MD
	Mary Hunzicker-Dunn IL
	Jacquetta Trasler CAN
	Robin King-Shedlauskas TN
	Ken Tung VA
	Dolores Lamb TX
	Lynn Wiley CA
	Kelly Mayo IL
	Don Wolf OR
	Diana Myles CA
	Ryuzo Yanagimachi HI

—Michael Griswold

Membership report

The Membership Committee notes that SSR membership is relatively stable and has been since 1993. Though pleased that the Society is not losing large numbers of members, we believe that SSR should be growing. The reason for the lack of growth in a society with quality programs and a stellar journal, *Biology of Reproduction*, is not clear. A review of data from the last 8 years indicates that this trend may reflect increased competition for employment and declining funding. However, Congress and the President have shown renewed interest in funding science, and the Society is in a strong position to capitalize on the resulting increase in research activity. Remember, the most successful recruiting activity is the nomination of new members by active SSR members.

Emeritus membership increased 9% this past year, most likely due to an increase in the number of investigators retiring from research. Emeritus members do not pay annual dues or registration fees for the Annual Meeting, but they continue to receive the SSR newsletter, retain voting privileges, and may receive *BOR* for a nominal fee. The Society values the wisdom of its senior members, so please encourage your retiring colleagues to continue to participate in the Society as emeritus members.

A recruiting approach instituted at the 1997 Annual Meeting offered trainees immediate membership with dues waived for the remainder of the year. In addition, they were made aware of annual dues for trainee members of only \$34. Trainees do not receive *BOR* but do get all mailings and a discounted registration fee at the Annual Meeting. The Society places a great deal of emphasis on including our young people at the Annual Meeting, but of the 425 students attending the 1997 meeting, only 196 were members (total attendance: 1,028). The Society has 430 trainee members, but too many active students are not members. Make sure your students join SSR; they will appreciate being included at this early point in their career.

This year the committee was expanded to include a broader range of disciplines and to increase members outside North America. In 1997 the SSR had 668 foreign members, 31.4% of the total membership. ■

—Michael Fields, Chair
Membership Committee

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