

SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF REPRODUCTION Newsletter

Volume 22, Number 1

February 2005

Preview of program for SSR's 2005 Annual Meeting

The Program Committee has been working closely with President Joy Pate to develop the agenda for the 38th Annual Meeting in Quebec City from July 24 to 27. The plenary and minisymposia sessions represent what we trust you will find to be a comprehensive and balanced program of reproductive biology. This year's venue is the state-of-the-art Quebec City Convention Center. This facility, located a few steps from Old Quebec, provides spacious and well-equipped rooms for all formal sessions plus comfortable, adjacent spaces for informal discussions.

This year's **Keynote Address** will be presented by Dr. J. Lee Nelson from the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center at the University of Washington, who will speak on "The aftermath from fetal-maternal cell traffic of pregnancy." The theme for our **President's Symposium** is *Novel Aspects of Reproductive Immunology*. President Pate has invited Dr. Adrian Erlebacher (Department of Immunology and Infectious Diseases at Harvard School of Public Health) to speak on "Immune regulation of ovarian function in early pregnancy" and Dr. Mark Hedger (Institute of Reproduction and Development at Monash University) to address "Inflammatory and immune responses in the testis." The first of three **plenary sessions** will feature Dr. Keith Latham (Fels Institute for Cancer Research, Temple University) to lecture on "Nuclear-cytoplasmic 'tug-of-war' in cloning: Outcomes and handicaps." The second session will include Dr. Jon L. Tilly (Vincent Center for Reproductive Biology, Harvard Medical School) to speak on "Origin and function of mammalian female germline stem cells" and Dr. David Albertini (University of Kansas Medical Center) to discuss "Mining mammalian ovaries for evidence of neo-oogenesis: Past, present, and future perspectives." The third plenary talk is entitled "Protein folding: Implications for reproductive diseases" to be presented by Dr. P. Michael Conn (Oregon Health Sciences University).

The Program Committee has organized 15 minisymposia to be held over three days with five concurrent sessions each day. The topics were selected from the more than 75 suggestions submitted to the committee from Society members. The session topics and their primary organizers include:

Threats to Reproductive Success in a Modern World (Committee on Reproduction and Environment), Douglas L. Foster and Louis J. Guillette.

Androgen Actions in the Developing Female Brain (Mahesh Neuroendocrine Minisymposium), Jon E. Levine.

Non-Genomic Effects of Steroids on Reproductive Tissues, Frederick Stormshak.

Regulation of Reproduction by Molecular Clocks, Michael Lehman.

Epigenetics and Imprinting, James Resnick.

Molecular Mechanisms of Sperm Function, Janice Bailey.

Determinants of Preimplantation Embryonic Development, Peter H. Hansen.

New Insights Through Modern Approaches into Gamete Biology and Acquisition of Fertilization Competence, Janice P. Evans.

Metabolic Interactions: Reproductive Signals from Nontraditional Sources, Leslie MacLaren.

Endogenous Retroviruses and Reproduction, Fuller W. Bazer.

Fertility in the 21st Century: New Approaches to Monitoring and Assessing Human Reproductive Health, Patricia A. Hunt.

Breast Cancer and Biology and Physiology of the Breast, Alan J. Conley.

Meeting the Demands of the Fetus: A Maternal-Fetal Partnership, Margaret Petroff.

Biology of Male Germline Stem Cells, Andrea S. Cupp.

Transcriptional Regulation of Gene Expression in the Ovary, John S. Davis.



As always, the platform and poster sessions are essential components of the scientific program, and for the first time ample space and comfortable conditions are available for the display of all posters throughout the duration of the meetings. Platform talks will be presented in seven concurrent sessions over three days, while poster presentations will be assigned to one of three sessions. Additional events vital to the success of the SSR Annual Meetings include the platform and poster research competitions and awards presentations, the trainee/mentor luncheon, vendor exhibits, daily opportunities to meet with funding agency representatives and prospective employers/employees, plus the annual Business Meeting.

Please plan now to take full advantage of these formal scientific sessions plus the many informal events that constitute the rich and rewarding experience of SSR's Annual Meetings. The Program Committee looks forward to meeting with old friends and new acquaintances in beautiful and historic Quebec City this summer. ■

—Alan L. Johnson, Chair
Program Committee

Reserve your accommodations early for the Annual Meeting and save

SSR's 38th Annual Meeting is almost at our doorstep. The Local Arrangements Committee would like to remind you that July is the busiest month for tourism in the Quebec City area and for that reason hotels are usually booked months ahead of time. Even though blocks of rooms have been reserved for SSR delegates in five hotels and Laval University dorms, we nonetheless strongly suggest that you book your room as soon as possible.

Be aware that after June 20, rates are expected to increase by an additional \$100 CDN/night for the hotels!

Before booking, please be sure to note the booking codes for each hotel (www.crbr.ulaval.ca) in order to obtain the discounted SSR rates. ■

—Local Arrangements Committee

Emeritus Committee

The Emeritus Committee has organized and will sponsor an Emeritus Breakfast at the forthcoming SSR Annual Meeting in Quebec City. The breakfast is scheduled to begin at 6:00 a.m. on Monday, July 25. As part of the breakfast program we will have a 15–20 minute tribute to a former legendary member of the Society. This year we will recognize Dr. Andrew Nalbandov. The tribute and anecdotes will be presented by Dr. John Resko, a former student of Dr. Nalbandov. At 7:15 am we will adjourn to an adjacent meeting room to hear Dr. Jack Gorski, University of Wisconsin, present a historical perspective of the key players and events that led to the discovery of the nuclear estrogen receptor. The title of his presentation is “Discovery of the nuclear estrogen receptor: a history lesson.” This is not a presentation that will be filled with scientific data but rather will focus on the human aspects and sequence of events that led to the discovery. The presentation should be very interesting and everyone is welcome to attend, especially all trainees. A special effort is being made to inform all emeritus members of this addition to the SSR program and to encourage their attendance at the meeting. The committee hopes that this venture is successful and becomes an integral part of future Annual Meetings. ■

—Fredrick Stormshak, Chair
Emeritus Committee

2005 TECHNIQUES WORKSHOP

The Education Committee has worked diligently to organize and identify speakers for the upcoming Techniques Workshop to be held in conjunction with SSR's 2005 Annual Meeting in Quebec City. The workshop, to be held from 8:00 to 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, July 24, will focus (pun intended) on methods of whole-animal and whole-cell imaging. Topics will include GFP visualization and the use of multiphoton confocal imaging to observe intracellular events in vivo. It should be an exciting series of presentations with plenty of extraordinary imagery! Scheduled speakers include Dr. Stephen Michnick (Université de Montreal), Dr. Robert Balaban (National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute), and Dr. Victoria Centonze Frohlich (University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio).

—David H. Townson, Chair
Education Committee

Awards Committee

The Awards Committee solicited nominations for the Society's major awards, resulting in an excellent slate of candidates for each award. The award winners will be announced after the Board of Directors's midwinter meeting.

Based upon changes implemented by last year's Awards Committee, the Trainee Research Awards competitions no longer require submission of expanded abstracts. This year, the Program Committee will participate in the selection of the top abstracts for Trainee Research Awards, placing 10 in platform sessions and 10 in poster sessions. The Awards Committee will evaluate the presentations during the meeting and will select the three best poster and three best platform presentations to receive awards at a special ceremony near the end of the Annual Meeting.

Trainees are also reminded of the dedicated efforts of the SSR President and Development Committee to maximize the number of Trainee Travel Fellowships. This year, 16 individual Lalor Foundation Merit Awards and 10 USDA National Research Initiative Merit Awards will be distributed based upon abstracts submitted to, and evaluated by, the Awards Committee. Trainees are therefore encouraged to submit their best research in competition for the Trainee Research Awards and Lalor Foundation and USDA NRI Merit Awards for Travel. ■

*—Bob Burghardt, Chair
Awards Committee*

Bylaws Committee

Changes to the Society's bylaws that reflect (1) the new managerial structure and the dissemination of stated policies affecting *Biology of Reproduction*, (2) the addition of the office of Past Treasurer to the Board of Directors, (3) an update of the duties of the Secretary of the Society to include the maintenance of the Standard Operating Procedures of each of the Society's Committees, and (4) a clarification of the roles of the Nominating Committee have been proposed by the Bylaws Committee for consideration by the Board of Directors at their midwinter meeting. The membership will be informed of their recommendations at the earliest possible date.

I remind you that it is the right of all Regular Members to suggest further changes to the Bylaws that would facilitate the goals of the SSR. Your Bylaws Committee and your Board of Directors sincerely welcome such suggestions and stand ready to act upon them whenever they are received. ■

*—Michael C. Henson, Chair
Bylaws Committee*



A Stakeholders Workshop on USDA-CSREES Funding Priorities in Animal Reproduction was held during SSR's Annual Meeting last August in Vancouver.

New Members

Regular

Abdorrahman S. Alghamdi
Gregoy Yves Bedecarrats
Sylvia J. Bedford
Madhu Lata S. Chauhan
Vargheese M.
Chennathukuzhi
Janet Louise Crawford
Caroline E. Gargett
Kemian Gou
Jayne Sierens
Berta Sivan
Jaemog Soh
Katsumi Toda

Associate

H. C. Bohra
Lin Chia Hua
Jennifer K. Pullium
Ming Qiang Xu

Trainee

Jorie Aardema
Talia Blair
Robin Ten Broeck
Hong Chen
Angela Davis
Erica Lynne Deutscher
Meagan Grudzien
Jacquelyn B. Hoffman
Kirsten Holthusen
Avenel Joseph
Melissa Kopka
Melissa A. Korelstein
Lei Lei
Jinping Luo
Connie Jean Mark
Regina Masters
Kei Miyakoshi
Michelle Myers
Thomas M. Onorato
Justin D. Rhinehart
Bryon Ricketts
Luiz Henrique Roth Bichinho

Chrissy Schilling
Asaf Shechter
April Tepfer
Jessica Tomaszewski
Sho Watanabe
Theresa L. Wusterbarth
Lisa Yon
Shumei Zhao

Change of status

To Regular:
Tomas J. Acosta Ayala
Pawel M. Bartlewski
Brad Belstra
Phillip Bridges
Michele D. Calder
John F. Couse
Laurence Dufourny
Kellie A. Fecteau
Paulo B. Goncalves
Karla Ann Hess

Jingwen Hou
Hyunjung J. Lim
Sean W. Limesand
Gregor Majdic
Ned J. Place
Manjeet K. Rao
Kary Thompson
Justin D. Vidal
Kimberly A. Vonnahme
Haibin Wang
Quinton A. Winger

To Associate:
Deborah A. DeManno
Alison Brown Dixon

To Trainee:
Jessica Schrunk

Affiliate – Society for Reproductive Biology

Charles M. Allan

Larry Ewing Memorial Trainee Travel Fund

The Society gratefully acknowledges these contributors to the Larry Ewing Memorial Trainee Travel Fund during 2004.

D. Randall Armant
Luiz Augusto de Castro
e Paula
Janice M. Bahr
David M. Baldwin
Andrzej Bartke
Frank F. Bartol
Barry D. Bavister
Fuller W. Bazer
Robert M. Brenner
P. Samuel Campbell
Kevin G. Carnahan
Charles L. Chaffin
Dongbao Chen
Joseph G. Cloud
Alan James Conley
Duane L. Davis
Deborah A. DeManno
Tom Ducibella
Edward M. Eddy
John J. Eppig
Janice P. Evans
Charlotte E. Farin
Peter W. Farin
Michael J. Fields
Caleb E. Finch
J. Joe Ford
Joanne Fortune
Hiroschi Fujiwara
Christoph Gabler

B. M. Gadella
Rodney D. Geisert
Stanley R. Glasser
Erwin Goldberg
Roseli F. Goncalves
Robert L. Goodman
Leon E. Gray, Jr.
Judith M. Grizzle
Yan Gu
Dale Buck Hales
James M. Hammond
Mary Ann Handel
Matthew P. Hardy
Kazuyoshi Hashizume
Bernd Hoffmann
Kembra Howdeshell
Jodi I. Huggenvik
Ronald R. Humphrey
Gary Jackson
Laurie A. Jaeger
Friederike L. Jayes
Weizhi Ji
Mary Lynn Johnson
Hiroyuki Kaneko
Larry S. Katz
Michal Lahav
Julia Lobotsky
Judith Lee Luborsky
Ulrike Luderer
Grant R. MacGregor
Shin-Ichiro Matsumoto

Jeffrey V. May
Michael E. McClure
Charles E. McCormack
John A. McCracken
Rina Meidan
Marvin L. Meistrich
Alan C. Menge
Frederick A. Miller
Nathaniel Mills
Mark Mirando
Masashi Miyake
Akio Miyamoto
Junichi Mori
Hiroshi Nagashima
Naomi Nakagata
Koji Niwa
Richard J. Oko
Kiyoshi Okuda
Joseph Orly
Joseph S. Ottobre
Laura Parry
Sally D. Perreault
E. D. Plotka
William Plummer
James K. Pru
Susan M. Quirk
Aleksandar Rajkovic
John A. Resko
JoAnne S. Richards
Bernard Robaire
Janet F. Roser

Alan Schneyer
Richard M. Schultz
O. David Sherwood
Kunio Shiota
Mariko Shiota
Mario Sousa
Thomas E. Spencer
Bernard G. Steinetz
John N. Stellflug
Douglas M. Stocco
Bayard T. Storey
Susan S. Suarez
Osamu Suzuki
Chikashi Tachi
Kazuyoshi Taya
Chris C. Taylor
Margaret Thompson Reece
Toshio Tsubota
Catherine A Vande Voort
Cornelis G. Vandongen
Shinya Watanabe
Amy L. Way
Yoshie S. Weems
Brett R. White
William Wright
Ryuzo Yanagimachi
Katsuhiko Yasuda
Koji Yoshinaga
Denise J. Zaczek

The importance of SSR membership

Have you renewed your SSR membership? If not, please do so at your earliest convenience. Renewal notices were sent out electronically last fall, and printed renewal forms and reminder letters were mailed in January. If you need help renewing your membership, please contact Janet Smith at the SSR Business Office <ssr5@ssr.org>. If you are a mentor/advisor and have regular, trainee, and associate members in your research group, please urge them to renew their membership or to become members. Educating our trainees to the value of membership in a scientific society is a serious responsibility of mentors.

How are we doing compared to a year ago? Total membership is down by 114. Regular members are down by 99. For SSR to thrive, it is absolutely essential that we attract new regular members and that current regular members renew their membership. Certainly, trainees, associates, and emeriti members are equally important.

What happened in 2004 as regards membership?

60 regular members joined, of which 41 have renewed.

316 trainees joined and 97 of these have renewed.

130 associates joined and 19 have renewed.

We have 103 emeriti members, an increase of 40 since last year.

Non-SSR members attending our Annual Meeting were offered a free membership for the remainder of 2004 and then were sent a notice to renew their membership.

What is the Membership Committee doing to increase membership? Our goal is to increase membership by 200 members. The Membership Committee is based on a pyramid model. Each committee member is assigned to specific states, provinces, and/or countries. Each member then identifies representatives in his/her respective area and gives the representatives the names of SSR members in their region to contact about renewing their membership. Later in spring, the SSR Business Office will provide each committee member with a list of members in his/her region who have not renewed. Committee members will be asked to send friendly reminders to the people who have not renewed. This personal touch should be helpful in meeting our goal of an increase of 200 members. It is important to retain and to recruit new members.

The SSR Office will also be sending renewal notices via regular mail to members who have not re-

newed. When nonrenewing members were surveyed last year, the most common response for failure to renew was forgetting or failing to follow up on the electronic notice.

Why should you renew your membership to SSR? Just consider these advantages.

1. Reduced page charges to publish in *Biology of Reproduction*.
 2. Reduced registration fees for SSR's Annual Meeting.
 3. Discounted rate for access to *BOR* online.
 4. Announcements of career opportunities.
 5. Networking with peers and leaders in reproductive biology.
 6. Access to trainee travel awards to attend the Annual Meeting.
 7. Up-to-date information regarding SSR activities.
 8. A voice in decisions regarding science policy, reproductive biology research, and research support through professional representation in Washington, DC.
- Any questions about membership? Please contact me or any member of our Membership Committee. ■

—Janice Bahr, Chair
Membership Committee.

NEW IN 2005 – AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIPS IN SSR AND SRB

To encourage closer links between SSR members and their Australian and New Zealand colleagues, the Society for the Study of Reproduction and the Society of Reproductive Biology have arranged for affiliate memberships in each other's societies.

*Among the advantages to SSR affiliates of SRB is cheaper online access to *Reproduction*, *Fertility and Development*, the official journal of SRB. In turn, SRB affiliates of SSR will have cheaper online access to *Biology of Reproduction*.*

For more details about reciprocal SSR/SRB affiliate memberships, see the SSR Web site at <www.ssr.org/srb.html> and the SRB Web site at <www.srb.org.au/documents/AffiliateSSRmembership.pdf>.

The good ship SSR sails on

In the 2004 budget, approved by the Board of Directors in December 2003, the projections were for revenue and expenditures in the range of \$2.0 M for the Society. Although the final figures for the last fiscal year have not been tallied, all indicators suggest that estimate was on target. We expect a modest (3–5%) surplus for 2004 and a fifth consecutive year of balanced budgets. The largest element of the budget is for publication of *Biology of Reproduction*, which cost approximately \$1.25 M in 2004. The revenue for the journal comes from membership dues, from subscriptions and licenses, from page, color, and reprint charges, and from advertising and royalties. As noted in my previous messages, the journal revenue is fragile, particularly the \$0.5 M derived from library subscriptions. Indeed, we experienced a decline in 2004 library revenue. Fortunately, it was offset this year by increases in royalty revenue derived from marketing the journal to small colleges and industrial users. The evolution of the journal to meet the needs of the electronic 21st century was a costly endeavor. The final stages of this process, the legacy project, have taken the form of scanning all back issues of the journal for uploading to the Web. We are fortunate that the Society has been able to meet these costs, while maintaining a small annual surplus of revenue over expenditure in the publications window over the last four years. This has been aided by targeted donations for establishment of online reviewing and for the legacy project. Most significantly, the tight management of editorial office costs by Virendra Mahesh and management and innovation by Judy Jansen are responsible for this achievement.

SSR's 2004 Annual Meeting in Vancouver was a scientific and financial success, with a near record 1,200 attendees. It contributed approximately \$120 K in revenue over expense to SSR's coffers. Meeting registrations are the principal source of this income, but sponsorship in the form of local and other grants provided some \$125 K, and approximately \$20 K was derived from exhibitor fees. The efforts of Peter Leung and the Local Arrangements Committee are gratefully acknowledged. In addition, the Development Committee, the Business Office, and past and current presidents contributed to this financial success.

One of the highlights in the 2004 fiscal picture was the SSR investment portfolio. Established in 1993, the portfolio comprises the SSR Investment Fund and the SSR Endowment Fund. The former was initially distributed in three pools for operating, contingency, and

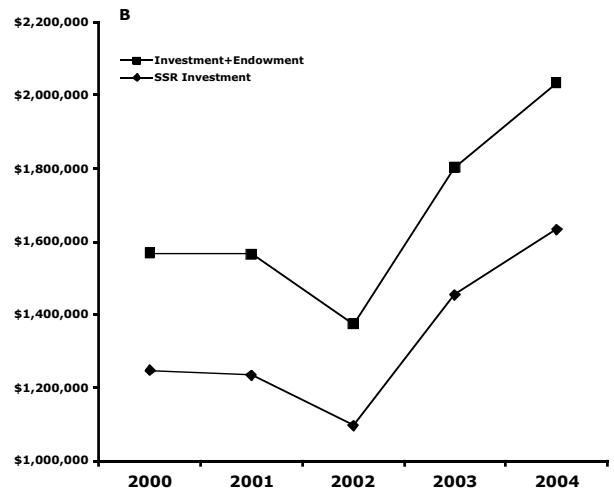
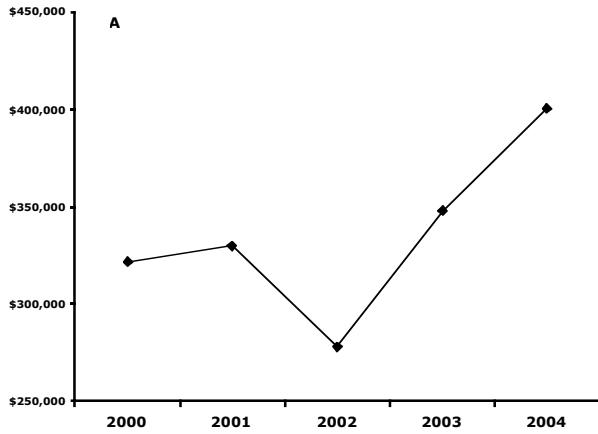
growth. No money has been deposited in or repatriated from the SSR Investment Fund since 1999, and changes in the market have blurred the lines between operating and contingency investments. We were able to add a modest \$50 K to the Endowment Fund in 2003, based on donations from the membership. All of the portfolio dollars are invested in mutual funds, with the majority currently invested in equity funds. Investment parameters are dictated by the SSR Investment Policy Statement. Some changes have been made over the last few years, exchanging funds performing poorly for those with a better profile, all the while with the goals of preserving capital and optimizing yield. This has resulted in consistently favorable returns relative to the U.S. equity markets. The value of the portfolio had grown to \$2.1 M as of December 31, 2004. The last fiscal year provided reasonable proceeds, as the market value of our investments increased by 11.9%, compared to an increase in the S&P 500 index of 9%. Panels A and B on page 7 depict the changes in the investment and endowment components of the portfolio from 2000 to year-end 2004. The total growth for 2000–2004, excluding new money added in 2003, was 29.6%, while the S&P declined by 12.6% over the same time frame. As noted above, the gain represents unrealized profit; no money has been withdrawn from the mutual funds in the portfolio.

The budget approved by the Board for 2005 projects revenues on the order of \$1.87 M. The Annual Meeting should again add to the positive side of the balance sheet, as the preliminary program developed by Al Johnson promises an exciting scientific time. The venue of the meeting, in beautiful and historic Quebec City, will also be a draw, and it is certain that the local arrangements by Marc-André Sirard and his cohorts will provide an exceptional cultural experience. The publications window of the budget is expected to break even in 2005, and the membership numbers are holding for this year. We therefore believe that the revenues will meet expenses, and no deficit is expected for 2005.

A balanced budget in recent and current years is good news for the SSR, as are increases in the value of the investment portfolio. We must recognize the fragility of our fiscal position. Most significantly, the electronic revolution in publishing is having an impact on our journal. This impact has not been fiscally positive, as library subscriptions have eroded and cost increases with inflation and new initiatives are expected. Additions to the Endowment Fund in 2004 were promising, and it is our

hope that by means of further support from the membership, we will be able to maintain an even fiscal keel. Your contributions are important. ■

—Bruce D. Murphy



Change in the value of the SSR portfolio from the end of fiscal 2000 to December 31, 2004. Panel A represents the Endowment Funds, excluding new money invested in 2003. Panel B depicts SSR's Investment Fund, as well as the total of the investment and endowment components of the portfolio.



The President's Symposium was held in the Chan Centre at the University of British Columbia during SSR's Annual Meeting in August 2004.

SSR Endowment Fund

The Society gratefully acknowledges these contributors to the Endowment Fund during 2004.

Silver: \$1000–2499

Irving Rothchild
Richard L. Stouffer

Bronze: \$250–999

Janice M. Bahr
Martin M. Matzuk
JoAnne S. Richards
R. Michael Roberts
Thomas E. Spencer
Fredrick Stormshak
Carmen J. Williams

Contributor: \$1–249

D. Randall Armant
Wayne L. Bacon
David M. Baldwin
Frank F. Bartol
George R. Bousfield
Robert M. Brenner
Daniel Carson
John Richard Chaillet
Yee-Hsiung Chen
Ronald K. Christenson
Alan James Conley
Fausto Cremonesi
Thomas E. Curry, Jr.

John S. Davis
Tom Ducibella
Thomas G. Dunn
Edward M. Eddy
John J. Eppig
Denise Escalier
Janice P. Evans
Charlotte E. Farin
J. Joe Ford
Anna-Riitta Fuchs
Hiroshi Fujiwara
Stanley R. Glasser
Leon E. Gray, Jr.
Judith M. Grizzle
Mary Ann Handel
Matthew P. Hardy
Kazuyoshi Hashizume
Norman Hecht
David L. Hess
Yuji Hirao
Jodi I. Huggenvik
Ronald R. Humphrey
Jiuan-Jiuan Hwang
Weizhi Ji
Larry S. Katz
James Kehler
Zlatko Kniewald
Koji Koyama
Dolores J. Lamb
A. Brian Little

Lin Liu
Julia Lobotsky
Judith Lee Luborsky
Grant R. MacGregor
Mala Mahendroo
Shin-Ichiro Matsumoto
Jeffrey V. May
Michael E. McClure
Charles E. McCormack
John A. McCracken
Alan C. Menge
Frederick A. Miller
Nathaniel Mills
Mark Mirando
Masashi Miyake
Hiroshi Nagashima
Koji Niwa
Atsuo Ogura
Richard J. Oko
Kiyoshi Okuda
William C. Okulicz
Kyle Orwig
Joseph S. Ottobre
Harold Papkoff
Sally D. Perreault
William Plummer
Seymour H. Pomerantz
James K. Pru
Vernon Pursel
Susan M. Quirk

Aleksandar Rajkovic
John A. Resko
Janet F. Roser
Shyamal K. Roy
Barbara M. Sanborn
Heywood R. Sawyer
Frederick H. Schmidt
Richard M. Schultz
Neena B. Schwartz
O. David Sherwood
Qi-Xian Shi
Kunio Shiota
Bernard G. Steinetz
John N. Stellflug
Bayard T. Storey
Susan S. Suarez
Norihiro Sugino
Osamu Suzuki
Chikashi Tachi
Michio Takahashi
Kazuyoshi Taya
Chris C. Taylor
Toshio Tsubota
Mehmet Uzumcu
Donna L. Vogel
Shinya Watanabe
Nancy L. Wayne
Yoshie S. Weems
Sen-Lian Yang
Katsuhiko Yasuda
Denise J. Zaczek



A poster receives careful consideration at last year's Annual Meeting in Vancouver.

SSR Legacy Fund

The Society gratefully acknowledges these contributors to the Legacy Fund during 2004.

Platinum: > \$5000

Virendra B. Mahesh

Silver: \$1000–2499

Fuller W. Bazer
Anita H. Payne

Bronze \$250–999

Kengo Manase

Contributor: \$1–249

Sang-Young Chun
Denise Escalier
Thomas G. Kennedy
Holly A. LaVoie
Julang Li
Chun Peng
Kunio Shiota
Marc-André Sirard
Jerome F. Strauss III
Benjamin K. Tsang

Make giving a habit—

Please contribute to the Endowment and Legacy Funds

The Endowment Fund was established in 1995 to sustain the long-term financial security of SSR and to enhance the Annual Meeting. Our goal is to raise one million dollars, an amount equivalent to our annual operating budget. The general Endowment Fund provides travel fellowships for trainees and foreign scientists, endowed lectures, and education programs. Endowment funds now total \$522,000, and this amount has been derived entirely from the Society and its members.

SSR's Legacy Fund was established in 2004 specifically to convert back issues of *Biology of Reproduction* to an online version as well as to maintain and enhance this archive. Online access has dramatically accelerated the rate at which we can disseminate information and have access to new research. We are pleased to announce that full-text journal articles from 1993 onward have all been transferred online and are available at the *Biology of Reproduction* Web site (www.bioreprod.org). Our goal is to have all of the publications of *BOR* since its inception in 1969 electronically available, and the Legacy Fund will support this endeavor.

We are grateful for contributions to the Legacy Fund, including the generous donation of \$15,000 by

Dr. Virendra Mahesh, that will enable the completion of the project and maintenance of the archives. The Legacy Fund now stands at \$20,000. When you receive an honorarium or a monetary award, we encourage you to donate it to the SSR Endowment and Legacy Funds.

There are several ways to contribute to either the Legacy Fund or the general Endowment Fund:

1. by sending a check or money order directly to the SSR Business Office at 1619 Monroe Street, Madison, WI 53711-2063;
2. by donating to the SSR your honorarium obtained after giving an invited presentation;
3. by donating the financial portion of an award.

We have five categories of recognition that will be listed in future newsletters and at SSR's Annual Meetings:

Platinum	\$5000+
Gold	\$2500–4999
Silver	\$1000–2499
Bronze	\$250–999
Contributor	\$1–249

Contributing to the SSR Endowment and Legacy Funds is a great way to personally help ensure the growth and development of SSR for future generations of researchers. Make giving a habit! ■

—Janice Bailey, Chair
SSR Endowment Committee
(janice.bailey@crbr.ulaval.ca)

Animal Care and Use Committee

A goal of the Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC) in recent years has been to develop educational documents that address animal research in reproductive biology. By making these documents available on the SSR Web site, we hope to provide useful information which will enhance public knowledge of the role and importance of animal research in the reproductive sciences, either indirectly (via SSR members) or directly (via other interested Web site readers). The first document in this series—entitled “What good is cloning anyway?”—is now available (www.ssr.org/AnimalCareCloning.html). The second document, which appeared in the June 2004 newsletter, describes the organization and function of Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees and will be added to the Web site soon. ACUC is currently working on the third document in this series which addresses the question “Why use animals in reproductive research?” and discusses the benefits, both present and potential, of animal research to reproductive health in animals and humans.

Another goal of ACUC is to provide SSR members with updates on legislation related to animal research. In June 2004, the USDA announced its intent to extend enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act to birds other than birds bred for use in research. This follows the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, which amended the definition of *animal* in the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) to specifically exclude (all) birds, rats of the genus *Rattus*, and mice of the genus *Mus*, bred for use in research. At the same time, the USDA also solicited comments to help determine whether they should continue to regulate rats and mice, other than rats of the genus *Rattus* and mice of the genus *Mus* bred for use in research, according to the AWA or whether specific standards should be adopted for these animals. The USDA deadline for comments regarding these proposed regulatory changes was August 3, 2004, but as of January 14, 2005, the final ruling is still pending. SSR members who are interested in possible changes to regulations affecting the handling, care, treatment, and transportation of birds, rats, and mice not bred for research are advised to watch the

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Web site for the final ruling regarding these issues (www.aphis.usda.gov/ppd/rad/webrepor.html).

A “hot topic” with potential impact on reproductive researchers who use domestic livestock as experimental models is the National Animal Identification System (NAIS). Plans for this system have been expedited since the first case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy was detected in the United States in December 2003. The objective of the NAIS is to create an effective, uniform system that allows identification and tracking of animals throughout their life span. In the case of disease outbreak, the goal is to limit the scope and expense of the outbreak by identifying all animals and premises that have had contact with the disease within 48 hours after discovery. Currently, the USDA is developing NAIS plans for cattle (beef and dairy), horses, poultry, sheep, swine, camelids (llamas and alpacas), bison, and cervids (deer and elk). The NAIS is a joint effort involving state, federal, and industry partnerships. Various animal identification technologies, including electronic identification and retinal scan, are being evaluated. Additional information about NAIS can be found at www.usda.gov/nais. ■

—Adele Turzillo, Chair
Animal Care and Use Committee



Mary Hunzicker-Dunn (center) and other guests at the opening reception of SSR's Annual Meeting last year in Vancouver.



Nir Etkovitz (left) and Lynda McGinnis (center, facing camera) discuss science with colleagues at a poster session during the 2004 Annual Meeting.



Janice Bahr (right, facing camera) at a poster session during SSR's Annual Meeting in Vancouver.

(Photos from the 2004 Annual Meeting by Donna Magdalina)

The opening reception at SSR's 2004 Annual Meeting in Vancouver.



The new editorial team for *Biology of Reproduction* gathered at the 2004 Annual Meeting. In the center of the photo are Editors-in-Chief John Eppig (beard) and Mary Ann Handel (glasses). Associate Editors include (left to right) John Davis, Bernard Robaire, Fuller Bazer, Richard Schultz, Mitch Eddy, Doug Stocco, Sally Perreault Darney, Sue Moenter, and Keith Latham.

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