



SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF REPRODUCTION Newsletter

Volume 17, Number 2

June 2000

From the President—

Just the FAQs

What follows are answers to some frequently asked questions about what's happening at the SSR. Actually, no one has really asked any questions, but if they had, these would be the answers. Maybe you can think of the questions.

- Yes, 2000 has been designated as the Year of the Student! The Board and the Membership Committee felt that it was time to honor our trainees, who are the future of reproductive sciences and the SSR, and who will be nice to us in our dotage. Please encourage your trainees to become members (and under no circumstances reveal your philosophy that nothing is impossible for the mentor who doesn't have to do it him/herself).

- You guessed it! The Annual Meeting will be outstanding. Besides having ready access to the best cheese and bratwurst in the country, you will be able to attend a wide variety of lectures, posters, exhibits, parties, and so on. The Program Committee has done a terrific job to ensure that every day there will be something exciting and informative for everyone interested in reproductive biology.

- Yes.

- Yes, it is true that the Center for Scientific Review (CSR) at NIH is undergoing some changes. Of particular concern is the reorganization of the Initial Review Groups (IRGs). Barbara Sanborn and I recently visited with Dr. Ellie Ehrenfeld, director of the CSR, and advocated grouping reproductive biology in a newly proposed IRG with developmental biology and aging rather than the planned grouping with endocrinology and metabolism.

- The mechanism for selecting papers for platform presentation at the Annual Meeting is still evolving. With so many outstanding abstracts submitted each year, our capacity for platform sessions falls far short of the number of investigators wishing to present their work as a slide presentation. Sessions this year were

organized with cohesive themes when possible. Thus many great papers were not selected for platform presentation simply because they did not fit the chosen theme. Comments and suggestions for the future can be directed to me, Mary Ann Handel (2000 Program Chair), President-Elect Barbara Sanborn, or Mitch Eddy (2001 Program Chair).

- Yes, it's true, some folks have to give their papers on the last day. In fact, many excellent papers will be presented on Tuesday morning. The meeting will end at midday this year, allowing everyone to stay until all is completed and still get home to begin their recovery (or get back into the lab) Tuesday night.

- The SSR is in discussion with some other reproductive biology-oriented societies to establish affiliate memberships. This would allow you, as a full SSR member, to become an affiliate member of another society at low cost and have access to its journals, newsletters, and annual meetings (at member cost); we will be offering the same opportunities to full members of our affiliate societies. Other ideas are under development to foster cross-pollination between societies. I hope to have some more concrete details on this program soon.

- *Biology of Reproduction* continues to be the top-ranked journal in our field. Dr. Mahesh and the Editorial Office have done a great job to sustain this position. Much credit must also go to all the reviewers who let only the best papers through the gate. Some new instructions to authors and submission protocols are in the works to further streamline review and facilitate submission.

- No, he IS still sane, but just barely.

Finally, I thank all those who have served on the SSR committees this year. Your dedication makes our endeavors successful. It has been an honor for me to serve with you. ■

—John J. Eppig

SSR election results

The new President-Elect of SSR is Geula Gibori. The membership of the Society also elected Bruce D. Murphy as Treasurer. Eli Y. Adashi and Robert C. Burghardt were chosen to serve three-year terms on the Board of Directors.



Bruce D. Murphy



Geula Gibori

This year 681 Society members submitted ballots.



Eli Y. Adashi



Robert C. Burghardt

In a separate election, the Society's trainee members chose Laura Clamon to represent them on the Board of Directors. ■

For complete and updated information about the Annual Meeting July 15-18 in Madison, Wisconsin, check the SSR Web site at

www.ssr.org

SSR 2000 in Madison July 15-18

The 33rd Annual Meeting of SSR in mid-July is one that no reproductive scientist will want to miss. The program is set and can be accessed on the SSR Web site (www.ssr.org). You will find 45 minisymposia speakers in some of the most exciting areas of reproductive biology. A number of enlightening and provocative scientists will be featured in State-of-the-Art Lectures, President's Symposium, and the keynote address. There are special sessions on minority affairs, teaching methodologies in reproductive biology (posters and multimedia presentations), and techniques in reproductive biology. As always, the most up-to-date research in reproduction will be featured in the more than 600 oral and poster presentations of original scientific research. There will also be time to discuss and reminisce with colleagues at numerous events throughout the meeting. The opening ceremony on the Memorial Union Terrace overlooking Lake Mendota will be familiar to many people who attended the memorable 1982 meeting. The Millennium Banquet is open to all, but there will also be a simultaneous trainee barbecue and mixer to promote establishment of relationships among our trainee scientists. A dance/mixer will occur after dinner at the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Monona Terrace. So come and help make reproductive history at SSR 2000! ■

*—Milo Wiltbank, Co-Chair
Local Arrangements Committee*

Sites chosen for future Annual Meetings

The Future Meeting Sites Committee has worked hard this year to recruit hosts for future SSR Annual Meetings. SSR will convene at the University of Ottawa in Ottawa, Ontario, in 2001. In 2002, the meeting will return to a hotel-convention center setting at the harborside in Baltimore. In 2003, we will meet in downtown Cincinnati. The Committee asks that you seriously consider hosting an Annual Meeting at your home institution or at a nearby commercial venue in your city. In exchange for a year of hard work, you will earn the gratitude of a Society that operates by and for the membership. Please contact me (phone 773-508-3285; e-mail dsuter@luc.edu) to discuss the possibility of hosting a meeting in the future. ■

*—Diane Suter, Chair
Future Meeting Sites Committee*

Awards to be presented at Annual Meeting

The Awards Committee is pleased to announce the recipients of awards to be presented at the Society's Annual Meeting, July 15–18, in Madison. Congratulations to all the winners.

Dr. Robert Foote, Cornell University, will receive the *Carl Hartman Award*, sponsored by R. W. Johnson Pharmaceutical Research Institute and given for a career of distinguished accomplishments in reproductive biology

Dr. Fuller Bazer, Texas A&M University, will be presented with the *Distinguished Service Award*, sponsored by Serono Laboratories and given for exceptional service and leadership in the field of reproductive biology

Dr. Norman Hecht, University of Pennsylvania, will be honored with the *SSR Research Award*, sponsored by the Society and given for outstanding research within the past six years.

USDA awards of \$300 go to ten trainees whose abstracts were most highly rated for research related to the goals of the National Research Initiative of the USDA: benefiting or enhancing our understanding of reproduction in agriculturally important species. These awards go to:

- ◆ Rocio Rivera, Univ. of Florida
- ◆ Satoshi Kurosaka, Kyoto Univ.
- ◆ Sean Limesand, Colorado State Univ.
- ◆ Greg Anderson, West Virginia Univ.
- ◆ Seung-Jun Yoo, Cornell Univ.
- ◆ Jim Pru, Univ. of Wyoming
- ◆ Heather Billings, Univ. of Michigan
- ◆ Andres Kowalski, Univ. of Florida
- ◆ Che-Lin Hu, Cornell Univ.
- ◆ G. M. Rivera, Cornell Univ.

Burroughs Wellcome Travel Fellowships of \$500 are awarded to ten postdoctoral fellows whose abstracts were most highly rated by the Awards Committee. Awardees are:

- ◆ Humphrey Hung-Chang Yao, Univ. of Illinois
- ◆ Rebecca Spindler, Conservation and Research Center, Virginia
- ◆ Jian Xu, Univ. of Kentucky Medical Center
- ◆ Dong Ryul Lee, Cornell Univ.
- ◆ Il-jeoung Yu, ACRES, New Orleans
- ◆ Michele Calder, Univ. of Western Ontario
- ◆ Greg Anderson, West Virginia Univ.

- ◆ Jacques Tremblay, Centre de recherche du CHUL, Québec, Canada
- ◆ Heather Billings, Univ. of Michigan
- ◆ Chao Wu Xiao, Ottawa, Canada

The *Trainee Research Competition* recognizes the best papers presented at the Annual Meeting. Finalists in the slide competition include:

- ◆ Regina Horvat, Colorado State Univ.
- ◆ Sean Limesand, Colorado State Univ.
- ◆ Greg Anderson, West Virginia Univ.
- ◆ Jim Pru, Univ. of Wyoming
- ◆ Andres Kowalski, Univ. of Florida
- ◆ Yifang Wang, Loeb Health Research Institute, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

Finalists in the poster competition include:

- ◆ Kelly Young, Johns Hopkins School of Public Health
- ◆ Satoshi Kurosaka, Kyoto Univ.
- ◆ Jacques Tremblay, Centre de recherche du CHUL, Québec, Canada
- ◆ Heather Billings, Univ. of Michigan
- ◆ Demet Nalbant, Texas Tech Univ.
- ◆ Tim McKinnon, Univ. of Western Ontario ■

Notes from the Treasurer

As the end of my three-year term as Treasurer of the SSR approaches, I want to assure you that the Society is in very sound financial condition. Details will be presented at the Business Meeting next month. We have a sizable reserve to cover emergencies and to generate investment income that augments our operating budget. We also have a growing endowment that generates funds to support a component of our Annual Meeting. Our partners in industry help support our Annual Meeting, as do several federal funding agencies and foundations. We are fortunate to have a highly professional Business Office committed to the development of our Society. But what really keeps us strong is our individual commitment to the SSR. From serving on the Board, I've come to appreciate more than ever that our biggest resource consists of the many dedicated members who give generously of their talents and time by serving on SSR committees, and by taking on the responsibilities of governing our Society and editing our journal. We are indeed in good hands! ■

—Sally Perreault

New Members

Emeritus

Thomas M Crisp
Darhl Foreman
Nicolas Gueritee
Frank Hertelendy
Gordon MacDonald
Y S Moon
John A Resko
Ernesto M Rigor
Neena B Schwartz

Associate

Karem Ahmed
Mohd Amin Beg
Frank Comhaire
Kathleen Donnelly
Won Ja Kim
Phyllis Leppert
Irina Polejaeva
Sangho Roh
John H Shin
Jung O Shin
Susan Taymans
Juan Pablo Valenzuela

Regular

Felice Arcuri
Don R Bergfelt
Ganapathy K Bhat
Josefa Blanco-Rodriguez
Ljubica Bogic
Raffaele Boni
Kermit L Carraway
Sandra Cecconi

Catherine L Coulter
Thomas D'Hooghe
Brian Dale
Steven D Fleming
Christa Hegele-Hartung
Kamin Johnson
Hiromichi Matsumoto
Takashi Minegishi
Kaoru Miyamoto
Robert J Norman
Michael A Palladino
Martine Perrot-Applanat
Suresh Ramaswamy
Hajime Sawada
Donal Colin Skinner
George M Stancel
Toshinobu Tanaka
Milan Tomanek
Simon Vassiliadis
A Wayne Vogl
Ji Wu
Xin Xu

Trainee

Amrita Ahluwalia
Jason Alan Bailey
Lisa C Barcroft
Ukadej Boonyaprakob
Christina Borgeest
Phillip Bridges
Ellen A Cannady
Mary Canty
Cindy Christian-Shirley
Beth Costine
Alexandra De Lille
Krishnan M Dhandapani

Laura Dixon
Kathrin Dunlap
Jane E Garlow
Ann Genchi
Sarah Guenther
Aydin Guzeloglu
Chandana Herath
Shizue Iwasaki
Marianne Janik
Misung Jo
Christopher S Keator
Dong Ryul Lee
Clay A Lents
Ari Mayer Mackler
Caroline Michelle Markey
Jody E Martin de Camilo
George C Matoy
Richard H Mills
Yoko Miyamoto
Dario Mizrachi
Helai Mohammad
Steffani Morris
Afia Naaz
Andrea Niklaus
Andrea Popoli
Jeremy Richard Miles
Gonzalo Martin Rivera
Nicole R Rutemiller
Travis Salisbury
Tomomi Sato
Noaman A Q Sharief
Yijiang Shi
Karin Sundfeldt
Jason E Swain
Melissa Szewczykowski
Alexander J Travis
Vicki Tsuda

Kelli Valdez
Dustin Vale-Cruz
Carrie K Vance
Baohui Wang
Frankie Joe White
Antony W Wood
Jian Xu
Peixin Yang
Stephanie Yankey
Seung-Jun Yoo
Xuelian Zhang
Daying Zhang

Change of status

To Associate:
Sarah J Bacon
Cinzia Casali
Margot Dode
Subhash C Juneja
Mary Ellen McAsey
Meredith S Rocca

To Regular:
Lokenga Badinga
Holly L Boettger-Tong
Jeffery A Bowen
Eric D Clegg
Oladele S Gazal
Jonathan R Hill
Mary Lynn Johnson
Jeff A Parrott
Budhan S Pukazhenth
Tim Rozell
Cynthia Ward
Michael Woller

Minority affairs news: Opportunities for all

America is the land of opportunity." When I was growing up in the Philippines, I heard those words spoken so many times from family friends, neighbors, cousins, aunts, and uncles who had "made it good" in America. Thus, when I had the chance to continue my graduate studies at the University of Hawaii, I was more than eager to take on the challenges of hard work and the requisite commitment to pursue the Ph.D. degree. I arrived in Honolulu in the fall of 1976 and quickly learned that in America, education is more than just learning from books and long hours in the library and at the lab bench. Success in education is achieved by learning from others, widening your horizons by delving into fields that do not necessarily encompass your own, adapting to rules that may seem "fluid" at times, and

getting the requisite mentoring from dedicated individuals.

Nobel laureate J. D. Watson once said, "To have success in science, you need some luck." I am certain that for the majority, this is the rule rather than the exception. I was lucky, indeed, that during my very first week at UH, I had a chance meeting with Dr. Fred Greenwood, a professor in my department, who became my valued mentor and remains so to this day. Fred and his equally supportive wife, Dr. Gillian Bryant-Greenwood, took me under their wings and provided me with endless support, opportunities, and confidence. With that kind of endorsement, I learned increasingly to believe in myself despite setbacks; it was almost impossible to dwell on failures since they unselfishly showed me that different paths can get you

to the desired goal. Through the years since, I can think of other mentors, most notably Dr. Anthony Means, then at the Baylor College of Medicine where I did my postdoctoral training, who continued my fellowship despite a three-month maternity leave after our (Frank Simmen's and mine) second daughter was born, and the late Dr. Gene Becker, who offered me my first faculty position at Ohio State University, although not quite understanding what I was working on, and countless collaborators and what they have done on my behalf.

These reminiscences have a point, and that is the importance of providing opportunities for others. These can take on many forms—sharing a crucial reagent or sample, critiquing a manuscript before submission for publication, giving suggestions for an additional experiment, nominating a younger person for that important talk, e-mailing information on grants and meeting announcements, and suggesting names of contact persons for networking, to name a few. The focus of the Minority Affairs Committee is to further opportunities for minority members. The talk by Dr. Adolphus Toliver, Chief, MARC Branch, National Institutes of Health, is an event at this summer's SSR Annual Meeting that will address the important subject of career development. Hopefully (and with your assistance), we can follow this up with some success in obtaining funding to provide fellowships to minority trainees and young faculty to attend the Society's Annual Meeting. Another goal is to expand this opportunity to undergraduate and high school students who may be interested in pursuing a career in the area of reproduction. The members of the Committee are here to represent you within the Society. Let us hear from you! ■

—*Rosalia C. M. Simmen, Chair*
Minority Affairs Committee
Simmen@animal.ufl.edu

Public affairs update

As is usual at this time of year, not much of real substance or concrete impact is happening on the federal funding front. Everyone's target for funding of the NIH this year is an increase of \$2.7 billion—the third installment on the three-year doubling initiative—but that figure will again probably not become fixed until very late in the fiscal year. Chairman John Porter of the House Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee has only \$1 billion more

penciled in for the NIH at this time, but there is little doubt that he will find a way to come up to the larger figure by year's end. Right now he is trying to work within his budget allocation. The reason for this approach may be illustrated by what has happened in the Senate, where the NIH champions took a different tack and included the full \$2.7 billion increase for the NIH in its first mark-up of the Labor-HHS bill. Unfortunately, they were short in meeting all of their programmatic demands by \$4 billion. This necessitated cuts in other programs for children and the elderly, which has raised the ire of other senators and a discussion of amendments to cut NIH programs. It is largely just political posturing at this point, however, and the NIH remains probably the most popular agency in the federal government for funding. In the end, it is likely that ways will be found to give a major increase to the NIH without cutting other social programs. How messy or easy this process is depends on upcoming surplus estimates. If the surpluses are larger than previously projected, which seems likely, the increases could come from that pool without affecting other programs. Stay tuned.

The VA-HUD appropriations bill, which includes funding for the NSF, has been scheduled for the end of the legislative process this year, so is even more uncertain than that for Labor-HHS at this time. As reported previously, the Administration proposed a record increase (+17.3%) for the NSF, and, as for the NIH, it is hoped that a large budget surplus will make this hefty boost a reality.

At its winter meeting, the SSR Board of Directors was briefed by Mike Stephens, outgoing FASEB congressional liaison, on what options a society like ours has to obtain professional public affairs representation in Washington, DC. (Mike left FASEB to join the staff of Rep. David Obey [D-WI], possibly the next chair of the House Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee.) These options are currently being explored. It is noteworthy that the Society for Gynecologic Investigation (SGI) was just granted associate membership in FASEB. Partnership with societies like the SGI, which have interests similar to ours, could be the way to go to fund a professional representative who could really help us to put our concerns and needs before members of Congress and the federal agencies that fund our research. ■

—*Bob Koos, Chair*
Public Affairs Committee

Program Committee report

You all read in the last newsletter about this year's great Annual Meeting program focusing on advances in many realms of reproductive biology at the beginning of the millennium. By now you have had a chance to check out the program in detail (if not, visit the SSR Web site at www.ssr.org), and many of you have already registered to attend. Here I would like to tell you about the efforts of the Program Committee in dealing with the many excellent abstracts submitted for the Annual Meeting.

We were overwhelmed by an abundance of riches in submitted abstracts, a situation that was a blessing and a curse. A blessing because it assures us of excellence and wide participation in our Society's annual knowledge feast. A curse because far more abstracts were submitted for slide presentation than could possibly be accommodated in a reasonable number of concurrent sessions, and almost more for posters than our space in Madison allows! The able members of the Program Committee and many more volunteers buckled down to the daunting task of making all this work within the time frame of the meeting. Platform sessions were organized along thematic lines to capitalize on what is new and fresh right now. Since many outstanding abstracts were not included in the platform sessions, we look forward to lively poster sessions allowing for free exchange of ideas.

I owe much gratitude to the Program Committee and other volunteers who gave generously of their time to review and assemble abstracts into sessions. Special thanks go to Judy Jansen, Carolyn Brown, and Melissa Clifton of the SSR Business Office, all of whom ably and efficiently coped with the onslaught of work and the inevitable glitches and last-minute changes.

Our experience this year has made it abundantly clear that SSR is growing in both numbers and scientific activity. Are we reaching the point where changes will have to be made in the format of our Annual Meeting (remember when we first introduced poster sessions)? This will be a task for the new Program Committee and its Chair. I encourage any of you who have suggestions to convey them either to me or to Mitch Eddy, the incoming Program Chair.

Thank you all for your enthusiastic participation in submitting so many excellent abstracts! ■

—Mary Ann Handel, Chair
Program Committee

HOW COME WE HAVE EGGS AND SPERM

*It happened, I know,
Far away, long ago,
That two identical gametes were mating.
In their mutual smother
One grumbled to the other -
"This way to diploidy's degrading!*

*"It's OK for Protista
But for us, it's a blister
On Dame Nature's enchanting fair features -
Sure, it'll make a hog o' me
But I adore anisogamy,
It's the only way up for us creatures!*

*"Quite true, I agree,
It means a lot of just me,
But that's only a matter of scale;
You slim down all the way
'Til you're just DNA -
And won't you look cute with a tail!*

*"With vitellogenous jelly
Filling most of my belly
And you nothing but genes with a tail,
We'll meet with a kiss,
Coalesce, and give bliss -
Full thanks for Dame Nature's travail!*

*"There'll be gonads, you know,
So that means cheerio!
'Til we meet once again in a spawning -
But what does that matter
In the clutter and clatter
Of BIODIVERSITY'S DAWNING!"*

—by Irv Rothchild

Reproductive research and social change: No idle threats

In his preface to *The Second Creation: Dolly and the Age of Biological Control* (J. Wilmut, K. Campbell, and C. Trudge; Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2000), Colin Tudge observed that “[i]f the concept of democracy means anything, then it should imply that people at large understand the forces at work that change society” (p. ix). Clearly, progress in reproductive science and technology constitutes one such force. Technologies born from research in reproductive biology during the last century—including gamete cryopreservation and artificial insemination, oral contraception, in vitro fertilization, embryo culture, transgenics, and cloning—have changed the world. The social, political, and economic impact of these developments has been profound, and the implications of recent advances in reproductive and molecular biology, embodied by Dolly and her ovine cohorts, challenge the imagination. From this perspective it is impossible to deny that science shapes society. The converse, of course, is also true.

Events of the past year, such as the mailings of razor blade-lined envelopes to primate researchers by animal liberation/animal rights movement (ALARM) activists, serve as startling reminders of the extreme tactics that some individuals and groups will adopt in their efforts to change policies and practices governing animal use. Frankie Trull, president of the Foundation for Biomedical Research, observed recently that membership in ALARM groups continues to grow. For example, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) jumped from around 60,000 members in 1985 to over 600,000 by 1998 (see www.fbresearch.org/press-fbispechnov99.html). A recent Animal Industry Foundation report (January 2000, vol. 13, issue 1) indicated that the combined budgets for 22 animal rights/protection groups for the 1998 tax year exceeded \$168 million dollars. Meg Turville-Heitz (*Scientific American*, February 2000; see www.sciam.com/2000/0200issue/0200techbus1.html) concluded that overt acts of violence aimed at both research facilities and individual scientists, together with a plethora of other ALARM-driven political and public relations efforts aimed at ending animal use, are driving some researchers from their fields and causing students to avoid scientific careers that might involve animal use. Clearly, these kinds of social forces can shape the course of progress in many life science disciplines, including our own.

The exciting recent advances in science have evolved, in no small measure, as a result of the insights of scientists inspired by their interactions with and studies of animals. Today, as much as at any other time, progress in reproductive biology requires that scientists be able to continue to use animals responsibly and judiciously to test important hypotheses and perfect technologies with potential to enhance and control reproductive processes and health in humans and animals. The potential for progress has never been greater. However, society is likely to continue to restrict (or confound) the pace of progress as long as the public suspects the motives and actions of scientists and the value of science. Therefore, we are all challenged, as suggested by Colin Tudge (see above), to “convey the complexities and subtleties” of our work, as well as its promise and the sense of wonder it can inspire, not only to our students but to the public. We must, as Tudge suggests, give them a reason to take an interest in our work so that they might come to consider how it must be done to be most effective.

The SSR Animal Care and Experimentation Committee looks forward to review and discussion of issues related to the rise of the ALARM movement, its implications for our future as practicing scientists, and efforts we might make to affect the impact of this social movement on our lives and futures in reproductive biology. Please make plans to attend our minisymposium, *Animals and Scientists: Partners for Progress in Reproductive Biology*, to be presented on Sunday, July 16, at the Annual Meeting in Madison. ■

—Frank F. Bartol, Chair
Animal Care and Experimentation Committee

EDUCATION PRESENTATIONS AT ANNUAL MEETING

The Education Committee has organized poster and multimedia presentations on “Teaching methodologies in reproductive biology” at the Society’s Annual Meeting this summer in Madison. Posters will be up July 16–18 in the Great Hall of the Memorial Union. Multimedia presentations are scheduled for the Old Madison Room in the Union on Monday morning, July 17. Exact times will be available at the registration table.

REMEMBER! 2000 is the Year of the Student

Do your trainees know the benefits of SSR membership?

SSR has traditionally been oriented to its trainee members, but never more so than right now. The Annual Meeting this summer in Madison is a perfect opportunity to extend the involvement of all trainees in SSR, and will provide a number of exciting events. The Trainee-Mentor Luncheon (Sunday, July 16, 12:00–1:15 p.m.) will have as mentors the past-presidents of SSR. Please be sure to register in advance for this function as space will be limited. The Trainee Forum at 7 a.m. on Monday, July 17, will be presented by Dr. Joan King of Tufts University. Dr. King, in addition to having a notable research career, is a career coach who will speak on striking a balance between personal and professional lives. This is an area of importance to young scientists as, for example, the interactions between career and family are increasingly difficult to manage. Further information can be obtained at www.beyond-success.com. Immediately following Dr. King's presentation, a short, informal meeting will be held to update the trainee membership on the activities of the Trainee Affairs Committee. This meeting will help guide the Committee through the upcoming year.

Also on Monday, July 17, a special trainee mixer will be held at the University Stock Pavilion from 6 to 8 p.m., followed by shuttle service to a dance/social at the Monona Terrace. Tickets for both are \$15 (beer and soda are included with tickets). This special event will give the trainee membership a chance to get to know each other in an informal setting.

The Committee would also like to remind trainee members that they are encouraged to participate in SSR in other ways. For example, opportunities exist for trainees to serve on committees. This is a valuable service to the Society and an excellent way to initiate professional contacts. Interested trainees should contact Charlie Chaffin (chaffinc@ohsu.edu) or Lesley Howell-Skalla (lskalla@pharmanet-cro.com) for further information. Second, qualified postdoctoral fellows can now serve as reviewers for *Biology of Reproduction*. Qualifications include two years or more of postdoctoral training, a minimum of five publications,

and a letter of nomination from the mentor. Contact the *BOR* Editorial Office for further information.

The Trainee Affairs Committee would like to encourage all members, and especially our own trainees, to actively recruit new trainee members. SSR continues to provide trainees with avenues of development unavailable elsewhere. As part of 2000 - Year of the Student, make it your goal to expose young scientists to the benefits of SSR. ■

—Charlie Chaffin
Trainee Affairs Committee

Techniques Workshop

The program for the Techniques Workshop at the Annual Meeting in Madison is now final. There will be three speakers covering three state-of-the-art areas of research, namely, targeting steroid receptor functions by peptide molecules, stem cell technology, and gene targeting by homologous recombinations. In a last-minute change of speakers, Dr. Thomas Barnett will stand in for Dr. Dana Fowlkes. This change will not affect the program. I encourage SSR members to take advantage of this workshop to broaden the scope of their research. The Committee is expecting vigorous discussions following the talks, and opportunity for further discussion will also be available at the post-workshop lunch.

We are still working to set up a Web-based chat room to discuss new techniques or to troubleshoot. I am again requesting that members with expertise in this type of endeavor contact me (402-559-163 or skroy@unmc.edu). This chat room will be a big help to everyone in establishing laboratory protocols as well as insuring reproducibility across laboratories.

Because the success of the Techniques Workshop depends on members' participation, I look forward to seeing a large group of enthusiastic researchers there on July 15. ■

—Shyamal K. Roy, Chair
Education Committee