



SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF REPRODUCTION Newsletter

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June 2005

From the President—

Thoughts and thanks at the end of a presidential term

After serving as a Director, Secretary, and President-Elect, one might think that I would understand the day-to-day operations of the Society. Well, I was in for a surprise! It continues to amaze me that there are daily decisions and actions to be taken to keep the Society moving forward. As members, we tend to think from one Annual Meeting to the next, with the understanding that papers get published in the journal in the intervening months. As President, I have discovered otherwise. It seems that few days go by without my attention to some SSR matter. Since the President of SSR changes each year, we are indebted to our Executive Director, Judy Jansen, for maintaining our corporate memory and keeping us in touch with issues of relevance to the Society. The hard-working staff in the SSR Business Office continues to give high-quality service to SSR members in a manner that is nearly invisible. So, you have probably been unaware of their continuous efforts. When you see them at the Annual Meeting, don't forget to say thanks for all they do for you all year long.

The Strategic Planning Committee, under the leadership of Asgi Fazleabas, presented its final report to the Board of Directors at the 2004 summer Board meeting. In the report, specific recommendations were made to enhance the quality of *Biology of Reproduction*, to maintain a balanced operating budget and develop a plan to build the endowment, and to continue the high caliber of scientific content at the Annual Meeting as the best ways to maintain membership. Under the able leadership of new Editors-in-Chief, John Eppig and Mary Ann Handel, most of the recommendations for the journal have been implemented. The Associate Editors have done a remarkable job of implementing a new review structure for manuscripts with no delay in processing of manuscripts during the transition. The Development Committee continues to work diligently to secure sponsorship for Annual Meet-

ing events and to encourage donations to the endowment funds. Because of generous contributions to the Legacy Fund, all back issues of *BOR* are now available free of charge on the Web. Finally, the Board is exploring ways to increase our international outreach and also to establish closer ties with reproductive societies throughout the world.

Through its membership in FASEB and its sister societies, SSR takes an active part in trying to influence policies that impact our members and our science. This year, the Society has been very involved in the ongoing debate over NIH's public access policy. Although the Board of Directors has expressed clear support for the concept of open access of scientific papers to the general public, it is felt that this must be done in a way that does not compromise the quality of the final product that is made available or the stability of not-for-profit journals. The new NIH policy went into effect on May 2, and SSR has issued a statement advising authors of papers published in *BOR* how they may satisfy the NIH policy without violating *BOR*'s copyrights.

In addition to open access, policies on stem cell research continue to generate discussion in Washington. All U.S. and Canadian members recently received an e-mail from SSR asking them to contact relevant senators and representatives to express support for upcoming legislation to expand the number of stem cell lines that may be used for research. In an effort to avoid overloading your e-mail boxes, we do screen many of the messages that come to SSR and only send those that we believe have relevance to a large percentage of our members. We have been told by lobbyists and congressional aides that the sheer number of e-mails, letters, and phone calls they receive on a particular issue does affect how our representatives vote. If they don't hear from us, they assume the issue is not important enough to take a stand on it. So,

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please consider contacting your senators and representatives when these votes are pending.

Of course, many of us are in full gear at this time planning for the 2005 Annual Meeting. Marc-Andre Sirard and his Local Arrangements Committee are currently ironing out all the details to make the Annual Meeting run as smoothly as possible. Québec City promises to be a beautiful and stimulating site for the meeting. Alan Johnson and the Program Committee have put together a diverse series of plenary lectures and minisymposia that will certainly provide something for everyone interested in the reproductive sciences. I encourage you to visit the SSR Web site to view the scientific program that has been planned. An innovation to the meeting this year is that all posters will be in place for the entire meeting. So, if you found that you just didn't have time to visit all of the posters you wanted to see before, you will have plenty of time to do so this year!

For the President's Symposium, I have chosen to highlight reproductive immunology, which I believe to be an exciting blend of two previously distinct disciplines. While the most common issue in reproductive immunology is certainly to understand the "fetal allograft," immune cells may serve as physiological regulators of many reproductive processes. Novel roles of immune cells in the ovary and testis will be presented by Adrian Erlebacher and Mark Hedger, respectively. In keeping with this theme, the Keynote Address will be presented by J. Lee Nelson, who will discuss some rather unconventional ideas about the long-term effects of the fetal allograft on the mother.

Of course, there will also be a number of stimulating presentations in the numerous platform sessions, and many platform and poster presenters will be competing for Trainee Investigator Awards. Last year, the Trans-Atlantic Exchange Lecture was considered to be a great success, and will be continued this year with presentations by New Investigator Awardees Lisa Thurston (SRF) and Robert Viger (SSR).

Each year, the Annual Meeting seems to grow, and organization has become increasingly complex. For this reason, the Board of Directors has approved a part-time position for a meeting planner, who will work closely with the Business Office staff and the Local Arrangements Committees to plan our Annual Meetings while trying to maintain the personal nature of the meeting and involvement of trainees that are hallmarks of SSR Annual Meetings. Finally, we are grateful to the many corporate friends and granting agencies who generously contribute funds to support trainee travel, awards, plenary lectures, minisymposia, and social events, all of which make the SSR meeting a success each year.

It has been a busy year, but also a tremendous learning experience for me. I am honored to have had the opportunity to serve this great Society as its President. I do believe that one of the strengths of SSR resides in the diversity of its members and their scientific backgrounds. At the Annual Meeting, one will find very fundamental science, application of that science, and everything in between. SSR is also unique in the mix of biological models that are always a part of the science that is presented—everything from humans to mice to cows to fish to drosophila. This diversity can only serve to enhance our learning experience and our understanding of reproductive processes.

Of course, I must express my deepest appreciation to the officers, directors, committees and committee chairs, and the people who work in the Business Office for their support, encouragement, advice, and especially their hard work on behalf of the Society this past year. Special thanks to Sue Quirk, who has served as newsletter editor for a number of years, and has always performed this arduous task with a smile. As Bill Thatcher assumes the helm at the end of the Annual Meeting this summer, I am sure that he will find, as I did, that the people in SSR are what make the job rewarding. I hope to see each and every one of you in Québec City in July! ■

—Joy Pate

Emeritus Breakfast at Québec

The Emeritus Committee is looking forward to the inaugural Emeritus Breakfast and historical lecture to be held July 25 during the Annual Meeting of the Society. A fair number of individuals have already signed up to attend the breakfast. As part of the breakfast program, the committee will pay tribute to Dr. Andrew Nalbandov, a Past-President of SSR and an investigator who made significant contributions to the field of reproductive biology. Dr. John Resko will present the tribute along with interesting anecdotes remembered from his tenure as one of Dr. Nalbandov's graduate students. Immediately after the breakfast Dr. Jack Gorski, University of Wisconsin–Madison, will present a historical account of the key players and sequence of scientific events that led to the discovery of the estrogen receptor. The title of his presentation is "Discovery of the nuclear estrogen receptor: A history lesson." This should be a most interesting and informative presentation and everyone is welcome to attend, especially all trainees. ■

—Fredrick Stormshak, Chair
Emeritus Committee



Mitch Eddy

President-Elect, Directors chosen

In the SSR election conducted in April, Dr. Edward Mitchell “Mitch” Eddy was chosen as President-Elect and Drs. Barbara Vanderhyden and Mary Zelinski-Wooten were selected as Directors.

Biographical sketches of all candidates in this year’s election can be found at <www.ssr.org/Documents/05elect.pdf>.

A total of 654 members voted for President-Elect and 649 members voted for Directors. The SSR election process this year allowed members to vote electronically between April 14 and April 30. The feedback on electronic voting was very favorable.

The 2004–05 Nominating Committee thanks SSR members for nominating colleagues who will provide excellent leadership for our Society and for participating in the 2005 SSR election. ■

—Fuller W. Bazer, Chair
2004–05 Nominating Committee



Barbara Vanderhyden



Mary Zelinski-Wooten

SSR awards announced

At its midwinter meeting, the SSR Board of Directors approved recommendations from the Awards Committee for the major SSR awards. The Awards Committee extends its congratulations to the following awardees:

Carl G. Hartman Award (sponsored by Johnson & Johnson Pharmaceutical Research and Development, LLC)—Dr. Gordon D. Niswender, Colorado State University.

SSR Research Award (sponsored by N.V. Organon)—Dr. Mary Hunzicker-Dunn, Northwestern University.

SSR Distinguished Service Award (sponsored by Serono Reproductive Biology Institute)—Dr. Virendra B. Mahesh, Medical College of Georgia.

SSR New Investigator Award (sponsored by the Virendra B. Mahesh New Investigator Fund)—Dr. Robert S. Viger, Laval University.

The selection process for 16 individuals to receive Lalor Foundation Merit Awards and 10 USDA NRI Merit Awards is currently under way, and notifications will be made in the near future. The selection of individuals to receive the SST Trainee Research Awards (supported by Serono Reproductive Biology Institute) will take place at the Annual Meeting. Several new Burroughs Wellcome Trainee Research Awards (supported by the Burroughs Wellcome Fund) will be presented to four graduate and four postdoctoral trainees from degree-granting institutions in the United States and Canada.

The Awards Committee expresses appreciation to all those who nominated and supported candidates this past year and strongly urges participation in identifying suitable recipients for these awards in 2006. Please exercise the privilege of membership in the Society by nominating candidates for the major SSR awards. ■

—Robert C. Burghardt, Chair
Awards Committee

FROM THE REPRODUCTIVE SCIENCES BRANCH, NICHD

The notice for NICHD Administrative Supplements for Human Embryonic Stem Cell Research has been posted on the Web at <grants2.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-HD-05-011.html>.

—Louis V. DePaolo
Reproductive Sciences Branch
Center for Population Research, NICHD

Committee outlines proposed bylaws changes

The Bylaws Committee was recently asked by the Board of Directors to suggest substantive changes to the bylaws that would reflect (1) a reorganization of the Society's committee structure and (2) a refocusing of the rights and privileges of emeritus members. To this end, the committee facilitated the Board's request to dissolve the Education Committee, assign the editor of the newsletter to the Public Affairs Committee, and assign the organizers of any satellite workshops for future Annual Meetings to the Program Committee. With respect to emeritus membership, the committee reaffirmed the extreme value of emeritus members to the Society, refocused the requirements for emeritus status to include 10, not necessarily continuous, years of regular membership,

and documented their rights to the waiver of annual dues and registration fees for the Annual Meeting. These suggestions will be considered by the Board this summer. The Board's recommendations on these subjects will then be communicated to the membership.

Please keep in mind that regular members may, at any time, suggest changes to the bylaws that would help advance the goals of the Society. Your Bylaws Committee and Board of Directors are always pleased to receive such suggestions and are ready to give them prompt consideration. ■

—Michael C. Henson, Chair
Bylaws Committee

New Members

Regular

Cindy M. Anderson
Thierry Bailhache
Mary A. Bedell
Diego H. Castrillon
D. Bradley Imwalle
Hui Li
Xiaohong Li
Carol C. Linder
Bjorn Oback
Ramesh Ramachandran
Ryosuke Sakumoto
Takumi Takeuchi
Hiromitsu Tanaka
Monica H. Vazquez-Levin
Lihong Zhang

Associate

Wenguang Cao
Il-Keun Kong
Nechama S. Kosower
Yong-Soo Park
Danesh Pezeshki
Yuichi Toyama

Trainee

Takayuki Asahi
Melanie Anna Bagg
Nathan Bain
Michelle Baltes
Amanda Beardsley
Stephanie Bolduc-Beaulieu
Malinda Burkhart
Cristina Caldari-Torres
Kristi M. Cammack

Wenlei Cao
Martha Z. Carletti
Pierre-Luc Caron
Ying Chen
Jessica Cherry
Aron Cory
Amy R. Cropp
Edmir Da Nicola Silva
Patricia da Fonseca Nunes
da Silva
Kaushik Deb
Omar Diaz
Ricarda Maria dos Santos
Geppino Falco
Daniela Fischer
Ellis Kin Lam Fok
Joseph Folger
Margaret Fondong
Carlos Moises Franco
Guylaine Frechette-Frigon
Jennifer Frohlich
Emily Grote
Salma Toma Hanna
Lanping Hao
Tanya Harris
Alexandra Harvey
Tisha King Heiden
Jennifer Herington
Laura Lorraine Hernandez
Yuko Hirano
Alice L. S. Ho
Zhiying Hu
Zhu Hu
Stephanie Huang
Anne Soerig Jakobsen
Michelle Jammongjit
Yoonsun Kim
Willson Kwok

Benoit Labrecque
Laura A. Laviolette
Feixue Li
Manyu Li
Yonghai Li
Christine Lima
Li-Jung (Shelley) Lin
Cristina Fontes Lindemann
Brandon Lingenfelter
Jun Ma
Genevieve M Magarey
Mary Margiasso
Nune Markosyan
Yuiko Matsumoto
Mary McLaughlin
Leonard Medico Jr
Jose Miranda
Rachel Namdori Mtango
John S. Nelson
Cristian O'Flaherty
Fernanda Parborell
David Pepin
Steve Perrault
Dana Lynn Philipps
Reed J. Reeve
Zelieann Rivera
Delany Rodriguez
Hideo Sakamoto
Y. Sangeeta Devi
M. Carey Satterfield
Heather Schlessler
Rita Shamoon
Keriayn Smith
Vinod K. Sontineni
Fengyun Sun
Andrea Sweeney
Daniel Sylvain
Chandrakant Tayade

Elizabeth Torres
Lindsey S. Trevino
Chih-Chien Tsai
Mary Ellen Urick
Rapeepun Vanichviriyakit
Michael C. Velarde
Cheng Wang
Lei Wang
Lauri Willingham-Rocky
Nicola Wrench
Katherine Lily Wu
Hiromichi Yamashita

Change of status

Trainee to Regular:
Benson T. Akingbemi
Joe A. Arosh
Jannette M. Dufour
Debjani Ghosh
Ali Honaramooz
Becky J. T. Muir
Nuria M. Pastor-Soler
Jagathpala Shetty
Xia Wang

Trainee to Associate:
Ana Z. Ruiz
Abe Scheaffer
P. Ronald Tovich

Associate to Regular:
J. Lannett Edwards
Philip S. LaPolt
Masaaki Nakai
Marta Tesone
Walter Tsark
Monika A. Ward

A growing membership

A growing membership is essential for SSR to remain the number one reproductive biology society. I am pleased to report that our membership has increased during the past few months. For comparison, on January 1, 2004, there were 1,790 members. On January 1, 2005, there were 1,585 members—an alarming decrease. By April 1, 2005, however, membership had increased to 2,161 in all four categories, i.e., regular, associate, trainee, and emeritus. We must continue to work diligently to keep a vibrant and growing membership.

SSR is an international society. Currently 35.6% of our members are from outside the United States, with approximately 8% Canadians and 10% Japanese. A review of papers published in *Biology of Reproduction* will quickly confirm our strong international presence.

During the past year, we have again used the pyramid organization model to enable the Membership Committee to contact as many SSR members as possible throughout the world. With this model, the world is divided into regions, with one Membership Committee person assigned to each region. In turn, this person identifies SSR members in the region to help him/her contact SSR members.

Another approach we are using to increase membership is to contact first and last authors of manuscripts published in *BOR* who are not members of SSR. I was surprised to find that about 75% of first authors and 45% of last authors are not SSR members. We are sending each of these authors a letter of invitation to join SSR. I do not have the data yet to judge the success of this approach, but it was used successfully some years ago.

An untapped opportunity to increase SSR membership is to invite our fellow European reproductive biologists to join SSR by distributing information to European reproductive biology scientific societies, e.g., European Testis Workshop and Conference on Female Reproductive Tract. A special thanks to committee member Katja Teerds for bringing this opportunity to our attention.

We are faced with a number of challenges in attempting to increase membership in SSR. Electronic publishing of *BOR*, proliferation of scientific meetings, and the cost of membership were the major reasons given by former SSR members for not renewing their membership.

We are fortunate to be members of a truly outstanding scientific society! Keep SSR vibrant and growing by helping the Membership Committee. Invite a colleague or a trainee to join you as a member in SSR! The reason most people do not join an organization is because no one has asked them to join! ■

—Janice Bahr, Chair
Membership Committee

Short note from the Treasurer

A financial analysis of the SSR budget for 2004 indicated expenses of \$1.93M, offset by revenues of \$2.06M, providing a modest surplus, and the fifth consecutive year in the black for the Society. The gains represent profits in the Annual Meeting and Publications envelopes of the budget. The SSR Board of Directors approved a 2005 budget forecasting expenditures of \$1.9M, and we expect revenues to cover all expenses for the year.

The value of the SSR investment portfolio was \$2.1M at the end of 2005, and has since declined by 2.9 percent. This decline was substantially below the 4.5 percent loss in the Standard & Poor's Index, which reflects the broader stock market. Because our portfolio, invested in mutual funds, continues to outperform the market indices, no changes have been made in investments this year.

The Society's Finance Committee—comprising current and former Presidents, the President-Elect, the Secretary, the Executive Director, and the Treasurer—met in advance of the midwinter meeting of the Board of Directors to discuss the budget, the income streams, and the financial challenges faced by SSR. The issue in the short to medium term is maintenance of a balance of revenue over expenditure for *Biology of Reproduction*. We shall do our best to meet this challenge. ■

—Bruce D. Murphy

QUÉBEC BECKONS

The Local Arrangements Committee looks forward to welcoming participants in SSR's 38th Annual Meeting to be held July 23–27 in downtown Québec City, one of the most popular tourist destinations in Canada.

We invite you to enjoy historic Old Québec City (very near the SSR venue), the beauty of the Montmorency Falls, and breathtaking views of the magnificent St. Lawrence River.

Plan on attending the Jazz Opening Reception and the BBQ Dance, an event not to be missed!

Accommodations are filling quickly, and the committee would like to thank all delegates who have reserved their rooms early.

Please visit <www.crbr.ulaval.ca>, where you will find information to help you plan your rendez-vous in Québec!

—Local Arrangements Committee
SSR 2005

Highlighting *Biology of Reproduction* Highlights...

Perhaps you've noticed a new feature in your recent issues of *Biology of Reproduction*—our "Highlights" page. We're really excited about the high caliber of papers coming to *BOR*, and we wanted to take the opportunity to profile several articles per issue in a language that speaks to all reproductive biologists, not just the specialists in the areas of the papers profiled. We hope you enjoy this section. In case you haven't seen it, we have provided a few abbreviated samples below; the complete versions are available on the journal's Web site.

New insights into the "2-cell block" of embryo development in vitro: For many years it has been a puzzle why embryos from most random-bred and inbred female mice exhibit a block at the 2-cell stage in classical embryo culture media. Because embryos of many F1 hybrids develop beyond this stage, it has been thought that the phenotype is dependent on the genotype of the female giving rise to the egg—there are "blocking" and "nonblocking" types of females. The recent development of media in which even "blocking" embryos develop to the blastocyst stage allowed Hadi et al. to address specific properties implicated in the 2-cell block and to test the hypothesis that the 2-cell block is not restricted to particular genotypes, but that instead there is varying susceptibility. Their results not only clear up long-standing confusion about the etiology of the 2-cell block but also highlight the important effects of culture conditions on experimental design.

("Similar effects of osmolarity, glucose, and phosphate on cleavage past the 2-cell stage in mouse embryos from outbred and F₁ hybrid females." Timin Hadi, Mary-Anne Hammer, Carolyn Algire, Tiffany Richards, and Jay M. Baltz. *Biol Reprod* 2005; 72:179–187.)

Effects of delayed motherhood: Negative effects of late maternal age in women on offspring aneuploidy and its associated defects are well known. However, other potential negative effects on offspring from delayed motherhood have been only anecdotal. In what is sure to be a controversial topic of discussion, a paper by Tarin and colleagues presents data that delayed motherhood in mice results in decreased life expectancy and reduced body weight of their adult offspring.

("Delayed motherhood decreases life expectancy of mouse offspring." Juan J. Tarin, Vanessa Gomez-Piquer, Francisco Rausell, Samuel Navarro, Carlos Hermenegildo, and Antonio Cano. *Biol Reprod* 2005; 72:1336–1343.)

Angiogenesis and corpus luteum development: Angiogenesis is an important part of tissue remodeling during developmental processes in normal tissue and in cancers. For over 30 years investigators have worked toward elucidating the factors and processes controlling angiogenesis during development of the corpus luteum. The family of vascular endothelial growth factors (VEGF) has received much attention based on their ability to promote angiogenesis and ovarian function at the time of ovulation. Angiopoietins (ANGPT) are other factors that have been recently described to modulate blood vessel growth and regression. Xu and Stouffer describe experiments using female rhesus monkeys to examine effects of injection of the agonist ANGPT1 or the antagonist ANGPT2 into the preovulatory follicle on subsequent ovarian function. Their data extend the concept that angiogenesis is important for ovulation by demonstrating that a balance between ANGPT

agonists (ANGPT1) and antagonists (ANGPT2) in the preovulatory follicle may be critical for ovulation and corpus luteum function.

("Local delivery of angiopoietin-2 into the preovulatory follicle terminates the menstrual cycle in rhesus monkeys." Fuhua Xu and Richard L. Stouffer. *Biol Reprod* 2005; 72:1352–1358.)

Controlling Sertoli cells: Nearly 20 years ago, elegant studies by Orth established that spermatid numbers produced by adults depend on the numbers of Sertoli cells formed during perinatal testis development. Consequently, much effort has been devoted to discovering factors regulating Sertoli cell proliferation. Thyroid hormone is a known inhibitor of Sertoli cell proliferation, and neonatal hypothyroidism results in larger than normal testis size in rodents. Holsberger et al. report results of a study designed to test the hypothesis that the effect of thyroid hormone is mediated by cyclin-dependent kinase inhibitors. They studied mice with null mutations in the genes encoding CDKN1B (commonly known as p27) and CDKN1A (also known as p21). Testis weights, Sertoli cell numbers, and daily sperm production were increased in adult single knockout and double knockout mice. However, the length of the perinatal period of Sertoli cell proliferation was not extended. Thus both p27 and p21 play inhibitory roles in regulating adult Sertoli cell number, but there also must be other factors that regulate the cessation of Sertoli cell proliferation. ("Cell-cycle inhibitors p27Kip1 and p21Cip1 regulate murine Sertoli cell proliferation." Denise R. Holsberger, Gregory M. Buchold, Marcelo Castro Leal, Sarah E. Kiesewetter, Deborah A. O'Brien, Rex A. Hess, Luiz R. Franca, Hiroaki Kiyokawa, and Paul S. Cooke. *Biol Reprod* 2005; 72:1429–1436.)

Enjoy! And keep the good papers coming! ■

—John Eppig and Mary Ann Handel
Editors-in-Chief

Minority Affairs at Québec

The Minority Affairs Committee (MAC) is pleased to announce that, on July 25 during the Annual Meeting, MAC will hold a networking dinner, followed by a lecture and discussion on career development. Guest speaker Dr. Winston Anderson from Howard University will discuss "Mentee to colleague: Paths to a research career."

These activities are sponsored by Burroughs Wellcome, which will also provide travel funds for three minority trainees and two minority junior faculty to attend the Annual Meeting and dinner session. Watch for e-mail from the SSR Business Office with application forms for the travel funds and encourage trainees and new faculty to apply. Citizens of Canada or the United States and people who belong to underrepresented minority groups are eligible to apply. Membership in SSR is not required. MAC wishes to thank Burroughs Wellcome for its generous support.

MAC will also be running an information booth at the Annual Meeting. Please stop by to get information on funding opportunities. ■

—Rajagopala Sridaran, Chair
Minority Affairs Committee

CoRE focuses on threats to reproductive success

As we emerge into the 21st century, we have more knowledge about the biology of life than at any time in history, and that knowledge has the potential to help us generate innovative solutions to promote the reproductive health of humans, other species, and ecosystems. Understanding the complex interactions between the “environment,” whether macro or micro, and the process of reproduction is essential.

All reproductive activities have an environmental component, whether it is the “environment” of the uterus or egg during fertilization and development, the “environment” of the in vitro culture in ART, or the “environment” of the nest, forest, prairie, or barn where a neonate begins growth and maturation. For decades, SSR has supported studies encompassing all these facets of reproduction, and three years ago, the Society began to formalize its support of this area of research and training in reproduction by establishing the Committee on Reproduction and the Environment—CoRE.

Over the last several years, this committee has worked to produce a minisymposium that would be of interest to the entire Society. We hope to do so again this year at the Annual Meeting, with a minisymposium focused on “Threats to Reproductive Success in a Modern World.” Knowledge of the reproductive biology of many organisms has brought with it the hope of solving reproductive problems, whether in populations of endangered species, farm animals, or infertile couples. However, lack of genetic diversity, advances in technology, or background pollution may further complicate the success of these technologies. The talks in this year’s minisymposium highlight a growing concern that reproduction and neonatal health are impacted by the environment, whether due to low-level contamination, low genetic diversity, or the assisted reproduction technology laboratory. Speakers include David Wildt (Smithsonian Institution, National Zoological Park), Kevin Sinclair (University of Nottingham), and Bernard Jegou (INSERM, France).

In the coming year, CoRE will continue to advance an education program in the areas of environment and reproduction. To that end, we have begun working with a complementary group in the American Society of Reproductive Medicine to organize what is currently called the “Stanford Summit,” which will focus on environmental reproductive issues, especially those associated with fertility and infertility. I will keep you updated as this program develops.

We will soon have a transition in leadership, as Doug Foster, who helped establish this committee and was the

captain of the ship as we left the dock, now plans to be “Captain Doug” of the little red tugboat of the Northwest Passage. We will not let him “tug” into the sunset of British Columbia, but hope to see him each year as we continue to develop this program. I thank him for his leadership. It is my pleasure to try to continue the development of this program over the next few years. I hope that each of you with an interest in this committee’s work will come forward with ideas, because we need your support and insights to make this a valued asset to the SSR community. ■

—*Louis Guillette, Chair
Committee on Reproduction and the Environment*

New public affairs Web page

The Public Affairs Committee has completed development of the public affairs Web page, which can now be viewed on the SSR Web site at <www.ssr.org/Committees.html> (scroll down to Public Affairs). The committee’s intent is to provide a Web page that includes links to research modules developed by members of SSR and to other resources that provide information concerning areas in reproductive biology such as neuroendocrine systems, cyclicality, ovary, testis, fertilization, assisted reproductive technologies, implantation, development, pregnancy, parturition, and endocrine disruptors. The committee expects to continue to add information as the membership becomes more aware of the Web page and submits possible links for evaluation by the committee. An e-mail link is included with the Web page as a means to nominate sources of information.

The Web page includes a module for helpful links concerning animal welfare and the use of animals in research. Select links to animal use in research are also included in the educational module. In addition, a module was developed to provide articles concerning reproductive issues of concern and interest to the general public. Daniel MacPhee was instrumental in arranging posting in the public information module of the first article concerning identification of reproductive genes by gene targeting strategies, authored by Yi-Nan Lin and Martin M. Matzuk. The Public Affairs Committee will continue to oversee and update information on the Web page. ■

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

Scientific program set for Québec City

The Program Committee has finalized its planning for the 2005 Annual Meeting in Québec City, and the entire program may be viewed on the SSR Web site. We are excited about the diversity of topics and quality of invited Keynote, President's Symposium, and Plenary Session speakers. The 15 minisymposium topics reflect the input and interests of the Program Committee and SSR membership. No doubt you are already aware of the revised topic categories for the organization of platform and poster sessions implemented to emphasize functional relationships among reproductive systems. Platform session organizers have gone to great lengths to ensure the highest degree of quality for each of the 21 scheduled sessions. This year all posters will be displayed throughout the entire meeting. As in the past, authors will be available to discuss their work at designated times, and

the expanded opportunity for poster viewing will, I'm sure, be welcomed by all. Finally, be sure to attend the film premiere of *SSR—The Generation of a Legacy* (with an introduction by Pat Hoyer) on Sunday evening. This tribute to our founding members is an appropriate way to celebrate our Society's rich tradition and to start off this year's scientific program.

I am truly convinced that you will find the Québec City Convention Center and Québec City itself a superb professional and social venue for our annual gathering, and I urge you to make your final arrangements to attend as soon as possible. *Bienvenue au Ville de Québec!* ■

—Alan L. Johnson, Chair
Program Committee

Trainee Committee election and events for Annual Meeting

A total of 187 trainees voted in the trainee representative election for 2005–07. Our new trainee representative is Olga Bolden-Tiller. Most of us are already familiar with Olga from her various activities with the Trainee Affairs Committee. Congratulations Olga!

As with every SSR Annual Meeting, trainees will find the Québec City meeting very exciting. Besides an excellent scientific program, described on the Web at <www.ssr.org/Documents/05Schedule.pdf>, trainees will have a chance to participate in the traditional trainee events. The trainee luncheon will be held on July 25 at the Convention Center. Mentors with a wide spectrum of interests will be joining us. We hope that you will find a mentor with whom you would like to have lunch and discuss science, their experience, or your career. Participating trainees will receive an invitation from Jessica Schunk by e-mail. If you are interested, please send her a list of mentors with whom you would like to have lunch. Please remember that we have limited seats available per table; therefore, responders will be assigned to mentors in the order they are received.

Trainees who are trying to support their own research won't want to miss the Trainee Forum this year. The forum topic is "Writing Winning Grants," presented by Dr. Mark Miranda, National Program Leader for Competitive Programs, USDA. Dr. Miranda has significant experience in educating young scientists for grant programs, including NIH and USDA. Come prepared; bring your Specific Aims page if you are getting ready to submit a grant. All trainees are strongly encouraged to attend the Trainee Forum on July 26 at the Convention Center.

Trainee members of SSR who are presenting abstracts at the Annual Meeting can apply for support to the Larry Ewing Memorial Trainee Travel Fund (LEMTTF). Kathrin Dunlap will coordinate the LEMTTF for this year's meeting. Proceeds from the annual T-shirt sales go into the LEMTTF, so you can actually contribute to LEMTTF by buying the official SSR Annual Meeting T-shirt. Remember, SSR membership is open to all trainees, and I strongly recommend viewing the membership benefits on the SSR Web site (www.ssr.org/Membership.html).

The Placement Service will be open and attended by volunteer trainees throughout the meeting. I'd like to emphasize that this is a unique opportunity for trainees to respond to a job announcement instantly and interview with their future mentor right next to the Placement Service room. Please submit your form in advance and bring your CV to the meeting. Interestingly, there are usually more announcements for job openings than there are trainees looking for jobs. In other words, the Placement Service has been a favorite job-posting place for institutions and mentors for years. Please take advantage of this service. Also, we really appreciate the volunteers who keep the service open during the meeting. Our Junior Trainee Representative, Kimberly Barnett (kbarnett@epi.umaryland.edu), will be sending e-mail messages to request volunteers. By sparing one or two hours, you will be helping us keep the Placement Service functioning throughout the meeting.

I am looking forward to seeing you all at the meeting in Québec City this summer! ■

—Ugur Salli
Senior Trainee Representative

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