



# SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF REPRODUCTION Newsletter

Volume 20, Number 3

October 2003

*From the President—*

## Moving into a new year

I would like to begin by thanking each of you for your support. I am honored to be the President of this truly wonderful Society, and will do my best this year to lead SSR and serve the various needs of its membership. My most amazing realization was the incredible spirit of volunteerism that characterizes our membership.



There are so many members who truly believe in our Society and will work tirelessly on its behalf. I know of no other society that matches SSR.

We have a number of new agendas this year. One involves our journal, *Biology of Reproduction*. The Board of Directors has approved the electronic archiving of all *BOR* articles, which will result in availability of all *BOR* publications via PubMed. Under the strong leadership of Virendra B. Mahesh, the impact factor of our journal continues to rise. But, we still have a way to go. In June 2004, John Eppig and Mary Ann Handel will assume the helm of *BOR*. These two outstanding scientists have initiated exciting changes in *BOR*'s editorial structure. The role of the Editorial Board is being redefined, and *BOR* will have 10 associate editors. The newly appointed associate editors are Fuller Bazer, John Davis, Mitch Eddy, Keith Latham, Sue Moenter, Sally Perreault, JoAnne Richards, Bernard Robaire, Richard Schultz, and Doug Stocco. These associate editors are distinguished scientists of our Society and represent areas of expertise that encompass the breadth of topics submitted to *BOR*. You are encouraged to submit your very best papers to *BOR*.

In 2004, SSR will add a new award—the SSR New Investigator Award. This award is designed to recog-

nize outstanding research accomplishments of an SSR member within eight years of receipt of the Ph.D. or equivalent degree. This award is financially supported by a very generous donation from Virendra B. Mahesh, which will be matched by the SSR.

SSR has approved an exchange program of one awardee between the Society for Reproduction and Fertility (SRF) and SSR. The first SRF speaker will present at our 2004 Annual Meeting in Vancouver, BC. The New Investigator Awardee will have the opportunity to present his/her work at the SRF meeting in 2005. Discussions are ongoing with the American Society of Reproductive Medicine for a similar exchange, in this case an exchange of the Research Awardees.

The history of our Society is being recorded by Pat Hoyer, who volunteered to interview Past Presidents at our Annual Meetings. At the 2003 meeting, interviews with Neena Schwartz and Gordon Niswender were videotaped. Additionally, Bill Hansel generously donated correspondence and documents relating to the founding of SSR and its early days to the Society.

Regular membership in our Society decreased last year by 9% while trainee membership increased by 31%. Our membership should be increasing based on the ever-broadening publications throughout various fields that relate directly or indirectly to the reproductive sciences. One of the potential sources for membership is clinician scientists who are interested in basic research in the reproductive sciences. The Clinical Outreach Committee, chaired by Elizabeth McGee, is attempting to recruit this group of scientists, especially those in their basic research-training phases. To be more attractive to this group, SSR is evaluating the possibility of offering CME credits. Similarly, for veterinarians specifically interested in the reproductive sciences, SSR is considering offering VME credits. Additional potential sources for membership include re-

productive scientists in immunology, environment and toxicology, and developmental biology. If you have a colleague who is conducting research in the reproductive sciences and is not a member, please encourage him or her to join SSR.

Financially, the SSR is solvent but we need to increase our financial base to ensure the stability of the Society in the event of a financial shortfall and to undertake new initiatives. The ad hoc Development Committee was created in 2002 by President Geula Gibori to increase contributions to secure SSR's financial health. However, we do not want to change significantly the scientific content of our Annual Meeting. Thus, while we would like to attract larger donations from pharmaceutical companies, we recognize that we do not have substantial attendance at our Annual Meetings by clinicians who would prescribe drugs to patients. On the other hand, each of us purchases equipment and reagents, and exhibitors selling these items have a captive audience. I urge each of you to encourage companies from which you purchase supplies to be paying exhibitors at our Annual Meetings, and then to visit their exhibits. It has also been suggested that established investigators donate their honoraria to the Society. This would be a wonderful mechanism to increase our endowment funds for future initiatives. Please contact the current chair of the Development Committee, Ben Tsang, if you have any additional ideas regarding SSR's financial stability.

To ensure the continued solvency of our Society, a scientifically cutting-edge meeting that appeals in content and locale to our members, and that our voice is heard in the corridors of government and at NIH, Landis Keyes organized an ad hoc Strategic Planning Committee, chaired by Asgi Fazleabas. This committee consists of six subcommittees dealing with the journal, the Annual Meeting, finance, clinical outreach, public affairs, and the international arena. This committee continues into my term of office and will present its final report at the 2004 Annual Meeting.

The Public Affairs Committee, chaired by Rodney Geisert, is developing a Web page to provide educational and research information for teachers, researchers, and the general public about the reproductive sciences. Rod is seeking your input and link suggestions to the Web page (<[www.ansi.okstate.edu/ssr/](http://www.ansi.okstate.edu/ssr/)>). SSR is also ably represented on the FASEB Science Policy Committee by Tom Spencer, on the FASEB Public Affairs Executive Committee by Vassilios Papadopoulos, and on the Federal Funding Consensus Conference of the USDA and NIH by Tom Spencer and Vassilios Papadopoulos, respectively. It is ex-

remely important that the interests of SSR are heard at the national level, and our best mechanism for securing this is via our interaction with other societies.

Next summer's Annual Meeting in Vancouver promises to be a very special meeting. Please see John Nilson's report on page 3 of this issue. John is striving to develop a stellar program that will appeal to the breadth of the Society. Please mark your calendar for August 1–4 to attend the 2004 Annual Meeting in Vancouver.

As a result of the efforts of our members, SSR is continuing to achieve its objectives and to set new goals. We have maintained an Annual Meeting that is scientifically outstanding and yet maintains an informal atmosphere that encourages interactions among our valued trainees and established members. I look forward to an exciting year. ■

—Mary Hunzicker-Dunn

## Local arrangements for 2004

The University of British Columbia in Vancouver will host SSR's 2004 Annual Meeting, August 1–4. Following the opening ceremony, Keynote Address, and platform sessions beginning at 1 p.m. on Sunday, August 1, our opening reception will be in the elegant Rose Garden and adjacent Sage Bistro situated on cliffs overlooking the ocean and mountains on the west side of Vancouver. The salmon barbecue and dance are scheduled for Tuesday, August 3. The science portion of the meeting will conclude on Wednesday, August 4, at 12:30 p.m., followed by the Business Meeting, which is open to all meeting attendees. We will use the Chan Centre for plenary talks and the nearby Buchanan Arts Building for the platform sessions, both of which are new state-of-the-art meeting facilities. The adjacent courtyard will be tented for an outdoor poster session, taking advantage of the bug-free, ~70° F weather in Vancouver. Hotel-like on-campus suites (one to six bedrooms) and dining facilities are just a 5-minute walk to the poster and plenary sessions. Boat cruises in Vancouver's harbor to view the international fireworks competition are available on Saturday evening, August 31, and Wednesday evening, August 4. We are excited that the 2004 Annual Meeting in Vancouver is shaping up into a scientifically rich, visually appealing event. Plus, the exchange rate in Canada is favorable for U.S. currency, making this a very affordable meeting. Don't miss what will be an exceptional Annual Meeting. ■

—Mary Hunzicker-Dunn

# Plans begin for 2004 Annual Meeting program

The Program Committee has begun planning the 2004 Annual Meeting. This committee has over 45 members whose expertise spans the field of reproductive biology, from molecular to systems analyses in animals and humans.

The committee met at the 2003 Annual Meeting to begin discussing potential minisymposia topics that will complement the theme of the 2004 Annual Meeting, *Regulation of Sex Determination and Development*. Drs. Larry Jameson and David Allis will be the featured speakers at the President's Symposium.

In keeping with tradition, the meeting will open with an Awards Ceremony followed by the Keynote Address. Following Doug Stocco's lead, the three-day daily program will begin at 8:00 a.m. with a State-of-the-Art lecture followed by five concurrent minisymposia. The committee has finalized its selections for Keynote and State-of-the-Art speakers, and these individuals will be announced in the next Newsletter.

With respect to the minisymposia, the committee has issued an electronic call to SSR membership, inviting suggestions for topics and speakers. We anticipate finalizing this aspect of the program by the end of October. We are hopeful that several new and exciting minisymposia will emerge and cover the full gamut of

reproductive biology in animals ranging from fish to fowl to domestic livestock to humans.

We are also pleased with the addition of a new component to the Annual Meeting, namely the SSR/SRF New Investigator Speaker Exchange. The SRF awardee will be invited to present, and the committee is currently determining where in the program this will occur.

Finally, after visiting the Vancouver site this summer, it became immediately apparent that we should strike a bold initiative and hold poster sessions outside but under a tent in a plaza that joins all the meeting rooms. We hope this will provide a refreshing change of venue by taking advantage of the scenic splendor offered by the University of British Columbia campus. We believe that this venue will also provide an acoustic advantage by dissipating the noise that usually accompanies the excited exchanges between poster presenters and gathered audience.

On behalf of the committee, I invite any additional comments and suggestions that you may have. So, please feel free to e-mail me at <jhn@wsu.edu>. We look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting August 1-4. ■

—John H. Nilson, Chair  
2004 Program Committee



**SSR Past Presidents and guests at the Society's Annual Meeting in Cincinnati. Back row, left to right: Robert Ryan, Michael Griswold, Fredrick Stormshak, Gordon Niswender, Keith Inskip, Janice Bahr, Fuller Bazer, David Schomberg, Richard Stouffer, John Eppig, Virendra Mahesh, and Barbara Sanborn. Back row: William Hansel, Neena Schwartz, Terry Nett, Anita Payne, Landis Keyes, Gilbert Greenwald, Mary Hunzicker-Dunn, Geula Gibori, and Joanne Fortune.**

## Wrap-up of 2003 Annual Meeting

The University of Cincinnati and the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden welcomed more than 1,100 reproductive biologists and trainees from 30 countries to SSR's 36th Annual Meeting in Cincinnati. The scientific program included 659 scientific abstracts.

Mayor Charlie Luken officially proclaimed July 19–22 “Society for the Study of Reproduction Week” in Cincinnati. P. Landis Keyes, President of SSR, and Joseph A. Steger, President of the University of Cincinnati, welcomed attendees at the opening ceremony in the Grand Ballroom of the Millennium Hotel on Saturday afternoon. Professor Lord Winston of the Imperial College School of Medicine in London, England, then set the tone of the meeting with the Keynote Address. Lord Winston, one of the world's leading authorities in the area of the reproductive ethics, gave an insightful lecture on the current status of assisted reproductive technologies in the world. On Saturday evening, 800 attendees gathered in the Club Lounge of Paul Brown Stadium to enjoy a delightful array of classic Cincinnati foods (including the famous Cincinnati chili), the music of the Pete Wagner band, and the spectacular vista of downtown Cincinnati.

On Sunday morning, S. K. Dey of Vanderbilt University delivered the Bruce C. Moulton Memorial Lecture, “Molecular Road-Map to Implantation: Past, Present, and Future,” to commemorate a former

University of Cincinnati faculty member and active SSR member who succumbed to brain cancer in 1997. The President's Symposium focused on *Reproduction and the Environment* and featured Louis J. Guillette, Jr., and Sally D. Perreault. Sunday evening afforded an opportunity for everyone to experience Cincinnati and northern Kentucky dining and entertainment opportunities. Paolo Sassone-Corsi delivered a State-of-the-Art lecture, “Genetic Dissection of Transcriptional Control in Male Germ Cells,” on Monday morning. For the barbecue and social Monday evening, participants were bussed to the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden where they experienced one of the world's most diverse collections of animal species and toured the Center for Conservation and Research of Endangered Wildlife. Benita Katzenellenbogen delivered a State-of-the-Art lecture, “2003 Perspective of Estrogen Receptor Mechanisms and Cellular Regulation,” on Tuesday morning. The meeting ended with the Business Meeting in the Hall of Mirrors on Tuesday afternoon followed by a Cincinnati riverboat dinner cruise that evening. Cincinnati would be pleased to welcome SSR again in the near future! ■

—Andy LaBarbera, Chair  
2003 Local Arrangements Committee

**SSR President P. Landis Keyes (left) with President's Symposium speakers Sally D. Perreault and Louis J. Guillette at the 2003 Annual Meeting in Cincinnati.**



## CoRE outlines activities, initiatives

SSR's Annual Meeting in Cincinnati provided a great venue for CoRE to introduce itself and its goals to the membership. On the first day Douglas Foster (chair) directed members to visit CoRE's information booth. At the booth, a colorful poster constructed by Lou Guillette and depicting the complex interactions between the environment and reproduction was augmented by videos on wildlife reproduction contributed by David Wildt. Myriad informational materials on pertinent meetings, funding opportunities, training programs, and national research activities were available at the booth thanks to Mike McClure and Sally Perreault. Benson Akingbemi (trainee member from Nigeria) and Wolfgang Wuttke, who brought information about CREDO (Cluster of Research into Endocrine Disruption in Europe), added an international tone. CoRE members were available at the booth to interact with SSR members and solicit their feedback. For example, Stan Glasser reminded us that internal environments during pregnancy are just as important as the external environment, while Bill Lasley and Pat Hoyer provided insights on reproductive toxicology and epidemiology. Skip Bartol, former chair of the Public Affairs Committee, was at the booth for an interview with National Public Radio.

CoRE also met to consider and develop new programs and initiatives to fulfill its broad mission

and meet its objectives, which are to (1) highlight the variety of ways environment and reproduction influence each other; (2) increase communication among individuals and organizations concerned with environment and reproduction; and (3) increase awareness for national and international research support, training opportunities, and job positions relating to environmental influences on reproductive health. It was obvious to CoRE members from their interactions with SSR members and from the success of this year's program, featuring environmental themes for the President's Symposium, two minisymposia, and five poster/platform sessions, that there is a tremendous interest in the broad area of reproduction and the environment. Virtually all aspects of reproductive biology and research are affected by environmental influences, be it at the macro or micro levels. Therefore, CoRE plans to expand information dissemination and discussion by again sponsoring a booth at the 2004 Annual Meeting in Vancouver and by offering assistance to the Program Committee in developing minisymposia and sessions on reproduction and environment for the 2004 meeting. Additional ideas for future activities include (1) developing a Web site on environment and reproduction; (2) soliciting a series of perspective articles on reproduction and environment for publication in *Biology of Reproduction*; (3) offering a workshop on grant opportunities in this area; (4) formalizing liaisons with other societies and organizations interested in environmental impacts on reproduction; and (5) organizing a workshop on environment and reproduction to be held in association with our 2005 Annual Meeting in Quebec City. SSR members are urged to contact any CoRE member to obtain further information on its activities and to provide suggestions. ■

—Douglas Foster, Chair  
Committee on Reproduction and Environment

### GET INVOLVED IN YOUR SOCIETY!!

*If you would like to be more involved in the operational aspects of SSR, volunteer to serve on one of SSR's standing or ad hoc committees. We are now accepting volunteers for the 2004–05 slate of committees. A list and description of current committees can be found on the SSR Web site. A few new slots are available on each committee every year, and some committees include trainee representatives. So, to volunteer for a committee, and to help your Society be the best that it can be, send me an e-mail at <pate.1@osu.edu>. I will do my best to place you on the committee of your choice, but you may also wish to indicate an alternate choice. Please specify in your e-mail if you are a regular, associate, emeritus, or trainee member. I look forward to hearing from you.*

—Joy Pate  
President-Elect

# Call for nominations

The Nominating Committee is soliciting nominations from the membership for elected positions in the Society. Two Directors are completing their terms and must be replaced. In addition, we are soliciting nominees for President-Elect and Secretary. The SSR is *your* Society. It is a very important responsibility as well as a privilege for our members to nominate qualified individuals to serve as officers and Board members. Those elected will provide the vision and leadership that set the direction for our Society over the next few years. Nominating fellow members to serve as officers and Directors is a means of ensuring that your views and disciplines are represented in the Society.

The committee has tried to make the nomination process as straightforward and painless as possible. For each nominee, simply designate the proposed office and include a brief supporting statement indicating why you think this person would be suitable for the position. Please do not send resumes or CVs. It would be helpful and a courtesy to the nominee for you to confirm that the person is willing to run for office, but at least indicate to us if you have not done so. You can find information on member SSR service record at <[www.ssr.org/ServiceList.html](http://www.ssr.org/ServiceList.html)> and a list of current Board members and officers at <[www.ssr.org/Directors.html](http://www.ssr.org/Directors.html)> and <[www.ssr.org/Officers.html](http://www.ssr.org/Officers.html)>.

Send your nominations by mail or e-mail to:

Barbara M. Sanborn  
Department of Biomedical Sciences  
101 Physiology Campus Delivery 1680  
Colorado State University  
Fort Collins, CO 80523  
Phone: 970-491-4263  
FAX: 970-491-7569  
E-mail: [Barbara.Sanborn@colostate.edu](mailto:Barbara.Sanborn@colostate.edu)

If you would like more details or clarification about the nominating process, please contact any member of the Nominating Committee. Nominations must be received **by October 31**. ■

—Barbara M. Sanborn, *Chair  
Nominating Committee*

## News from *Biology of Reproduction*

**Current status of *Biology of Reproduction*.** The number of submissions from January 1, 2003, to August 31, 2003, was 595, and the number of revisions received was 529. The average first response time was 21.8 days. *Biology of Reproduction* has maintained its position as the top-rated journal in reproductive biology. The Scientific Impact Factor for 2002 (July 1, 2000, to June 20, 2001) was 3.689, up from 3.508 the previous year, and the number of citations was 16,682, up from 15,812 for 2001. The average number of pages visited per week online in June 1999 was 4,674; June 2000, 5,372; June 2001, 8,294; June 2002, 9,641 and June 2003, 15,787.

**Open access for dissemination of new scientific information.** *BOR* provides scientists with open access to scientific information in two ways, whether or not they are subscribers. *Biology of Reproduction—Papers in Press* features complete manuscripts accepted within the previous two weeks; these papers are not under access control until they are published in traditional form (i.e., copyedited and paged, in print and online). Soon, any individual, subscriber or not, will be able to request an alert when new *Papers in Press* are posted. In addition, all articles are released from access control 12 months after traditional publication. During the period of access control, the scientific information contained in papers in press will still be under open access. Moreover, an author who publishes in *BOR* retains the right to reuse/publish material in any other work of which he or she is an author or editor.

**New home page and innovative portal.** Within the next few months, *BOR* will have a new home page that incorporates many new search capabilities for mining research data. Features to be added include (1) a “quick-search” box on the home page and on interior pages; (2) “any word/allwords/exact phrase” and “newest/first/best match” options for search-result sorting; (3) “keywords in context” (KWIC), which will permit the use of multiple keywords or phrases to narrow a search; and (4) citation mapping (a diagram that refers to key references cited by an article and subsequent articles that cite the article in question; the number of citations in the map can be limited by the user). A “browse by category” feature has already been introduced.

Thus, *Biology of Reproduction*, in addition to being able to publish papers in an efficient and timely manner, will continue to provide state-of-the-art advances to facilitate your research. Please send your best papers to *Biology of Reproduction*. ■

—Virendra B. Mahesh  
*Editor-in-Chief*

## Committee aims to present SSR issues to the public

The 2003–04 Public Affairs Committee is working diligently to (1) develop a Web page for public affairs, (2) provide articles written for the general public and news media concerning issues related to reproduction, and (3) develop an attractive brochure that can be used by SSR representatives to present our Society's contributions to human and animal health. The committee has developed the initial page, which can be viewed by SSR members at <[www.ansi.okstate.edu/ssr/](http://www.ansi.okstate.edu/ssr/)>. It is our intent to provide a site that offers useful links to educational and research Web sites within our membership. The Web page will include links to research modules developed by members of SSR which provide information concerning areas in reproductive biology such as neuroendocrine systems, cyclicity, ovary, testis, fertilization, assisted reproductive technologies, implantation, development, pregnancy, parturition, and endocrine disruptors. We intend to send out a request to our membership to provide possible sites which the PAC will screen and recommend for inclusion on the SSR Web site. When completed, the Web page should provide an excellent resource for finding information concerning all areas of reproductive biology. If you have a useful educational or research Web site, please contact Rod Geisert at <[Geisert@okstate.edu](mailto:Geisert@okstate.edu)>. In addition, the PAC is in the process of contacting individuals to write articles about reproductive issues of concern and interest to the public. Most important, the committee wishes to develop a link for reproductive issues that are of concern to the general public. Hormone replacement therapy, IVF, endocrine disruptors, cloning, and animal research are among many issues that affect our Society today. Developing a link to the SSR Web site to provide accurate articles written for media and public understanding of these issues is essential. The PAC intends to contact experts in these areas of research and work with them in developing, reviewing, and placing the articles on our Web site.

The PAC also hopes to have a draft of a brochure to represent SSR on Capitol Hill for presentation to the SSR Board of Directors at its winter meeting. The committee is currently designing an attractive brochure describing the program objectives of SSR and the accomplishments that research in reproductive biology has provided to improve human and animal well-being. The importance of developing a solid and attractive brochure is clearly evident following the recent visit of Drs. Skip Bartol and Landis Keyes to Capitol Hill. A well-designed brochure will be a great asset when SSR representatives meet with

Senators, Congressmen, and senior staff members to encourage support for NIH/NICHD funding. ■

—*Rodney D. Geisert, Chair  
Public Affairs Committee*

## Animal Care Committee

At its February 2003 meeting, the Board of Directors approved a request by the Animal Care and Experimentation Committee to change its name to the Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC), which more accurately reflects SSR members' concern for the animals used in research. Because the name change requires a change of the SSR bylaws, it will not become official until the general membership votes on the issue (discussed in the June 2003 issue of the Newsletter). The change should be in effect by next February.

The Animal Care Committee (ACC until the official name change) is updating and expanding its presence on the SSR Web site. The first in a series of educational documents—"What good is cloning anyway?"—appeared on the committee's page several months ago. Because the document is still receiving more than 20 hits each month, it will remain posted. The next document—"How are Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees (IACUCs) organized and how do they insure humane treatment of animals used in research?"—will be posted on the Committee page in the near future.

Our Directory of Consultants, a group of about 30 SSR volunteers, remains ready to assist other members with questions and issues of research animal care and use. Currently, only SSR members may contact the consultants by calling (608-256-2777), faxing (608-256-4610), or e-mailing ([ssr@ssr.org](mailto:ssr@ssr.org)) the SSR office. The ACC intends to make this group more accessible to the Society's members with a link from the ACC page to a committee e-mail address. After screening to remove inappropriate questions or comments, inquiries will be routed to the appropriate expert for a quick reply. The new system will open the door for anyone with Internet access to avail themselves of the consultants' expertise. The committee hopes that an improved interface between ACC and the public will enhance the educational goals of SSR and promote awareness of animal care and use issues. The committee welcomes your comments and suggestions. ■

—*Barbara Durrant, Chair  
Animal Care Committee*

# An international campaign for new members

**Each member gets one new member!**—This is our goal. Accomplishing this goal would double our membership. **Good news**—Overall membership increased slightly last year. **Bad news**—There was a drop in regular members. **We need your help!**

The Membership Committee is using the pyramid model to increase membership. The United States, Canada, Europe, Asia, and South America have been divided into regions, and a member of the committee serves as a regional leader for each region (see table on next page). This regional leader needs to identify a person for each state, province, or country in his/her region who will help promote SSR membership. For example, my region includes Minnesota, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, and Michigan. I need an SSR member from each of these states to contact the major institutions in the state. Then each state representative will ask the help of an SSR member at each institution in that state to get current members to renew their membership and to invite their colleagues

to join SSR. Last year we tried this paradigm but had difficulty finding SSR members who would take responsibility to increase membership in their state, province, or country. The regional leaders will provide suggestions to SSR members who are willing to help with membership.

I am asking each of you, as active members of SSR, to locate your state, province, region, or country in the table. If you are willing to help in this very important issue of increasing membership to SSR, please contact the regional leader. E-mail addresses for SSR members can be found in the directory on the SSR Web site by entering the person's name.

Please send me any suggestions you have to increase membership to SSR. I will share them with our Membership Committee. Do remember to renew your membership! Many thanks for your help! ■

—Janice Bahr, Chair  
Membership Committee

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## New Members

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### Regular

Milan K. Bagchi  
Carla Boitani  
Jeff DeJong  
Denise Escalier  
Hisataka Iwata  
Chemyong Ko  
Keesook Lee  
Livia Lustig  
Cristina A. Maldonado  
Jeffrey R. Mann  
R. Medhamurthy  
Fujio Migishima  
Monika Mihm  
Takehiko Ogawa  
Elizabeth Pritts  
William E. Rainey  
Stefano Romagnoli  
Tomohiro Sasanami  
Akio Shimizu  
Jaswant Singh  
Masafumi Tetsuka  
Grant Yeaman  
Yukinori Yoshimura

### Associate

Michael Cecchi  
April Teresa Davenport  
R. K. Gupta  
Lonnie D. Shea  
Jianbo Yao

### Trainee

Georgia Acuna  
Jillien F. Allen  
Rebecca Andrew  
Ryan Ashley  
Lidiya G. Babich  
Kimberly Barnett  
Animesh Barua  
Kathleen M. Baska  
Joan D. Beckman  
Robert J. Belton, Jr.  
Courtney Berkholtz  
Anilkumar Bettgowda  
Ewa Borowczyk  
Rebecca C. Bott  
Kelly Brant  
Glen Allen Bridges  
John Case  
Krittalak Chakrabandhu  
Diptiman Chanda  
Zhiqiang Cheng  
Daesuk Chung  
Valeria Amorim  
Conforti  
Bethany Crean  
Lola D. Curtis  
Padmalaya Das  
Alison Brown Dixon  
Fuliang Du  
Renea Easton  
Stanton Fernald  
James A. Ford, Jr.

Lindsey Geiger  
Yael Gur  
Julie M. Hastings  
Brian P. Hermann  
Teh-Yuan Ho  
Ida Holaskova  
Cheol-Yi Hong  
Junya Ito  
Kevin Jackson  
Uletta Jackson  
Yongqing Jiang  
Leonor Miranda  
Jimenez  
Youngah Jo  
Joshua Johnson  
Tomoko Kaneko  
James Kehler  
Jennifer Kirby  
Aric Krogstad  
James S. Kumar  
Martin Laforest  
So Hyun Lee  
Seung Tae Lee  
Carl Lessard  
Amanda Linz  
Amy Liptak  
Sotirios-Emmanuel  
Macheras  
Kelly M. Marshall  
Megan McCarthy  
Erin Milliken  
Faik A. Nasser  
Da-Young Oh

Jae-Il Park  
Hyun-Jeoung Park  
Vaishnavi Pattabiraman  
Hanne G. Pedersen  
Megan M. Pickering  
Eduardo J. Pizarro  
Moya  
Renee Pohlmann  
Michelle Rhodes  
Jose Luis Robles-Huerta  
Patricia Rodrigues  
Leah Rose  
Pablo Juan Ross  
Kimberly N. Sanford  
Abe Scheaffer  
Angela D. Sellitto  
Ann Sheils  
Sergiy G. Shlykov  
Mohammed Ar Siddiqui  
Darron L. Smith  
Venkataraman Sriraman  
Catherine Stackpole  
Melanie Starbuck  
Aaron K. Styer  
Brian T. Sullivan  
Yi Tan  
Natalie Thiex  
Anna Lee Thompson  
P. Ronald Tovich  
Koji Toyokawa  
Maud Vallee  
Mandi Vick  
Jinrong Wang

Jennifer Weck  
Brooke Wells  
Akiko Yabuuchi  
Dai Yamamoto  
Wei-Hsiung Yang  
Juxiang Yang  
Sherwin Yen  
Yang Yu  
Aparna Mahakali Zama  
Dongsheng Zhang  
Shuangping Zhao  
Claire Zimmerman

### Change of status

*To Regular:*  
Christopher R. Burke  
Yolanda P. Cruz  
Sylvia Curtis Hewitt  
Robert A. Cushman  
Csaba Fulop  
Laura H. Graham  
Francis M. Hughes  
Vanessa Rawe  
Cheryl S. Rosenfeld  
Stuart A. Tobet  
Maria M. Viveiros  
Yukiko Yamazaki

*To Associate:*  
Rita Cortvrindt  
E. Gloria C. Regisford  
Eric Sherrer

Regional Leader	Region
<i>United States</i>	
Rob Zachow	1 WA, OR, ID, MT
Warren Nothnick	2 CA, NV, AK, HI
Gary Moss	3 UT, AR, CO, WY, NM
Carlos Telleria	4 ND, SD, NE, KS, IA
Janice Bahr	5 MN, MO, IL, IN, WI, MI
Greg Johnson	6 AR, LA, OK, TX
Mike Vernon	7 KY, OH, TN, WV, VA
Charlotte Farin	8 NC, SC, GA, FL, AL, MS
Amy Way	9 PA, MD, DE, DC, NY
Bo Rueda	10 ME, NH, VT, MA, RI, NJ, CT
<i>Canada</i>	
John Davis	1 British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Alberta
Gerald Pepe	2 Quebec, Ontario, Nova Scotia
<i>Europe</i>	
Wolfgang Wuttke	1 Germany, Poland, Switzerland, Spain
Amal Mukhopadhyay	2 Italy, Hungary, Austria, Croatia, Greece
Katja Teerds	3 Netherlands, Belgium, France
Andrzej Madej	4 Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark
Rob Webb	5 British Isles
<i>Asia (Far East)</i>	
Norihiro Sugino	1 Japan
Chan Hsiao Chan	2 Hong Kong, China, Taiwan
Yi S. H. Lee	3 Korea, Australia, New Zealand
<i>South America</i>	
Paulo B. Goncalves	1 Brazil, Uruguay

## Development Committee

The ongoing activities of SSR rest on its financial stability. In an effort to assist the Society in achieving this important goal, the Development Committee with its subcommittees will be busy this coming year, appealing to the Society's membership as well as its industrial partners for support.

The *Endowment Subcommittee*, chaired by Janice Bailey, will focus its efforts on the current membership of the Society. It will develop and implement plans to solicit long-term support from members through their inclusion of the SSR as a beneficiary in their wills. This appeal will likely be made first to current Board members, then to Past Presidents and Board members, and lastly to general membership. The subcommittee will also seek financial support from the general membership for making the back issues of *Biology of Reproduction* electronically accessible. One approach may be to ask members to sign over to the Society honoraria they receive for invited lectures.

The *Sponsorship of Annual Meeting Subcommittee (SAM)*, under the leadership of Dick Stouffer, will secure sponsorship and exhibitor support for the next Annual Meeting. This includes sponsorship from industry and government sources as well as from private foundations.

The *Industrial Relations Subcommittee*, chaired by Ben Tsang, will focus primarily on longer-term financial support from the industrial sector. Its objective is to work with the current and potential industrial partners of the Society to secure commitments of support (hopefully at an increased level) for and beyond the next Annual Meeting. To this end, the subcommittee will reexamine the Society's relationship with its industrial partners (pharmaceutical and biotech companies focusing on human and veterinary reproductive medicine, and those selling reagents and scientific instruments) and determine how it can improve this relationship to the benefit of SSR. While it is clear that SSR needs strong and continuous industrial support, it is also important that the Society appreciates the needs of our industrial partners so as to maintain a sustained and symbiotic relationship without compromising our mission.

The Development Committee welcomes your input and your support in its efforts. ■

—Ben Tsang, Chair  
*Development Committee*

## Trainees review activities at Cincinnati, list plans for coming year

It is time to look back on another successful Annual Meeting and thank our trainees who contributed to this success. In 2003, 78 trainees received Larry Ewing Travel Awards to assist with travel to the SSR Annual Meeting in Cincinnati. Tara Lovekamp Swan deserves credit for coordinating the dispersal of these awards. Thanks to all our trainee volunteers, we were able to keep the placement service at the Annual Meeting open for extended hours throughout the meeting. We had 63 jobs advertised, and 20 candidates posted resumes. This year, for the first time, the job listings were posted on the FASEB Career Resources Web site ([ns2.faseb.org/careerweb/](http://ns2.faseb.org/careerweb/)) after the meeting. This site is a great resource for job seekers, and I encourage all of you to visit it! An enjoyable trainee-mentor lunch was attended by 175 trainees. Kelli Valdez, did a great job organizing this event. The subject of the Trainee/Minority Affairs Forum was *Career Development and Networking*. Thanks are due to all who attended and contributed to the lively discussion, and to Kary Thompson for organizing the forum. Also at the Annual Meeting, we extended a welcome to our new trainee representative to the Board of Directors, Ugur Salli of the Oregon National Primate Research Center, and bade farewell to our “graduating” trainee representative, Kary Thompson. Kary continues her service to SSR in 2003–04 as one of the trainee members serving on the Program Committee.

The Trainee Affairs Committee looks forward to several new initiatives in the coming year. One of our plans is to enhance the Annual Meeting experience for new trainee attendees by pairing them with a trainee volunteer who is more familiar with the meeting. Tara Lovekamp Swan ([tswan@mail.mcg.edu](mailto:tswan@mail.mcg.edu)) has volunteered to coordinate this effort. Please contact her if you are interested in helping with this project! We have begun to plan the Trainee Forum for next year's Annual Meeting in Vancouver, which will focus on the timely topics of scientific and reproductive ethics.

Trainees are representatives on virtually all of SSR's committees. I encourage you to consider serving on a committee as a way to become more involved in the Society. The various committees are described on the SSR Web site. If you are interested in serving on a committee for 2004–05 please contact either Ugur at [<salliu@ohsu.edu>](mailto:salliu@ohsu.edu) or me at

[<jmbowen@uic.edu>](mailto:jmbowen@uic.edu). Another great way to be involved is to serve as trainee representative on the Board of Directors. This is a two-year position and is open to graduate students and postdocs. There will be a call for nominations for trainee representatives soon, and you can nominate yourself or a colleague.

The renewal of SSR memberships is coming up. Make sure you renew your trainee membership! Membership dues continue to be very low for trainees and the value for the money is incredible. As well as online access to *Biology of Reproduction*, you receive a great discount on Annual Meeting registration. Trainee members of SSR are also eligible for the Larry Ewing Memorial Trainee Travel Award.

We have some great things planned for next year's meeting in Vancouver and I hope to see lots of trainees there! Remember that SSR is *your* Society. Get involved! ■

—Jennifer M. Bowen-Shauver, Chair  
Trainee Affairs Committee

## Bylaws Committee report

The proposed changes to the Society's bylaws published in the June issue of the Newsletter, and adopted by the Board, were reviewed at this year's Business Meeting in Cincinnati by past chair Diane Duffy. Receiving no further recommendations or objections, the proposed changes remain as published. Within a few weeks, members will receive a ballot requesting final approval of those proposed changes. Please exercise your opportunity to participate in the Society by voting. Likewise, the Bylaws Committee continues to solicit input of the Board, committees and general membership to assure that our bylaws accurately reflect the policies, activities, and professional standards of the Society. ■

—Sherrill E. Echternkamp, Chair  
Bylaws Committee

# Report from the Treasurer

I was pleased in the confidence expressed in me by the membership in reelecting me to the post of Treasurer of SSR. I will continue my efforts to maintain a balanced budget and to strive for growth in the Society's investments. I hope that SSR can improve its financial position over both the short and long term. In this note you will find a brief report on the SSR from a fiscal point of view, the financial implications of the initiatives taken at recent SSR Board meetings, and an update on SSR investment performance.

**Remaining in the black.** SSR's annual budget has been in, or close to, positive territory for the last three years, and we hope to maintain this trend. As noted in previous issues of the Newsletter, the membership component of the budget is subsidized by the Annual Meeting component, and, in some years, by the publications component. Early financial returns from the 2003 Annual Meeting in Cincinnati indicate that this event resulted in a positive cash flow, which will contribute to maintaining our bottom line in the black for 2003. This favorable result can be attributed to the outstanding efforts of Andy LaBarbera and members of his Local Arrangements Committee, who, along with Judy Jansen, negotiated key contracts for the Society and kept a watchful eye on expenses. They deserve our thanks. Other elements of the budget also appear to support a positive balance for this year, as the publications component is expected to break even or contribute income over expenses.

**Initiatives.** In 2002, the SSR Board of Directors approved what has come to be known as the "legacy project," the electronic publication of the *Biology of Reproduction* archives back to Volume 1, 1969. Digitalization of the archives can be achieved at several levels of sophistication, depending on the desired searchability of the product. As one would expect, more searchable equates with more expensive. The scanning of back issues can take place in stages. For example, all issues published in the 1990s, before the journal was online, could be digitalized first, followed by the 1980s, then the 1970s. At the original estimate (\$1.0 million), the cost was prohibitive, but costs have fallen rapidly and we currently expect that an amount on the order of \$100K will provide a searchable archive. We hope for external sponsorship so that our investments will not have to be tapped to meet the costs of the project. We further propose to proceed in stages, as funds become available. The Development Committee has been quite active of late with good success, and we hope that we can provide funding for our initiatives from new external sources.

At the 2003 Annual Meeting, the SSR Board voted to initiate a new award, to be known as the SSR New Investigator Award. In addition to the usual plaque and honorarium, the expenses of the awardee will be paid to present at the Society for Reproduction and Fertility meeting in the United Kingdom, as part of an exchange with our sister society on the other side of the pond. We are fortunate that a generous endowment was provided by Dr. Virendra B. Mahesh to defray the annual costs of this award. We are grateful to Dr. Mahesh not only for his excellent stewardship as editor of *BOR* but also for this generous donation to the Society.

**Investments.** The SSR investment portfolio held up reasonably well during the financial dark days from 2000 to 2002, due to our diversification between equity and bond funds. Adjustments of the portfolio were made in March 2003 to reduce fund management costs and to benefit from the renaissance of the stock market that was beginning. The denouement has been favorable—we had recovered our December 2000 position by May, and, as the market continued to improve, so did the value of our investments. As of this writing in early September, the equity portion of SSR's investment portfolio is up 22% since the SSR Board meeting in February 2003, and the total portfolio value has increased by 12%. While September is a traditionally bad month for the stock market, economic indicators in the United States augur for continued improvement in performance. We hope that this will be the case, as a sound investment portfolio is fundamental to the financial well-being of the Society.

**Challenges.** In June of this year a bill was introduced into the U.S. House of Representatives by Congressman Sabo of Minnesota that would render publication of research funded by the American government exempt from copyright protection. Passage of this bill is expected to lead to "open access" online to all scientific journals, including *BOR*. The consequences could be far-reaching for SSR, as publication of *BOR* accounts for approximately 60% of our \$1.8 million annual budget. Loss of library subscriptions and of membership may ensue if the journal is distributed at no cost by an open-access provider. Discussion with those involved in publication of other society journals suggests that the bill will pass, and that open access will become a reality. These events will provide the greatest challenge to the fiscal health of SSR in recent times, and will require creative solutions. ■

—Bruce Murphy

# Minutes of SSR's 2003 Business Meeting

The annual Business Meeting of the Society for the Study of Reproduction was called to order by Dr. Landis Keyes at 12:42 p.m., July 22, 2003.

Dr. Keyes asked for additions or corrections to the minutes of the 2002 Business Meeting, as published in the October 2002 SSR Newsletter and distributed at the 2003 Business Meeting. No additions or corrections were noted.

Dr. Janice Bahr moved approval of the minutes of the 2002 Business Meeting. Dr. Milo Wiltbank seconded. The motion passed by voice vote.

**President's Remarks:** Dr. Keyes expressed his gratitude for the spirit of volunteerism displayed by members of the Society. He distributed a handout summarizing the major activities of the Society over the past year. The National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) renewed support for the Annual Meeting for 5 years (2003–2007), and the USDA NRI approved support for trainee travel expenses for the 2004 Annual Meeting. The Board approved creation of a New Investigator Award to recognize the accomplishments of an individual over an interval of 8 years from establishing an independent program. An annual exchange of selected speakers between the Society for Reproduction and Fertility (SRF) and SSR will be initiated in 2004; details of implementation are pending. Dr. Asgi Fazleabas was appointed to chair the Strategic Planning Committee, which is charged with conducting a formal introspection of the Society, assessing the role of the Society worldwide and setting goals and recommending implementation of these goals over the next 5 years. The committee and the Board of Directors plan to announce recommendations to the membership by the 2004 Annual Meeting in Vancouver.

Dr. Keyes expressed sincere appreciation to Judy Jansen and her staff in the Business Office for moving the Society ahead.

**Program Committee:** Dr. Doug Stocco thanked Dr. Keyes for the opportunity to serve as Chair of the Program Committee, the members of the committee for their willing and timely participation, those who reviewed abstracts, Dr. Andy LaBarbera and the Local Arrangements Committee, and the Business Office for their assistance. He acknowledged suggestions and advice received from the membership. He requested feedback on the major changes implemented in the 2003 Annual Meeting, which were beginning the plenary sessions at 8:00 a.m. and the poster sessions at 10:30 a.m. He noted good attendance at the 8:00 a.m. sessions. Dr. Keyes presented Dr. Stocco with a plaque for his outstanding service.

Dr. Geula Gibori moved to accept the Program Committee report. Dr. Fazleabas seconded. The motion passed by voice vote.

**Local Arrangements Committee:** Dr. Andy LaBarbera, Chair of the Local Arrangements Committee, thanked Dr. Stocco for assembling a program that attracted people from many disciplines and contributed to the success of the LAC. He noted that a major accomplishment of the LAC, among many others, was providing ample food at the reception and barbecue. He thanked the members of the LAC and recognized the cooperation of personnel from the city of Cincinnati, hotels, and convention center. He thanked Judy Jansen and the Business Office for outstanding assistance. Dr. Keyes presented Dr. LaBarbera with a plaque for his outstanding performance and service as chair of this committee.

Dr. Robert Burghardt moved to accept the Local Arrangements Committee report. Dr. Douglas Foster seconded. The motion passed by voice vote.

**Treasurer's Report:** Dr. Bruce Murphy summarized the state of the Society's finances. In 2002, total revenue was \$1,819,485 and total expenses were \$1,830,714, resulting in a net loss of \$11,228. A total budget of approximately \$1.8 million is expected in 2003. Due to the efforts of Dr. LaBarbera and Ms. Jansen to contain costs, a profit is expected from the 2003 Annual Meeting that will help offset expenses in the membership category. A modest increase in the publications category is expected in 2003. The Society's investments total \$1.6 million, which represents approximately \$1.3 million in investment funds, \$260,000 in endowment funds, and \$60,000 in the Mahesh fund. Although the value of the investments was down 10–12% in 2002 from 2001, Dr. Murphy was happy to announce that investments increased in value by 16% this year, restoring their value to that attained in 2001.

Despite the good news, the Society is "living on the edge," with revenues expected to equal expenses in 2003. Dr. Murphy emphasized the need for creative ways to support *BOR*, as well as to increase revenues from exhibits and sponsorships. Dr. Murphy polled exhibitors and received mixed reviews on member attendance. He acknowledged the efforts of the 2003 LAC in this regard and encouraged future LACs to help meet this particular challenge. He also urged members to visit exhibits and to assist in convincing vendors to exhibit at the Annual Meeting.

Dr. Keyes thanked Dr. Murphy for keeping the "Good Ship SSR" on a true course and off of rocky shoals. He acknowledged Dr. Murphy's magnificent job in a year of difficult economic times, and noted that the Society fared well relative to many other societies. Dr. Keyes presented a plaque to Dr. Murphy expressing "high expectations for the next 3 years" as the reelected Treasurer.

Dr. Mark Miranda moved to accept the Treasurer's report. Dr. Foster seconded. The motion passed by voice vote.

**Editor-in-Chief Report:** Dr. Virendra Mahesh, Editor-in-Chief, reported that *Biology of Reproduction* has maintained its position as the top-rated journal in reproductive biology. The Scientific Impact Factor for 2002 (July 1, 2000, to June 30, 2001) was 3.689 with 16,682 citations, up from 3.508 and 15,812 citations for 2001. In 2002, 916 total submissions were received, the highest recorded to date. Submissions in 2003 are keeping pace with the increase observed in 2002. The average first response time was 21.8 days, average time to publication was 4.65 months, and the rejection rate was 47.9%. Approximately 15,000 pages are published online as *Biology of Reproduction—Papers in Press*. These represent papers accepted within the previous two weeks that remain as open access until they are published in print and online. Dr. Mahesh said the Society must address the challenge of the Public Library of Science (PLOS), a group actively promoting free and open access to all scientific literature, and its potential impact on *BOR*. A superior search engine will soon be available on the *BOR* home page as a service to subscribers and members. Dr. Mahesh reiterated that the success of *BOR* depends on submission of excellent papers, and the dedicated work of the Editorial Board and reviewers. He thanked the membership for their contributions. Dr. Keyes expressed sincere gratitude to Dr. Mahesh for maintaining the high quality of *BOR*.

Dr. LaBarbera moved to accept the Editor-in-Chief's report. Dr. Bahr seconded. The motion passed by voice vote.

**Publications Committee:** Dr. Keyes presented the report for Dr. John Nilson, Chair of the Publications Committee. He announced the appointment of Dr. John Eppig as Editor-in-Chief and Dr. Mary Ann Handel as Assistant Editor-in-Chief of *Biology of Reproduction*. They will succeed Dr. Virendra Mahesh, Editor-in-Chief, and Dr. Darrell Brann, Associate Editor, in June 2004. Dr. Keyes thanked the committee for their excellent and timely organization of the interview process.

**Nominating Committee:** Dr. Jan Roser, Chair of the Nominating Committee, reported that the committee received 21 nominations for Director, 2 for Treasurer, and 7 for President-Elect. Ballots were sent to the membership in April and votes were received from 677 members, for a 61% turnout. The new President-Elect is Dr. Joy Pate, the Treasurer is Dr. Bruce Murphy, and the Directors are Drs. Pat Hoyer and Milo Wiltbank. She thanked the committee for their hard work throughout the year, and Ms. Jansen and the Business Office for their support.

Dr. LaBarbera moved to accept the Nominating Committee report. Dr. Hoyer seconded. The motion passed by voice vote.

**Membership Committee:** Dr. Janice Bahr, Chair of the Membership Committee, thanked members of the committee and summarized their efforts to expand the

Society internationally. Compared to the last 8 years, membership in 2002 was at an all-time high of 2,439. Concern was expressed that regular membership has decreased substantially, and was perhaps due to investigators leaving the field of reproduction or not maintaining membership. However, trainee membership has increased significantly. She urged all to renew their memberships and to recruit new members. She also summarized the regional recruitment plan consisting of a pyramid scheme that divides members into regions, with each committee member in charge of a region and each region containing its own membership committee. The goal for next year is a net increase of 200 paid members; a net gain of 96 members was realized in 2002. The SSR Web site lists benefits of membership, and the Business Office continues to send letters to first and last authors who publish in *BOR* and who are not members. Dr. Keyes thanked Dr. Bahr for increasing the momentum of the Membership Committee and organizing an international network of recruitment.

Dr. Bahr asked for all present to stand and participate in a moment of silence to remember Dr. Arthur K. Champlin, an SSR member who passed away this year.

Dr. Fazleabas moved to accept the Membership Committee report. Dr. Burghardt seconded. The motion passed by voice vote.

**Bylaws Committee:** Dr. Diane Duffy, Chair of the Bylaws Committee, recognized the members of the committee and Dr. Sherrill Echterkamp, the incoming chair. She presented five proposed changes to the bylaws submitted by members and approved by the Board of Directors. The changes were published in the June 2003 Newsletter and distributed at the 2003 Business meeting. They include changing Ms. Jansen's title from Executive Secretary to Executive Director (Article X, Section 13); establishing the Development Committee as a standing committee (Article XI, Section 4(j)); selecting members of the Nominating Committee (Article XI, Section 2); changing the name and revising the duties of the Animal Care and Experimentation Committee (Article XI, Section 4(h)); and formalizing the role of ad hoc committees while maintaining the President's ability to form and revise these committees (Article XI, Section 5). Ballots will be sent to the membership for vote. Dr. Keyes thanked Dr. Duffy and the committee for their diligence and excellent work.

Dr. Roser raised the issue that the structure for grouping nominees for Directors on the ballot is unclear in the current bylaws, and requested that this issue be discussed between the Bylaws and Nominating Committees. Dr. Keyes noted that whether to structure the ballot to consist of two lists of two Directors each for one position as in the past election, or as one list of four Directors for the two open positions, was discussed by the Board at its 2003 midwinter meeting. While the Board recognized the ambiguous wording, they decided not to change the

current bylaws so that the ballot could be revised according to the future needs of the Society. Dr. Keyes requested that members concerned with this issue contact the Board.

Dr. Bahr moved to accept the Bylaws Committee report. Dr. Mary Ann Handel seconded. The motion passed by voice vote.

**Awards Committee:** Dr. Geula Gibori presented the report for Dr. Paul Harms, Chair of the Awards Committee. She recognized the superb contributions of the committee members. She summarized the winners of the 2003 awards: Carl G. Hartman Award, Dr. Anna-Ritta Fuchs; Distinguished Service Award, Dr. E. Keith Inskip; and SSR Research Award, Dr. Marco Conti. In the SSR Trainee Awards categories, there were 38 submissions for posters and 66 for platform presentations. Six finalists were chosen to present in each of the poster and platform categories, and three awards were given in each. Sixteen trainees out of 106 applicants received Lalor Foundation travel fellowships. Ten trainees from 66 applicants were selected to receive the USDA NRI travel fellowships. Dr. Keyes acknowledged the significant work performed by the committee, and noted that the plaque in recognition of Dr. Harms's service will be sent to him.

Dr. LaBarbera moved to accept the Awards Committee report. Dr. Hoyer seconded. The motion passed by voice vote.

**Strategic Planning:** Dr. Asgi Fazleabas, Chair of the newly formed Strategic Planning Committee, announced the subcommittees that will work toward shaping the goals of the SSR for the next 5 years. The subcommittees and chairs are: *Biology of Reproduction*, Dr. Robert Burghardt; Annual Meeting, Dr. Andy LaBarbera; Finances, Dr. Sally D. Perreault; Outreach, Dr. Barbara Vanderhyden; Public Affairs, Dr. Fredrick Stormshak; International Arena, Dr. Richard Ivell. The subcommittees will report to the Senior Advisory Committee, chaired by Dr. Fuller Bazer. Members of each subcommittee have been appointed in conjunction with Dr. Keyes. Drs. Fazleabas and Keyes encouraged members to contact the chairs with ideas and comments. The committee plans to have a working blueprint for consideration at the 2004 midwinter Board of Directors meeting, and a final blueprint by the 2004 Annual Meeting.

Dr. Tom Spencer moved to accept the Strategic Planning Committee report. Dr. Bahr seconded. The motion passed by voice vote.

**Trainee Affairs:** Dr. Kary Thompson, Trainee Representative, was happy to report that half of the 2003 Annual Meeting attendees were trainees. The 2003 Trainee-Mentor Luncheon, with the theme of *Reproduction and the Environment*, was a success. The trainees also hosted extended hours at the placement service as well as the Trainee Forum. Dr. Ugur Salli was elected as the new Trainee Representative. She thanked Dr. LaBarbera for excellent logistics at the 2003 Annual Meet-

ing, Judy Jansen and the Business Office for pleasant interactions, and Dr. Keyes for his support. Dr. Keyes thanked Dr. Thompson for her enthusiasm and professional attention to trainee matters.

Dr. Burghardt moved to accept the Trainee Affairs report. Dr. Bahr seconded. The motion passed by voice vote.

**Reorganization of NIH Study Sections:** Dr. Elliot Postow, Director, Division of Biological Basis of Disease, Center for Scientific Review (CSR), NIH, addressed the membership regarding reproductive sciences research and the reorganization of study sections at the CSR. This issue was also presented and discussed in the February 2003 Newsletter. Beginning in January 1997, Dr. Ellie Ehrenfield, CSR, traveled throughout the United States garnering comments from NIH applicants regarding the review process. She encountered a consistent complaint, regardless of discipline and geographic region, wherein applicants felt grants submitted to a more competitive study section were not funded, whereas weaker applications were funded in less competitive study sections. All study sections were then reviewed. A Panel on Scientific Boundaries for Review (PSBR) was created to recommend a procedure for reorganizing study sections in a way to create more balance among the sections. The CSR organized steering committees composed of staff from the CSR and NIH institutes to solicit nominations of scientists from relevant communities and professional societies, such as SSR, to participate on Study Section Boundaries (SSB) Teams. Each SSB Team recommended guidelines for the study sections within one of the Integrated Review Groups (IRGs) proposed in the PSBR report. Drafts of the SSB reports were available for public comment on the NIH Web site, and several hundred comments were received. On the basis of comments and consultation with the scientific community, the report was modified, and 24 IRGs were established in which study sections reside. The new IRG relevant to reproductive research is Endocrinology, Metabolism, Nutrition and Reproductive Sciences (EMNR). The EMNR, which consisted of 24 external members, 6 NIH intramural members, and chaired by Dr. Linda Larue, met in April 2002, and recommended 7 study sections: Molecular and Cellular Endocrinology (MCE); Integrated Clinical Endocrinology and Reproduction (ICER); Cellular, Molecular and Integrative Reproduction (CMIR); Pregnancy and Neonatology (PN); Cellular Aspects of Diabetes and Obesity (CADO); Integrative Physiology of Obesity and Diabetes (IPOD); and Integrative Nutrition and Metabolic Processes (INMP).

The PSBR met in April 2002. Final recommendations were made in May 2003, presented to the CSR Advisory Committee, and approved. Preliminary rosters of the new study sections will be available on the NIH Web site in January 2004. Applications submitted for February 2004 deadlines and thereafter will be reviewed

by the new study sections, which will have their first meetings in June 2004. Working groups of the IRGs will periodically review the new study sections and report to the CSR Advisory Committee. The working groups will assess scientific boundaries, the scope and breadth of science to be reviewed, new directions and emerging areas of science, appropriateness of reviewers, fairness of reviews for all applications, and all grant mechanisms. Information can be obtained from the following Web site: <[www.csr.nih.gov/PSBR/EMNR/EMNR\\_Guidelines.pdf](http://www.csr.nih.gov/PSBR/EMNR/EMNR_Guidelines.pdf)>.

Dr. John Herr asked Dr. Postow where translational research, i.e., randomized clinical trials or "bench to bedside" research, will be reviewed within EMNR. Dr. Herr referred to a recent discussion on contraception at the National Academy wherein it was felt that translational components would not receive funding in existing study sections. Dr. Postow said review of clinical studies will be focused in ICER, and that CMIR will not review clinical studies. If the study cannot be reviewed in ICER, it will be reviewed by a special emphasis panel. Animal studies can be reviewed in CMIR. Dr. Postow assured that clinical studies will not be reviewed in nonclinical study sections, and asked that he be contacted with questions on assignment of a grant to a study section. Comments will be collected to ensure that committees are appropriate for reviewing all the research outlined in the guidelines for that study section.

**Old Business:** Dr. Keyes recognized officers retiring from the Board of Directors and Executive Committee, and presented each of them with a plaque to express the Society's appreciation. They are Dr. Geula Gibori, Past-President; Dr. Eli Adashi, Director; Dr. Robert Burghardt, Director; and Dr. Kary Thompson, Trainee Representative.

Dr. Keyes then passed the gavel to install the incoming President, Dr. Mary Hunzicker-Dunn. He recognized Dr. Hunzicker-Dunn's enthusiasm, dedication to the Society, and lively additions to discussions, and presented her with a plaque.

Dr. Hunzicker-Dunn commented on Dr. Keyes' support. She noted that SSR has been incredibly fortunate to have Dr. Keyes at its helm, expressed gratitude on behalf of the Society for his service, and presented him with a plaque. Dr. Keyes stated that he intends to maintain his passion for SSR, and quoted Dr. Philip Dziuk, that as a "matter of stewardship, do what you can for SSR." Dr. Keyes received a standing ovation.

**New Business:** Dr. Hunzicker-Dunn summarized plans for the 2004 Annual Meeting to be held in Vancouver, British Columbia. The 2004 Program Committee will solicit suggestions for speakers and topics from the membership via e-mail and will aim to create a program that represents all interests of the Society. She asked that suggestions be returned as soon as possible to expedite the planning process.

Dr. Peter Leung, incoming Chair of the Local Arrangements Committee, sent a video highlighting the attractions of the Vancouver Conference Center. A salmon barbecue and dinner cruise, to be held in conjunction with the international fireworks display, are planned.

Dr. Bahr moved to adjourn the Business Meeting. Dr. LaBarbera seconded. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m. ■

—*Respectfully submitted,*  
*Mary Zelinski-Wooten, Secretary*

**[Ed. note: A vote to approve these minutes will occur at the 2004 Annual Meeting in Vancouver.]**

## AMERICAN SOCIETY OF ANDROLOGY ANNUAL MEETING

*Saturday, April 17 – Tuesday, April 20, 2004*  
*Hyatt Regency Baltimore*  
*Baltimore, Maryland*

*The abstract deadline is November 1, 2003. Visit*  
*<[www.andrologysociety.com](http://www.andrologysociety.com)> for submission informa-*  
*tion and annual meeting registration.*

*Postgraduate Course - "Men's Health: On the*  
*Horizons of Andrology"*  
*Saturday, April 17, 2004*

*Andrology Lab Workshop: Sperm Morphology*  
*Saturday, April 17, 2004*

*For more information about ASA's 29th annual meet-*  
*ing, contact us at our new address:*

*American Society of Andrology*  
*1111 N. Plaza Drive, Suite 550*  
*Schaumburg, IL 60173*  
*E-mail: [asa@wjweiser.com](mailto:asa@wjweiser.com)*

# News from the Reproductive Sciences Branch, NICHD

As we await the FY 2004 appropriations for NIH, this installment will cover the center programs supported by the Reproductive Sciences Branch (RSB), as well as the Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women's Health (BIRCWH) Career Development Program.

In the mid-1990s, the RSB began a process of restructuring its long-standing P30/P50 centers program. The result was the Specialized Cooperative Centers Program in Reproduction Research (SCCPRR). The SCCPRR is a research-based centers program designed to promote multidisciplinary interactions between basic and clinical investigators with the ultimate goal of fostering translational research that leads to improved human reproductive health. The SCCPRR was established in 1998, and is administered through a series of cooperative agreements with each awardee institution. In FY 2002, approximately 41% of SCCPRR research (as opposed to core) funding (\$16.8 million total) was for clinical research. Of the remaining research dollars, 16% supported research projects on nonhuman primates.

In addition to supporting research, the SCCPRR provides funding for a number of resources that function to serve SCCPRR investigators at 14 center sites, as well as resources that serve the entire scientific community. For example, SCCPRR investigators have unlimited access to a gene array facility and proteomics core free of charge. The SCCPRR also supports four human and one nonhuman primate tissue banks in which investigators whose grants are administered by the RSB can order tissues online through the Reproductive Tissue Sample Repository (RTSaR). In collaboration with NCI's Cancer Genome Anatomy Project, SCCPRR investigators have provided samples for construction of cDNA libraries. Expressed sequence tags (ESTs) have been deposited in GenBank for the following libraries: rat PMSG-primed ovary, nonhuman primate hypothalamus, human endometrium proliferative, human endometrium receptive, nonhuman primate ovary, mouse adult female pituitary, rat adult female pituitary, and mouse Sertoli cells. Finally the SCCPRR supports the development and maintenance of online databases that can be accessed via the Web. These databases include the Ovarian Kaleidoscope Database at <[ovary.stanford.edu/](http://ovary.stanford.edu/)>, the Mammalian Reproductive Genetics Database at <[mouse.genetics.washington.edu/](http://mouse.genetics.washington.edu/)>, and the Endometrial Database Resource at <[slab.bcf.bcm.tmc.edu/endometrium/baylor.jsp](http://slab.bcf.bcm.tmc.edu/endometrium/baylor.jsp)>. For more information on the SCCPRR, visit the SCCPRR Web site at <[reprobio.stanford.edu/sccprnet/index.html](http://reprobio.stanford.edu/sccprnet/index.html)>. The Web site has links to the databases and has a search engine for the cDNA libraries.

The National Cooperative Program for Infertility Research (NCPIR) was established in 1991 in response to a congressional mandate to establish centers in the areas of infertility and contraceptive development. Similar to the SCCPRR, the NCPIR is administered by cooperative agree-

ments. Currently, research efforts at the University of Pennsylvania and Massachusetts General Hospital focus on the genetics of polycystic ovarian syndrome. For more information on both the SCCPRR and NCPIR, please contact Dr. Lou DePaolo at 301-435-6970 or <[ld38p@nih.gov](mailto:ld38p@nih.gov)>.

The NICHD Cooperative Reproductive Science Research Centers at Minority Institutions, cosponsored by the NIH Office of Research on Women's Health and the National Center for Minority Health and Health Disparities, was established in 2001 to augment and strengthen the research infrastructure and research capabilities of faculty, students, and fellows at minority institutions. Reproductive scientists at minority institutions establish collaborative partnerships with NICHD-designated reproductive science research institutional programs and share essential facilities, services, knowledge, and other resources. The institutions participating in this cooperative agreement program include the Morehouse School of Medicine in collaboration with the University of Pittsburgh, Meharry Medical College in collaboration with Pennsylvania State University, and Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science in collaboration with the University of California, Los Angeles. For information on this centers program, please contact Dr. Estella Parrott at 301-496-6515 or <[ep61h@nih.gov](mailto:ep61h@nih.gov)>.

The NIH Office of Research on Women's Health (ORWH), along with nine NIH Institutes/Centers/Offices and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, sponsors the BIRCWH (Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women's Health) Career Development Program. The BIRCWH supports the research career development of junior faculty members, known as Interdisciplinary Women's Health Research Scholars, who have recently completed clinical training or postdoctoral fellowships, and who are commencing basic, translational, clinical, and/or health services research relevant to women's health. The goal of this program is to promote the performance of research and transfer of findings that will benefit the health of women. Projects are basic, translational, clinical, or health services research, but must be within the biomedical and behavioral purview of NIH and/or the health services research purview of AHRQ. Health services research includes the study of the quality, appropriateness, outcomes, and effectiveness of health care services, as well as the cost, use, and access to health care services. There are currently 24 BIRCWH sites throughout the country. For further information on the BIRCWH Program, please visit <[www4.od.nih.gov/orwh/bircwhmenu.html](http://www4.od.nih.gov/orwh/bircwhmenu.html)>, or you can contact Dr. Joan Davis, BIRCWH Program Director, at 301-496-6515 or <[jd372m@nih.gov](mailto:jd372m@nih.gov)>. ■

—*Louis DePaolo, Director  
Reproductive Neuroendocrinology Program*

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