



SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF REPRODUCTION Newsletter

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From the President—

Beginning of a new SSR season!

After a truly world-class meeting in Québec City that showcased state-of-the-art science, helped us refine our game plans for continued development of our research, increased our potential competitiveness in the grant arena, and enhanced the learning experiences of our trainees, the new SSR season begins. The experiences of the meeting rejuvenate us and our enthusiasm is rekindled. SSR members work hard and play hard, as is evident at the Annual Meeting. We are members of a society that allows us to refuel our intellectual tanks and makes us feel we are part of something bigger (“The SSR Team”) than our individual selves or programs.

Unselfish service and camaraderie make our Society so successful. I can think of no better examples than Alan Johnson (Chair) and the members of his Program Committee who together built an outstanding program. On behalf of SSR, I offer Alan and his team our heartfelt congratulations for a superb and innovative program featuring outstanding invited speakers, timely and focused minisymposia, exciting point/counterpoint issues, transatlantic exchange lectures from our premier young scientists, and the most recent findings via poster and platform presentations. We are deeply appreciative for the sustaining support from NIH and NRI, the Mahesh Neuroendocrine Program Fund, R.H. Foote Lectureship Fund, Mahesh New Investigator Endowment Fund, and the Larry Ewing Memorial Trainee Travel Fund, as well as program support in the form of educational grants from the Lalor Foundation, the Burroughs Wellcome Fund, Johnson & Johnson Pharmaceutical Research and Development, Serono Research Institute, Organon, CONRAD, Barr Pharmaceuticals, Alliance Boviteq Inc., Centre d'insemination porcine du Canada, NIKON Canada, the Gouvernement du Québec, the CIHR/IGH, and Ogilvy Renault.

Our Editors-in Chief, John Eppig and Mary Ann Handel, held an editorial retreat to further optimize the peer review process and to develop strategies to recruit and publish the best science in *Biology of Reproduction*, which continues to sustain a high impact factor. The Editorial Office has incorporated a summary sentence—or “zinger”—for each published paper, and a “Highlights” section that focuses on and contains synopses of one or more featured articles in each issue. These strategies will increase the visibility of our excellent array of published papers.

SSR appreciates the cross section of support it receives for the Annual Meeting. Sponsorship this year was at an all-time high, and we are indebted to the members of the Development Committee (Chair Roger Gosden and subcommittee Chairs Janice Bailey and Andy LaBarbera) for their diligent efforts throughout the year to retain continuing and acquire new corporate support for our awards, trainee programs, and special networking sessions. This year, the Development Committee hosted a luncheon at the Annual Meeting to express our appreciation to our corporate friends and to seek their counsel in making sponsorship programs most productive for them and for the Society.

SSR continues to build the scaffolding to expand our international sphere of scientific exchange. Past President Joy Pate, Milo Wiltbank, Buck Hales, and I met with various international attendees at the summer meeting, including Lois Salamonsen, President of the Australian Society for Reproductive Biology, regarding possible reproduction satellite meetings. An example would be a possible satellite meeting among sister societies that would involve scientists of the Pacific Rim. SSR is clearly recognized as the premier conduit of scientific exchange in reproduction. In addition to our Trans-Atlantic Exchange Lectures, SSR



sponsored Tom Spencer as a plenary speaker at the 2004 International Congress of Animal Reproduction held in Porto Seguro, Brazil. Dr. Spencer was one of three invited speakers representing the sister societies of SSR, ASRB, and SRF. Such global networking increases SSR's sphere of influence, which is evidenced by the attendance of international members at the Annual Meeting and the array of trainees within our laboratories.

As your President, I would personally like to focus on two issues during my tenure; they relate to extending our international networking and developing a dynamic Web site to serve all aspects of the Society. I will be striving to lay out some long-term goals in these areas with some short-term benchmarks of progress.

Currently, our new Program Committee Chair, Tod Hansen, and his committee are planning the program for the 2006 Annual Meeting to be held in Omaha, Nebraska, at the state-of-the-art Qwest Center. At this summer's gathering in Québec, we conducted a survey regarding the dynamics of our Annual Meeting. Based on feedback from the survey, the Program Committee is considering several strategies to enhance scientific interchange, provide more time for informal exchange between attendees, increase the number of platform sessions, and scientifically integrate our awardees and trainee awardees into the program. Please see Tod's newsletter contribution regarding plans for the 2006 Annual Meeting in Omaha. The plans to date point toward another exciting Annual Meeting.

One of the highlights of the Annual Meeting in Québec was the film documentary "SSR: The Generation of a Legacy," produced by Craig Highberger and Pat Hoyer (see separate story on page 19). The film documents the formation of SSR via a series of interviews with its founding members and several Past Presidents. It was inspiring to watch and listen as these men and women described their thinking and the strategies they used to formulate the constitution and by-laws that provide the infrastructure for what SSR is today. Their camaraderie, leadership, humor, and open scientific dialogue are both heartwarming and humbling. These leaders had the visionary focus to create and the dedication to nurture a Society that would meet the scientific need for investigating reproductive biology across various scientific disciplines. The film is as exciting to trainees as it is to veteran members of SSR. Thanks, Craig and Pat, for capturing the history and spirit of the Society for future generations. To

further maintain our links to landmark areas of investigation, a "historical perspectives" lecture will be incorporated into the Annual Meeting program.

In closing, I want to welcome Mitch Eddy, our new President-Elect, and two new SSR directors, Barbara Vanderhyden and Mary Zelinski. They represent a turnover to the first team, and we have a new draft pick in Olga Bolden-Tiller, our new Trainee Representative, who will be pairing up with Kimberly Barnett to carry the torch for the trainees of SSR. Our dynamic Society is in excellent shape, and we are moving into the new era of publication challenges with *BOR* in good condition. ■

—Bill Thatcher

Au Revoir, Québec City! Hello, Omaha!

As the 38th Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Reproduction recedes into memory, preparation for the 39th Annual Meeting in Omaha, Nebraska, is in full gear. Members of the Local Arrangements Committee are working very hard to make the meeting a great success and know our guests will enjoy their stay in one of the loveliest cities in the Midwest. The meeting will take place July 29–August 1 at the state-of-the-art Qwest Convention Center in downtown Omaha, just 10 minutes from the airport (Eppley Airfield, OMA). The Qwest Convention Center is the Midwest's premier meeting venue. With 194,000 square feet of exhibition space, 16 meeting rooms, and a 30,000-square-foot Grand Ballroom capable of accommodating over 2,100 banquet guests, the versatile space of the Qwest Convention Center is an excellent choice for SSR's 2006 gathering. The Qwest Convention Center is connected via a skywalk to a 450-room Hilton Hotel. The design of the meeting rooms at the Qwest Center will make moving between sessions a pleasure. The poster session will be held in a display hall, which will allow easy movement between posters. The barbecue, that great SSR legacy, will again be a reality, so pack your dancing shoes! Although the meeting is the first priority, we hope you have an opportunity to see some of the unique places the city has to offer (please visit www.visitomaha.com/new_index.php). The Qwest Center and the hotels are a 5–10 minute walk from the historic Old Market with its cobblestone streets and a variety of ethnic cuisines to satisfy any taste. Together, we believe, it will be a meeting to cherish.

Obviously, we cannot make the meeting a success without your participation, so block the dates on

your calendar, and plan your travel. All major airlines serve Omaha, so traveling to and from the meeting will be a charm. We have selected some of the best hotels in the city for a price that will bring a smile to all our guests, especially to the students and postdoctoral trainees, the most valued members of our Society. The opening reception will be at the world-famous Henry Doorly Zoo, a special treat for members traveling with their families. Members who attended the 2005 Business Meeting had a chance to see images of some of the attractions in Omaha and Nebraska (please visit www.visitomaha.com/new_index.php). We will place all the information on a Web page with a link to SSR's main site so that you can get more information online. As the meeting nears, we will remind you to make hotel reservations early so you will have the opportunity to stay in the heart of downtown and close to the Qwest Center. Contact our committee with any questions regarding the surrounding area, local universities, or local events. We cannot wait to see you at the 2006 Annual Meeting in Omaha! ■

—*Shyamal K. Roy, Chair
Local Arrangements Committee*

Program plans for SSR's 2006 Annual Meeting

The Program Committee is developing an outstanding series of presentations for SSR's Annual Meeting in Omaha July 29–August 1. The theme for the Keynote Address and the Presidential Symposium centers on the roles of functional nutrients and environment on critical reproductive windows. Overall fertility, embryo-fetal-placental development, well-being of the newborn and mother, and subsequent reproductive performance will be considered. Presentations will focus on different experimental approaches, including lessons from cloning in different species, functional genomics, appropriateness of various animal models related to human health, and impact of functional nutrients on selected reproductive processes that culminate in a pregnancy. Neural endocrine interactions that regulate secretion of reproductive hormones will be examined. In particular, their involvement with hyperphagia and obesity will be addressed. We expect that this exciting topic will have broad appeal for the attendees.

The Program, Clinical Outreach, and Reproduction and the Environment Committees, and the gen-

eral SSR membership collectively proposed 79 minisymposia and 16 plenary talks. The Program Committee is currently finalizing topics and speakers. The Mahesh Neuroendocrine Endowment will support one of these minisymposia. One expanded plenary session is planned to address issues associated with embryonic stem cell research and how this might best be presented to the media and the public. The Historical Lecture has been highlighted to be a more formal component of the program. Also, we will invite a speaker from the American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM) to join SSR and SSF speakers for the New Investigator and Exchange Lectures. Furthermore, we are modifying the program to provide one additional platform session each day. The Qwest Center is modern and large enough to accommodate poster-viewing during the entire meeting. We expect to have more extended interactions during the poster sessions, which will be accompanied by a continental breakfast. Trainee research finalists will be introduced during the opening ceremony, and their accomplishments will be highlighted during the awards presentations at the closing ceremony.

We encourage you to submit your most exciting new research and to join us for this international event in Omaha. A call for abstracts will be issued in early November. Abstracts will be due on February 15, 2006. I look forward to seeing you in Omaha. ■

—*Thomas R. Hansen, Chair
2006 Program Committee*

CANDES SYMPOSIUM

In addition to SSR's Annual Meeting, you may want to consider another event in Omaha—the Third International Symposium on Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) for the Conservation and Genetic Management of Companion Animals, Non-Domestic and Endangered Species (CANDES). The CANDES meeting will be held at Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo on July 29, 2006. Symposium information and a call for abstracts for the CANDES meeting will be posted on the SSR Web site, and the abstracts will be included in the 2006 SSR program book, which will be mailed to all SSR members prior to the meeting.

Development Committee Needs Your Help

While wonderful memories of the Annual Meeting in Québec City are still fresh in our minds, planning for next year's meeting is already well under way. In parallel with the Local Arrangements Committee for the Omaha meeting, the Development Committee continues its year-round efforts to raise funds for these meetings, as well as to build long-term financial security for other activities of our Society. Our efforts are being led again this year by Andy LaBarbera for the **Annual Meetings and Industrial Relations (AMIR) subcommittee** and Janice Bailey for the **Endowment subcommittee**. Members of their groups come from academia, research institutes, and companies that have historically supported SSR. Their work goes on behind the scenes and is critical for the Society. They need the support of members who can donate, give their time to serve on a subcommittee, and provide information and suggestions to help build mutually beneficial relationships with industrial donors.

A number of companies have generously supported our educational programs for many years. Nowadays, however, we cannot take their support for granted and have to carefully and continuously explain the *raison d'être* for their relationship with a society whose greatest strengths lie in basic science and fostering students who will become the next generation of research leaders in reproductive science. Clinical societies have no such problems of justifying their relationship with pharmaceutical companies. The difference is most obvious in the exhibition halls at annual meetings of clinical societies versus SSR. One of the major goals of the AMIR this year is, therefore, to attract more exhibitors, and this will be more effective if we can obtain information about our membership. It is expensive to exhibit at a meeting—not just the booth fee but also the costs of travel, accommoda-

tion, and shipping equipment. To persuade more companies to attend our Annual Meetings, we need to provide data that reassure them of contact with enough potential customers to justify their investment. Companies supplying services and equipment to researchers need information about the numbers of principal investigators attending the meeting, and publishers want to know how many are teachers and the size of their classes. Currently, SSR does not record this information about members, but we hope, with your help, that this can be done. On the other side of the coin, we need to inquire about the main areas of R&D in companies so that we can target our appeals more effectively. Your recommendations about potential supporters and how we might reach out to them are most welcome, too.

A few words about two special funds.

The **Endowment Fund** was established in 1995 and has now passed the halfway mark toward our goal of one million dollars. It has been accumulated entirely from within the Society by donations from members. At present, the general Endowment provides travel fellowships for trainees and foreign scientists, endowed lectures, and education programs. The **Legacy Fund**, on the other hand, was established just last year and stands at about \$20,000. It is specifically for maintaining and enhancing the valuable online archive of back issues of *Biology of Reproduction*.

To facilitate your contribution to the Endowment Fund or the Legacy Fund, you can print and use the form below. Contributions to these funds are a wonderful way in which you can personally help ensure the growth and development of SSR for future generations of researchers! Please carefully consider this appeal. **Make giving a habit!** ■

—Roger Gosden, Chairman
Development Committee

Enclosed please find my 2005 contribution of \$ _____

Please make checks payable to the SSR Endowment Fund or Legacy Fund or fill in the charge card information. Please return this card and donation to Society for the Study of Reproduction, 1619 Monroe Street, Madison, WI 53711-2063. For US members, the entire amount of this donation is tax deductible. SSR is a 501(c)(3) organization, tax number 38-6144910.

(check one)
 SSR Endowment Fund SSR Legacy Fund

Name: _____
Address: _____

Please charge \$ _____ (amount) to my <i>(circle one)</i> :			
Visa	MasterCard	American Express	Discover
Account Number: _____			
Exp. Date: _____		Security code: _____	
Signature: _____			

Credit Card donations may be faxed: 608-256-4610

Thank you! Your gift to the SSR Endowment Fund is appreciated.

Committee seeks nominations

The Nominating Committee has started the nomination process for several positions on the SSR Board of Directors. These positions include President-Elect, Treasurer, and two Directors. Upon receiving nominations from regular SSR members, the committee will rank each nominee and present the ranking to the Board of Directors for approval of the slate of candidates for voting by the membership. Our Society has had great leadership in the past and, based on the quality of members in this organization, we will continue to do so. However, this great tradition of SSR cannot be continued without your identification and nomination of the future leaders. The Committee also encourages those candidates who were unsuccessful in the past to run again. The selection process is keen but it should not defer your desire to serve the Society.

The guidelines for nomination specify that the nominee and nominator must be regular members of the Society. Also, a member of the Nominating Committee cannot be nominated, and if currently on the Board of Directors, the nominee must be in the final year of their term of office.

The deadline for submitting nominations is November 14. If you have further questions regarding the nominating process, please contact me or another committee member. ■

—Phillip Fields, Chair
Nominating Committee

Plans for emeritus members at Annual Meeting

The Emeritus Committee continues to explore ways of providing activities at the Annual Meeting that are appealing to the emeriti and "senior citizens" of the Society. Plans are to once again hold a breakfast for emeriti and senior scientists of the Society at the 2006 meeting in Omaha. A pioneer scientist who has made significant contributions to reproductive biology/endocrinology will be recognized at the breakfast. Dr. Jack Gorski was unable to attend the meeting this year to present his historical perspectives lecture on the key players and events that led to the discovery of the nuclear estrogen receptor but has agreed to present the lecture at next year's meeting. A special effort will be made to inform all emeriti of the relevant program scheduled for the 2006 meeting. ■

—Fredrick Stormshak, Chair
Emeritus Committee

From the Editorial Office of *BOR*—

Call for MiniReviews

The Editorial Office of *Biology of Reproduction* invites your suggestions for MiniReviews that are concise and snappy essays providing overviews of important and/or emerging areas. These short articles will bring together current information to construct new models or hypotheses that lay the foundation for future innovative research. Issues of reproductive biology that are at the forefront of significant biological problems have received much attention from research communities and the general public. Thus, these articles should be written to be interesting and informative not just for the specialists, but for the general reader of *BOR*. We expect these review articles will attract readers and potential authors beyond our usual subscription base. To achieve maximum impact and readability, these review essays should be approximately 3–4 printed pages (excluding references) with one or two figures giving insight into mechanisms of reproduction or presenting a model or hypothesis. MiniReviews are subject to the same review procedure as all other manuscripts submitted to *BOR* (assignment to an appropriate Associate Editor, solicitation of two to three reviews, and editorial decision by the Associate Editor in consultation with the Editors-in-Chief).

Please send us your suggestions by e-mail (jje@jax.org and mahandel@jax.org) about what you consider to be exciting topics for review essays and the names of potential authors, or let us know if you would like to contribute a review of this sort! ■

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

IMPORTANT SSR DATES

November 14, 2005

Deadline: Nominations for Officers and Directors

November 14, 2005

Deadline: Nominations for Trainee Representative

December 1, 2005

Deadline: Nominations for Awards

February 15, 2006

Deadline: Abstract submission for Annual Meeting

July 29–August 1, 2006

39th Annual Meeting

Omaha, Nebraska

Continuing medical education credits at SSR Annual Meetings

The Clinical Outreach Committee is pleased to announce that, in collaboration with the Education Division of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine, continuing medical education credits (CMEs) will be available annually through SSR's 2007 Annual Meeting in San Antonio. Compared to the 2004 meeting, there was a 42% increase in the number of attendees requesting CME credits for the 2005 meeting. This is exciting news and we hope to continue this positive trend. The committee would like to ask all members of the Society to encourage their clinical colleagues, especially obstetrics and gynecology fellows, to consider our Annual Meeting as a venue for showcasing their basic science and translational research projects.

The Clinical Outreach Committee also plans to provide suggestions to the Program Committee on topics and potential speakers for minisymposia that highlight clinical and translational research.

The committee would like to ask our members to encourage clinical trainees to apply for trainee membership in SSR. It is the mission of this committee to bring clinical reproductive science to the attention of SSR members and strengthen the relationship between basic and clinical scientists. ■

—Warren B. Nothnick, Chair
Clinical Outreach Committee

SSR MEMBER RECEIVES SIGMA XI YOUNG INVESTIGATOR AWARD

Thomas E. Spencer, Texas A&M University assistant professor of animal science, has been selected to receive the 2005 Sigma Xi Young Investigator Award in life and social sciences. The Young Investigator Award recognizes researchers in the early stages of their careers whose outstanding contributions best exemplify the ideals of Sigma Xi. The award and a \$5,000 honorarium will be presented during Sigma Xi's annual meeting November 3–6 in Seattle. Dr. Spencer has also been asked to present a brief lecture on his research and its implications. Dr. Spencer is a member of Sigma Xi, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Endocrine Society, Society for Reproduction and Fertility, and the Society for the Study of Reproduction. He serves as an Associate Editor of Biology of Reproduction and on the editorial board of Reproduction. Dr. Spencer was also the recipient of the inaugural SSR New Investigator Award in 2004.

Minority Affairs symposium was a blast!

At the 2005 Annual Meeting, the Minority Affairs Committee (MAC) hosted a networking dinner and symposium, sponsored by a career development grant from the Burroughs Wellcome Fund. Guests at the dinner included awardees of minority travel grants, also sponsored by Burroughs Wellcome, as well as trainees and junior faculty who applied for travel funds. This year's minority travel funds were awarded to junior faculty Benson T. Akingbemi (Auburn University) and Gloria Perez (Michigan State University) and to trainees Nicole Acevedo (University of Michigan), La Shauna Evans (University of Maryland at Baltimore), and Caroline Nieri Kahiri (University of Western Ontario). Faculty attending the dinner included members of MAC, Dennis Leszynski from NIH, Rolly Simpson from Burroughs Wellcome, Kenneth Campbell from the Endocrine Society MAC, Ben Tsang from SSR's Development Committee, and Mary Zelinski from the SSR Board. Dinner was followed by an open symposium. The guest speaker was Professor Winston Anderson of Howard University, and the room was filled to capacity. Professor Anderson gave a fascinating talk about his life at Harvard, which he interspersed with discussion about the duties of mentors and the responsibilities of students. At the end, Professor Anderson answered many questions from trainees in the audience. Professor Anderson has kindly submitted a transcript of his talk for posting on the SSR MAC Web page. MAC wishes to thank Burroughs Wellcome for funding the dinner and the travel awards.

Current MAC activities include planning for a networking session and symposium at the 2006 Annual Meeting and finding funding to support these activities. In addition, MAC will sponsor a booth at the Annual Meeting where members and trainees can meet and obtain information on funding sources for minorities. The SSR MAC Web page is currently being updated. It includes links to information about funding activities as well as information about MAC activities. Finally, MAC is planning to start an e-mail list that provides updates on activities and networking opportunities for interested members of SSR. Members and trainee members who identify themselves as minorities will automatically be included on the list. Others who are interested in being added to the list should contact Susan Suarez at <sss7@cornell.edu>. ■

—Susan S. Suarez, Chair
Minority Affairs Committee

Public Affairs Committee details Web page, new brochure

As the smell of autumn fills the air and students arrive back on campus, the SSR's Annual Meeting seems so long ago. In reality, it has only been a few months since the wonderful presentations and enjoyable gatherings. In that short period, your Public Affairs Committee has made great strides toward its goals for the coming year.

In an effort to provide convenient access to valuable scientific information resources, the Public Affairs Resources Page, which includes links to research modules developed by SSR members and to other resources relevant to our mission, is now easily accessible from the SSR Web site. With your help we will build upon this vital link to inform both SSR members and the general public in a timely manner. To further improve this Web page we urge you to nominate sites that you have found particularly useful by e-mailing me at <cquirk@indiana.edu>, and the Public Affairs Committee will review them for possible inclusion. We look forward to building upon this resource.

Our goal for this Web page is also to highlight the accomplishments of our members. For example, we will feature, in the form of lay summaries, the research of some of our award-winning scientists, including Dr. Gordon D. Niswender, Colorado State University, this year's recipient of the Carl G. Hartman Award; and Dr. Robert S. Viger, Laval University, this year's recipient of the SSR New Investigator Award. In addition, Dr. David E. Wildt, head of the Department of Reproductive Sciences at the National Zoo and a leader of the U.S.-based team involved in the giant panda breeding project, will spotlight some of the conservation efforts of SSR. These articles will also be included in future SSR Newsletters as they are added to the Web page.

Another major objective of your Public Affairs Committee for this year is to develop an attractive brochure describing the program objectives of SSR and improvements in human and animal health that have resulted from research in reproductive biology. The new brochure will be a great asset to SSR representatives when they meet with government officials to encourage support for our mission. The committee has been working diligently on a template that we will present to the SSR Board at its midwinter meeting. If there are scientific milestones, research focuses, factoids, or areas of additional funding that you feel should be represented in this brochure, please pass this information along to me.

It is with the input of the entire SSR community that your Public Affairs Committee will maximize its efforts. We look forward to hearing your ideas and thank you for your support in building these invaluable resources. ■

—Christine Campion Quirk, Chair
Public Affairs Committee

SERONO SYMPOSIUM ON EARLY HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Serono Symposia International will host a symposium entitled "The First Seven Days: From Gametes to Blastocyst and Stem Cells" in Tampa, Florida, April 26–28, 2006. The scientific program of this symposium is organized by faculty at the Weill-Cornell Medical College and chaired by SSR member Dr. Roger Gosden.

This three-day program focuses on early human development—from fertilization to blastocyst formation and the genesis of embryonic stem cells. Among the topics to be covered are the culture environment, new reproductive technologies, and stem cell applications. A special guest lecture will focus on nuclear reprogramming. The meeting provides a rare gathering of basic and clinical experts in embryology and stem cell biology who will discuss their recent work and the challenges of translating science into applications in medicine and animal production. The scientific committee has designed the program to facilitate full engagement by young investigators. There will be ample opportunities for networking, meeting senior faculty, and discussing research.

The program should be particularly attractive to young investigators because of the opportunities for discussion, networking, and meeting leaders in the field.

Prizes will be awarded for the best papers in the free communication sessions, and a laboratory workshop on nuclear transfer and human ES cell culture will be available for those seeking some hands-on experience. If you present a poster at the symposium, you will receive a \$50 discount on the registration fee! The deadline for abstract submission is March 6, 2006. To learn more about this educational opportunity, or to register, please visit the Serono Symposia International Web site at <https://www.seronosymposia.org/reproductive/event_descrip.ih.html?id=263>.

Proposed amendments to SSR bylaws

The proposed amendments to the Society's bylaws were approved by the Board of Directors and were described, in brief, in the Bylaws Committee's report for the 2005 Business Meeting in Québec City. No recommendations or objections to these changes have been received. Within a few weeks, SSR members will receive a ballot requesting final approval of these 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. ■

—*K.M.J. Menon, Chair
Bylaws Committee*

Proposed deletions are shown in strikeout and additions are underlined. During the balloting, a "FOR" vote will result in adoption of the strikeout/underlined changes and any required title changes in the Bylaws. Proposed changes include the following:

1. Changes in reference to editorial staff

The following changes are proposed to accommodate the current makeup of the editorial staff and to allow for more flexibility.

Article XI: Section 4. Standing Committees

(c) Publications Committee: A Publications Committee composed of five or more regular Members of the Society shall be responsible for the management of all publications of the Society. The Committee shall recommend to the Board of Directors candidates for ~~the Editor and Assistant Editor~~ editorial leadership. It will make recommendations regarding editorial policy and fiscal matters related to publications.

2. Policies of the management of the Journal

The following changes are proposed to accommodate the fact that a statement on the policies of the management of the Journal is no longer circulated to the members, but is continuously available on the Society's Web site. Information concerning leadership of the journal should also agree with the changes proposed in Article XI (above).

Article XII: Section 2. Journal Papers

(c) The Board of Directors shall ~~from time to time, but not less often than once every four years, circulate~~ make available to the Members of the Society a statement on the policies for management of the Journal. This statement shall include the procedure for selection of the ~~Editors-in-Chief and the Editorial Board~~ editorial lead-

ership of the Journal. In addition, the statement shall contain information about the general editorial policies of the Journal.

3. Definition of an Assistant Treasurer

To aid the transition of duties to a new Treasurer, and to make available the experience of the immediate past Treasurer, it is recommended that the immediate past Treasurer serve as a Board advisor for a one-year term as an Assistant Treasurer.

Article X: Section 12. Assistant Treasurers

The Society may have one or more assistant Treasurers. Whenever requested by or in the absence or disability of the Treasurer, the Assistant Treasurer, the Assistant Treasurer designated by the Treasurer (or in the absence of such designation, the Assistant Treasurer designated by the Board of Directors) shall perform all the duties of the Treasurer, and when so acting, shall have all the powers of, and be subject to the restrictions upon, the Treasurer. When a new Treasurer takes office, the immediate past Treasurer will begin a one-year term as an Assistant Treasurer. During that year, the immediate past Treasurer will attend Board meetings to serve in an advisory capacity, but shall not have voting privileges.

4. Standard Operating Procedures for Society Committees

To facilitate the operations of the Society's committees, especially with a transition in Chairs, it is proposed to add to the duties of the Secretary that he/she will henceforth maintain, update, and distribute the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for all of the Society's committees.

Article X: Section 9. Secretary

(e) Maintain and update the Standard Operating Procedures for each of the Society's committees and annually distribute these to the Board of Directors and incoming committee chairs;

~~(e- f)~~ In general, perform all duties incident to the office of Secretary and such other duties given to the Secretary by these Bylaws, or as from time to time may be assigned by the Board of Directors or the President;

~~(f- g)~~ The Secretary shall hold office for a term of three years and may be re-elected.

5. The role of members of the Nominating Committee

The changes to the following passage are proposed to make clear the role of the members of the Nominating Committee. The proposed changes also intend to clarify that in addition to acting as members of the Nominating Committee to solicit nominations for office, committee members may also exercise their rights as Regular Members of the Society to make individual nominations for offices under consideration by the committee.

Article X: Section 2. Nomination and Elections

(b) The Nominating Committee shall solicit, collect, and evaluate nominations from the Regular Members of the Society ~~nominations~~ for the offices of President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and Director when applicable. Members of the Nominating Committee may make nominations, as well. ~~It~~ The Committee must nominate the then President-Elect for the office of President. Submitted nominations shall require supporting comments. The entire Committee shall evaluate the submitted nominations and shall select at least two candidates and one alternate for the Office of President-Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer when applicable and shall select at least four candidates and two alternates for the Office of Director. Current members of the Committee cannot be nominated and the final candidates for one office cannot be from the same institution. Current elected Board members must be in the final year of their term to be nominated for another elected Board position. The Editor-in-Chief of Biology of Reproduction, who attends Board meetings and serves at the pleasure of the Board, should be in the final year of his/her editorial term to be nominated for a position on the Board of Directors. The Committee's recommendations shall be transmitted to the Board of Directors for their approval at the Mid-Winter Board meeting. The election shall be held not more than five months nor less than two months prior to the annual meeting. For the election, the President or designated agent shall send to every Regular Member a ballot containing the list of nominees with space for such additional names as the Regular Members wish to propose and brief biographies of nominees. The marked ballot shall be returned to the President or designated agent at such time and place as designated. A plurality of the votes cast shall be necessary to elect the President-Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer. The two nominees with the highest number of votes will be elected as Directors. In case of a tie vote, the President shall cast the deciding ballot.

6. Dissolution of the Education Committee

At the midwinter meeting of the Board of Directors, the Board voted to dissolve the Education Committee, with redistribution of its activities. It is proposed that the Editor of the Society's newsletter be moved into the Public Affairs Committee, and that the organization of the Techniques Workshop become the responsibility of the Program Committee. The following changes to the Bylaws are therefore proposed:

Article XI: Section 4. Standing Committees

~~(f) Education Committee: The Education Committee composed of five or more Members of the Society shall publish a newsletter to keep the Membership informed of the activities of the Society and of other events of special interest to the Members. It shall prepare, accumulate, and disseminate information pertaining to the Society as appropriate.~~

~~(g f) Public Affairs Committee: A Public Affairs Committee composed of five or more Members of the Soci-~~

~~ety, one of whom shall be the Editor of the Society's Newsletter, shall review the issues which are of concern to the public and our governments and shall recommend positions for the Society to take on each issue. The Committee shall be responsible for the preparation and dissemination of public pronouncements and information, and the Society's Newsletter. The Committee shall also make recommendations to the Board of Directors for the organizational structure and function of the Society's Public Affairs Program.~~

With appropriate changes of the lowercase letter designations of the sections immediately following from (h), (i), (j) to (g), (h), (i), respectively.

7. Emeritus Membership

The following amendments are proposed to the definition of Member Emeritus of the Society. Emeritus membership is an honor that is afforded to Regular Members for recognized service and loyalty to the Society.

Article V: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Categories of Membership

The categories of membership in the Society shall be (a) Regular Member: Any individual who has demonstrated professional competence in and made scientific contributions to the field of reproductive biology shall be eligible for Regular Membership in the Society. (b) Member Emeritus: Regular Members in retirement, with at least ten years of regular membership in the Society, shall be eligible to petition the Executive Director to have the Board of Directors ~~approve a waiver of their annual dues grant them emeritus status and entitle them to waivers of annual dues and registration fees for the annual meetings of the Society.~~ (c) Honorary Member: An individual who based on his/her overall impact on science is a Hartman awardee. (d) Associate Member: Any individual or institution with a scientific interest in the field of reproductive biology shall be eligible for Associate Membership. (e) Trainee Member: Any individual in training in the field of reproductive biology and who has been recommended by a Regular Member shall be eligible for Trainee Membership. (f) Sustaining Associates: Any philanthropic individual, organization, corporation, or foundation which contributes substantially to the support of the Society may, by action of the Board of Directors, be admitted to membership as a Sustaining Associate. Regular Members, Members Emeritus, Honorary Members, Associate Members, Trainee Members, and Sustaining Associates shall hereinafter be referred to as "Members," except where specifically identified.

A note from the Treasurer

The SSR Finance Committee, composed of the Treasurer, the current President, the past President, the President-elect, and members of the SSR Business Office, met before the SSR Board meetings to discuss financial issues pertinent to the management of the Society. At our most recent meeting, an important topic was the cost/revenue analysis for the publication of *Biology of Reproduction*. Although we have seen modest positive balances in revenue over expenditure of the publication budget, the predicted decline in library subscriptions has begun to come to pass. The library revenue has been reduced 15% over the last two years. Continued fiscal health of the journal and of the Society will require creative response to the challenges of publication in the electronic age.

The Annual Meeting in Québec was a scientific and social success, with perhaps the highest attendance on record. Accounting of revenue and costs is not complete, but indications are that the outcome will be on the

positive side. We continue to hope for an overall balanced budget for 2005, and Annual Meeting revenue will clearly be beneficial.

In July 2005, an amount of \$285K, representing endowment funds that had been contributed to the Society and operating surpluses that had been maintained in money market funds, was added to the SSR investment portfolio. The funds were placed in mutual and index funds, bringing our total portfolio to \$2.4M. The markets have been good to us since those investments were made. We have had a gain in excess of \$90K, or 3.8 % in two months, while the broader S&P 500 Index is below 3%. While these gains are a positive sign, the financial health of the Society would be more robust with an investment portfolio of two-fold the annual budget, or about \$4M. Increasing the endowment represents the best means to meet this financial goal, and your help and contributions are welcome. ■

—Bruce D. Murphy

New Members

Regular

Dattatreya M. Bosukonda
Kristina Burow
Sally A. Camper
John Carroll
Gregory E. Demas
Adelina Martha dos Reis
Gail Fraizer
Jan-Ake Gustafsson
Denise Hemmings
Melissa Mann
John Parrington
Dinesh K. Saxena
Tae Kwang Suh
X. Cindy Tian
Takeshi Ujioka
Nisar Ahmad Wani
Eckhard Wolf
Xuemei Wu

Claudia Baumann
Sally Bivens
Louis-Jean Bordeleau
Sofia Boucher-Kovalik
Juan Manuel Busso
Colin Cameron
Danila Barreiro Campos
Rumela Chakrabarti
Xinlei Chen
Lina Cheng
Yong Cheng
Brian Cherrington
Yu-Min Cho
Renato Ferreira de Andrade
Charlotte Dow
Paul Dyce
Iris Edry
LaShauna Evans
John Ferrara
Ellen Melissa Flatley
Niamh Forde
Julie E. Getz
Eran Gershon
Isabelle Gilbert
Jillian Guttormsen
Julie Hanson
Heather Darby Harding
Jenny Hickson
Shih-Min Hsia
Wei-Ju Huang
Tamer Hussein
Tomer Israely
Justin Julander
Caroline Njeri Kahiri

Amelia Karlsson
Aki Kashiwagi
Jingjing Kipp
Xiangrong Kong
Hathairat Kruevaisayawan
Catherine Lachance
Christine Lawson
Jamie Ann Le
Kiho Lee
Yin-Huei Lee
Pavine Lefevre
Luca Magnani
Felipe Martinez-Pastor
Heidi Miers
Elisa Monaco
Carolina Mondillo
Patricia A. Murphey
Amy Navratil
Mattias Norrby
Adriana Mari Orimoto
Virginia Mara Pereira
Vicki Plaks
Hong Kit Poon
Lucia E. Rangel Porta
Valerio Valdetar Portela
Pawan Puri
Silvia B.V. Ramos
Azmat Ur Rehman
Laura G. Reinholdt
Hanae Rejraji
Jose R. Rodriguez-Sosa
Kate Ryan
Sagit Sela-Abramovich
Mamiko Shimizu
Malgorzata Skaznik-Wikiel

David Soler
Isabelle St-Louis
Joao Suzuki Jr.
Rashmi Tiwari-Pandey
Wai-Yue Tse
Satoshi Tsukamoto
Adriana Rebeca Verduzco Gomez
Maria E. Vitazka
Sayaka Wakayama
Kai-Lee Wang
Fabian Ward
Vanessa Welbern
Lihua Wen
Selena Joy Williams
Alexander Wu
Jennifer Yoon
Zuoren Yu
Ewa Zakrzewska
Ling Zhang

Change of status

To Regular:
Euridice Carmona
Catherine Combelles
Ali Farazmand
Ho Lin
Susan Novak
Eduardo R.S. Roldan
Zulma Tatiana Ruiz-Cortes
Carlos Stocco

To Trainee:
Arlindo A. Moura

Update on membership

A growing and involved membership is essential for the growth of our Society!! Fortunately, SSR has many involved members. Are you one of them?

First, let me give you an update on membership. As of July 11, 2005, we had 2,372 members (1,441 regular, 617 trainees, 209 associate, and 115 emeriti). The total membership is identical to the total membership a year ago. However, it is important to point out that whereas the total membership has not changed, there was a 2% drop in regular members which is balanced by a 2% increase in trainees and emeriti. If we compare total membership to June 30, 2000, the year of peak membership, the regular membership is down 12%, trainee membership is up 41%, emeriti membership is up 48%, and associate membership is the same.

There are two concerns about the above numbers. First, we need to maintain and increase our regular membership. Each year I do a survey of regular members who do not renew their memberships. The most frequent reasons given by persons not renewing membership, excluding those who forgot to renew, are that *Biology of Reproduction* is now available electronically in their institutions' libraries and/or they do not attend SSR's Annual Meeting. Putting these reasons aside, I cannot find other compelling reasons for not being an SSR member. I urge you to visit the SSR Web site and click on "Membership" to review the value of membership.

The second concern is that many of our trainees who were members of SSR do not become regular members. It is understandable that a certain percentage of our trainees will move into other research disciplines as they begin their independent research careers. However, a certain number of them do not continue their affiliation with SSR even though they remain in the field of reproductive biology. Is it possible that their mentors failed to educate them on the importance and value of belonging to scientific societies, specifically SSR?

The Membership Committee for this year consists of 26 eager members, with 10 being international. We are again using the pyramid model which has been effective in the past two years. This approach enables the Membership Committee to cover the countries in which we either have SSR members or have the opportunity to invite fellow scientists to become SSR members. You may be called on, or may already have been contacted, by a committee member to help increase membership in a specific state, province, or country. I thank you in advance for your help.

Finally, what can you do to keep our current SSR members and to add new ones?

- Renew your membership in response to the first call for renewal which will be sent out electronically by the SSR Business Office in a month. Your renewal in response to the first call will save the SSR Business Office time and money.
- Invite one person to join SSR. Maybe there is a new faculty member at your institution or you know reproductive biologists at 4-year undergraduate institutions who are not members of SSR. This latter group of scientists can easily be overlooked.
- Educate trainees in your research group or department about the importance and value of belonging to a scientific society such as SSR. Invite them to become trainee members. Also check on your former trainees who are pursuing a career in reproductive biology to determine that they are continuing their SSR membership as trainee, associate, or regular members.

The Membership Committee and I welcome your suggestions on how to retain current members and to invite fellow scientists to become members. Feel free to contact me or any of the members of the Membership Committee if you have any questions about SSR membership. ■

—Janice Bahr, Chair
Membership Committee

It's time to recruit new trainees to join SSR!

I would like to formally welcome our new junior Trainee Representative, Olga Bolden-Tiller, to her new position. Olga has been a member of SSR since 1998 and has also served on the Trainee Affairs Committee for some time. I am sure she will do an outstanding job. I would also like to welcome three new members to the Trainee Affairs Committee—Rebecca Bott, Michelle Rhodes, and Chrissy Schilling. For a complete list of committee members, visit www.ssr.org/TraineeAffairsCommittee.html. My sincere thanks to all the members of the committee, including the advisors, Dr. Michael Palladino and Dr. Humphrey H-C Yao, for their hard work this past year.

SSR's 2005 Annual Meeting was a success all around. Dr. Mark Mirando, National Program Leader for the NRI Competitive Grants Program at USDA, gave a superb talk on "Writing Winning Grants." I have received many excellent comments and reviews from trainees about the talk. I have already been receiving suggestions for next year's forum topics. Please e-mail me (kbarnett@epi.umaryland.edu) if you have any recommendations. Another successful event of the Annual Meeting was the Trainee-Mentor Luncheon, organized by Jessica Schrunk. This event gave trainees the opportunity to network with other trainees and some of the top investigators and professors in our field. This year's placement service proved once again to be a vital part of our success as trainees, especially as we make the transition to postdoctoral fellows and faculty members. If you were unable to attend the Annual Meeting, the advertisements have been submitted to FASEB Career Resources and will be available online shortly. I would especially like to thank all of the trainees who volunteered their time to run this vital service. Furthermore, I know that many trainees are grateful for the trainee travel awards that they received to help offset the cost of attending the meeting. I would like to offer special thanks to Kathrin Dunlap for her outstanding efforts in coordinating the distribution of travel awards.

SSR membership renewal is on its way! Please remember to renew your trainee membership and invite your colleagues to join as well. Let's all pay special attention to those new students who may need a little direction from us. SSR trainee membership gives full online access to *Biology of Reproduction*, reduces registration costs at the Annual Meeting, and makes

you eligible to apply for travel awards. The benefits pay for the membership!

Finally, the call for nominations for the 2006–08 Trainee Representative will be coming soon. Start thinking of an excellent individual who you think would represent trainees on the SSR Board. For details on this position, contact Olga (obtiller@mdanderson.org). Good luck, and I hope everyone has a productive year! ■

—*Kimberly Barnett, Chair
Trainee Affairs Committee*

FROM THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Dr. Susan Quirk, the SSR Newsletter Editor for the past 5 years, has stepped down from the post. As Susan's successor, I would like to call upon all SSR members to thank Susan for her service to our Society. Susan has done an outstanding job as the Editor of our Newsletter, which is a critical medium that bridges the Society and our members. I also want to acknowledge Judith Jansen and our Managing Editor John Wolf, who are both critical players behind the scenes.

The Newsletter is in great shape and I do not envision significant changes in the near future. However, I plan to experiment a little by gradually adding components that will give readers of the Newsletter opportunities to express and exchange their views. A new column that is tentatively named "Letters to the Editor" will be added to the next issue. In this column, any SSR member can contribute a short article to share his/her views on issues such as science policy, ethics, research findings, or suggestions to the Society. I expect this column to serve as a forum for all SSR members. Our Newsletter provides not only information, but also an exchange of viewpoints. As a member of SSR, it is your right to write!

I am honored to serve the SSR and will do my best to take over the torch and continue the great tradition of former editors. I encourage you to give me your comments and suggestions on the contents of the Newsletter. This is your Newsletter and it needs your involvement to flourish.

—Humphrey Hung-Chang Yao

Minutes of SSR's 2005 Business Meeting

The annual SSR Business Meeting was called to order by Dr. Joy Pate at 8:35 a.m., July 27, 2005.

Approximately 300 members were in attendance, as the Business Meeting was held immediately after the 8 a.m. plenary session and prior to the Trainee Award ceremony.

Dr. Janice Bahr moved to accept the Minutes from the 2004 Business Meeting; Dr. Joanne Fortune seconded, and the motion carried.

In interest of brevity, Dr. Pate asked for comments or questions for the committee chairs, instead of having individual committee reports. None of the members raised any questions, so Dr. Pate moved to the next item of business—urging members to volunteer for committees and to serve their Society.

Dr. Janice Bahr, Chair of the Membership Committee, came to the podium and remembered those SSR members who passed away in the last year: Jack C. Carlson, Tomoko Fuji, Gilbert S. Greenwald, Luc Henriot, Gary D. Hodgen, Donald C. Johnson, Joseph Meites, Tadashi Mori, Margaret W. Orsini, and Mariano Perex-Pelaez. A moment of silence was observed.

Dr. Bahr next asked the members several questions: Do you enjoy the SSR meeting? The exchange of data? Networking with colleagues? Seeing friends? Publishing your best papers in *BOR*, and hearing of job opportunities? If you answered “yes” to any of these questions and you are not a member of SSR, then you should join, and if you have not renewed your membership, please do so.

Dr. Pate continued the meeting by calling several individuals to the podium to acknowledge their contributions:

1. Dr. Mark Andre-Sirard, Chair of the 2005 LAC, for hosting such an outstanding meeting.
2. Ms. Nathalie Giroux, 2005 LAC meeting planner, for her exemplary work this year.
3. Dr. Alan Johnson, Chair of 2005 Program Committee, for his hard work and excellent program.
4. Dr. Susan Quirk, for serving as Editor of SSR's Newsletter for 5 years.
5. Retiring Board members
 - a. Dr. Mary Hunzicker-Dunn, Past President;

- b. Dr. Mitch Eddy, Director
- c. Dr. Susan Suarez, Director
- d. Dr. Ugar Salli, Trainee Representative

6. Presidential succession. Dr. Pate recognized Dr. William “Bill” Thatcher as outgoing President-Elect and thanked the Society for such a great year.
7. Dr. Thatcher recognized Dr. Pate's important contributions to the Society, lauded the high benchmark she set, and noted the passion, service, and the skill with which she combined her administrative duties and science.
8. Dr. Thatcher recognized the new Directors: Dr. Barbara Vanderhyden, Dr. Mary Zelinski; new Trainee Representative, Dr. Olga Boden-Tiller; and new President-Elect, Dr. Mitch Eddy. He also recognized Dr. Tod Hanson, Chair of the 2005–06 Program Committee.
9. Dr. Shaymal Roy, Chair of the 2006 LAC, took the podium and invited the delegates to next year's meeting in Omaha, Nebraska. He showed a brief presentation highlighting the new convention center, the Henry Doorly Zoo, and other world-class attractions including the Old World Market and Riverfront development. He pointed out the accessibility of Omaha, as all major airlines service the airport, which is only 10 minutes from the meeting site and hotels.
10. Dr. Thatcher commented on the Awards Committee and Nominating Committee and urged members to nominate and re-nominate candidates for awards and leadership positions. He mentioned that the competition for awards is stiff and that it is important to nominate deserving candidates again.

Dr. LaBarbera moved to adjourn the Business Meeting, and Dr. Murphy seconded. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

—Buck Hales, Secretary

Summary of SSR Committee Reports for 2005

Nominating Committee (Fuller Bazer, Chair): The Nominating Committee identified two candidates for President-Elect and four candidates for Director from four nominees for President-elect and 24 nominees for Director [President-Elect: Drs. Paul Terranova and Mitch Eddy as candidates and Dr. Doug Foster as alternate; Directors: Drs. John Davis, Robert Koos, Barbara Vanderhyden, and Mary Zelinski-Wooten as candidates and Drs. Michael Skinner and Norman Hecht as first and second alternates, respectively]. The SSR membership elected Dr. Edward Mitchell "Mitch" Eddy as President-Elect and Drs. Barbara Vanderhyden and Mary Zelinski-Wooten as Directors.

Bylaws Committee (Michael Henson, Chair): Changes to the bylaws that reflect (1) the new managerial structure of *Biology of Reproduction*, (2) addition of the office of Past Treasurer to the Board, (3) an update of the duties of the Society's Secretary to include the maintenance of the SOPs of the Society's committees, and (4) a clarification of the roles of the Nominating Committee were proposed by the committee, then revised and approved by the Board at its midwinter meeting. These will now be submitted to the membership. Most recently, the committee suggested changes to the bylaws to facilitate the Board's midwinter decisions to dissolve the Education Committee, assign the Newsletter Editor to the Public Affairs Committee, and assign the organizers of satellite workshops for future Annual Meetings to the Program Committee. As requested, the committee also suggested changes to reaffirm the value of emeritus members to the Society, clarify the requirements for emeritus status to include ten, not necessarily continuous, years of regular membership, and document the rights of emeriti to the waiver of both annual dues and Annual Meeting registration fees. These proposals are now being considered by the Board.

Public Affairs Committee (Rod Geisert, Chair): The Public Affairs Committee has completed development of the PAC Web page (www.ssr.org/Committees.html) which can be directly accessed through www.ansi.okstate.edu/ssr/. The Web page includes links to information on various areas in reproductive biology, reproductive issues of concern to the general public, and links to useful resources for education and

animal welfare. Development of the link to the SSR Web site provides accurate articles to enhance public understanding of these issues and of SSR's mission. The committee's major objective for 2004-05 is to design and develop an attractive brochure describing the program objectives of the SSR and the accomplishments that research in reproductive biology has provided to improve human and animal well-being.

Awards Committee (Robert Burghardt, Chair): Recipients of the 2005 SSR awards are Gordon Niswender (Carl G. Hartman Award, sponsored by Johnson & Johnson Pharmaceutical Research and Development, LLC, \$5,000); Mary Hunzicker-Dunn (SSR Research Award, sponsored by N.V. Organon, \$1,500); Virendra Mahesh (SSR Distinguished Service Award, sponsored by the Serono Research Institute, \$1,000), and Robert Viger (SSR New Investigator Award, sponsored by the Virendra B. Mahesh New Investigator Endowment Fund, \$1,000). Over 300 applicants applied for the Trainee Awards for 2005. The USDA National Research Initiative sponsored 10 awards of \$500 each. The Lalor Foundation Merit Awards sponsored 16 awards of \$500 each. The Burroughs Wellcome Merit Awards sponsored 8 awards of \$500 each. There were over 318 applicants in competition for the Trainee Research Awards with awards of \$500, \$300, and \$200 for the top three in each of oral presentation and poster categories sponsored by the Serono Research Institute. Award presentations were made at the Annual Meeting. The Program Committee was involved in the initial review and ranking of more than 300 trainee abstracts. The Awards Committee selected the Merit Travel Fellowship awardees and Trainee Research Award finalists from the 81 top scoring abstracts. 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 SSR by nominating candidates for the major SSR awards.

Animal Care and Use Committee (Adele Turzillo, Chair): In August 2004, our committee decided not to pursue plans for an animal care minisymposium at the 2005 Annual Meeting due to a perceived lack of interest. The committee has completed an informa-

tional document describing the organization and function of Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees and is awaiting its posting on the SSR Web site. We have also developed an outline for a second informational document entitled "Why use animals in reproductive research?" and will decide soon whether to continue development of this document.

Program Committee (Alan Johnson, Chair): A request for suggested plenary lecture and minisymposia topics and speakers was issued to the Society via e-mail in September 2004 and in the October 2004 Newsletter. Plenary lecture topics and speakers were prioritized by the Program Committee following successive e-mail ballots. Speakers for the Keynote Address and the President's Symposium were selected by President Joy Pate. The Trans-Atlantic Exchange Lectures session this year featured Dr. Lisa M. Thurston of the Royal Veterinary College, London (SRF New Investigator) and Dr. Robert Viger, Laval University (2005 SSR New Investigator). The Program Committee prioritized and subsequently 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 Program Committee from Society members. A total of 784 abstracts were submitted for the 2005 meeting in Québec City. All abstracts were numerically scored by the Program Committee and invited abstract reviewers. Each abstract was reviewed by a minimum of three reviewers. Abstracts for the 2005 meeting were submitted according to the newly organized topic categories approved by the Board in 2004. The change from largely an anatomical to a more functional categorization of topics produced a few e-mails from concerned authors. Many of the comments pertained to not inherently recognizing the appropriate category for submission. It is the opinion of the Program Committee Chair that following the 2005 meeting, most authors will obtain a better impression for which category will, in the future, best suit their intended target audience. Pending additional input as a result of this year's meeting, no immediate changes in topic categories are suggested for the coming year. The Québec City Convention Centre provided sufficient space for all posters to be available for review throughout the meetings. Authors were instructed to maintain posters in place throughout the meeting.

Emeritus Committee (Fred Stormshak, Chair): At the 2005 Annual Meeting, the Emeritus Committee is hosting an Emeritus Breakfast and a lecture on the histori-

cal aspects of the events that led to the discovery of the nuclear estrogen receptor.

Education Committee (David Townson, Chair): The Education Committee convened at the 2004 Annual Meeting in Vancouver, BC. Topics and potential speakers for the 2005 Techniques Workshop were the primary focus of discussion. The group collectively decided on a theme of "techniques of in vivo molecular imaging" for the upcoming workshop. Ideas were also discussed concerning possible trainee involvement in the workshop (e.g., by meeting and introducing the guest speakers) and the possible inclusion of sponsors to help defray the costs of future workshops. The Education Committee corresponded by e-mail to reach a consensus on the following invited speakers for the 2005 SSR Techniques Workshop: Dr. Stephen Michnick, University of Montreal, "Visualization of Biochemical Networks in Living Cells"; Dr. Robert Balaban, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, NIH, "Use of Multiphoton Confocal Microscopy to Image Intracellular Events In Vivo"; Dr. Victoria Centonze Frohlich, University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, "Multiphoton Confocal Microscopy and its Application in the Study of Protein: Protein Interaction In Vivo."

Membership Committee (Janice Bahr, Chair): An involved and growing membership is essential! The Membership Committee consisting of 26 U.S. and international members is using the pyramid model to cover the various countries in which we have the opportunity to attract members. We are also inviting first and senior authors of manuscripts published in *Biology of Reproduction* to become members. On average, 65% of first authors and 45% of senior authors are not members of SSR. Total current membership, similar to last year, is 2,368, with 1,435 regular, 610 trainee, 208 associate, and 115 emeriti members. We urge each of you as a member of SSR to invite one person to share the benefits of being a member. If you are not a member of SSR, please contact the Business Office for an application.

Biology of Reproduction (John J. Eppig and Mary Ann Handel, Editors-in-Chief): For a year, *BOR* has had a new editorial team and structure for evaluation of submitted papers. Thanks to the skills and devoted effort of Judy Jansen and her excellent staff at the Wisconsin office, the new system is working remarkably well. We are grateful to our 11 Associate Editors and the dedicated efforts of members of the Board of

Reviewing Editors, all of whom are the mainstays of the new editorial review system. Coupled with fundamental changes in the editorial system for manuscript review are changes in criteria for acceptance of manuscripts; these are now more stringent than they were previously to achieve our goal of raising the impact factor of the journal. These criteria are listed in the *BOR* Instructions to Authors and were published in the SSR Newsletter. We are quite pleased with the caliber and significance of papers being published and the number of these that have been selected for press releases. We have instituted some changes in journal format that emphasize positive developments in impact and caliber of papers being published. First, we request that the authors submit a sentence describing the primary significance or advance of the study, referred to as the “zinger.” This zinger is published in the Table of Contents just below the title and author string for each paper, and is designed to attract readers to the paper. A second innovation is a section entitled “*Biology of Reproduction* Highlights...”, which contains synopses written for the general *BOR* reader, spotlighting the significance of 2–3 papers per issue (samples were published in the June 2005 Newsletter). Finally, *BOR* joins the increasing number of high-profile journals that use internationally standard gene and protein nomenclature for all published papers, facilitating seamless interface to database resources. It has been a challenging year that has brought immense satisfaction from our efforts. We are grateful for the support of Dr. Virendra Mahesh, Judy Jansen and the entire Madison office, the SSR Board, the Associate Editors, and the Board of Reviewing Editors.

Committee on Reproduction and the Environment (Lou Guillette, Chair): Several initiatives are under way that compete for the time and energy of our committee members. The SSR membership will be surveyed to prioritize the initiatives that best serve the members. Our committee will again have a booth at the meeting and will sponsor a minisymposium. Our committee is submitting a proposal to the Program Committee for the 2006 meeting—where it will now compete with other interests as it was given only a two-year period for a committed minisymposia. The feasibility of a one-day satellite workshop on environment and reproduction held immediately before the beginning of the Annual Meeting (2006 or 2007) is being studied. Our committee has been developing a brochure that can be used as a tool to attract supporters and communicate the committee’s agenda/activi-

ties to all SSR members. The brochure is an evolving project; it will be updated as needed to highlight the variety of ways the environment can influence reproduction. Our committee’s Web page is being developed as a link from the SSR site. It gives a sense of the many relationships between the environment and reproduction. We have a commitment from a major environmental news service that can provide free, daily links to important news stories concerning reproductive issues and the environment, and we plan to have this on line by the fall. The committee has discussed writing one or more perspective articles to signal the intention that *BOR* is a suitable venue for original research articles in the field of environment and reproduction. A proposal to do this has been sent to the Editors-in-Chief of *BOR*, and a favorable reply has been received. Our committee can now recruit authors for the articles. We have begun discussions to collaborate with ASRM to organize a major symposium on environmental issues and women/female reproductive health to be held in San Francisco in 2006/2007. No commitments have been made; the concept will be submitted to the SSR Board as soon as possible.

Development Committee (Roger Gosden, Chair): I am pleased to report a successful year and would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the Development Committee for their contributions. The Endowment Subcommittee (led by Janice Bailey) has passed the halfway mark toward its goal of raising \$1,000,000 to support educational programs of the Society, including travel funds, lectureships, etc. This has been achieved through the generosity of the Society’s members, and the subcommittee will use the Newsletter and brochure to inform and encourage them to “make giving a habit” (our slogan). Some members have benevolently donated their honoraria from endowed lectures, a trend we hope to encourage. The Legacy Fund underpins the cost of maintaining and enhancing the archives of back issues of the *Biology of Reproduction* in electronic format. To date, we have achieved \$20,000 toward the target of \$400,000. The electronic library now extends back to 1969 and the first volume of *BOR*. We are grateful to the Emeritus Committee for pledging its support toward our goals. This year, the Annual Meetings and Industrial Relations Subcommittee (led by Andy LaBarbera) has raised a record sum of over \$180,000 toward the operating expenses of the Society. We are very grateful to all our sponsors, and all the more so at this time of strained budgets, greater competition for donors, and stricter

federal regulation of relationships between industry and organizations with charity status. We enjoy long-term relationships with leading companies that understand the benefits of a link with leading scientists in basic and applied reproductive biology. Nurturing relationships with key executives and managers has been an important and enjoyable part of the subcommittee's work, but it demands greater effort at a time of high turnover of senior personnel and changing priorities at some companies. Next year, we hope to build new relationships with companies specializing in large-animal medicine and technology with the help of veterinary professionals in SSR. We have also set a goal of increasing the number of exhibitors at SSR's Annual Meeting in 2006.

SYMPOSIUM ON EQUINE REPRODUCTION

The Ninth International Symposium on Equine Reproduction (ISER9) will be held August 6–11, 2006, in Rolduc, The Netherlands.

Abstracts to be considered for this Symposium should be submitted to the address below. Experimental or clinical research in four areas will be discussed at the symposium: The Stallion; The Non-pregnant Mare; Conception and Early Development; and The Pregnant Mare and Perinatology. The deadline for submission of abstracts is December 1, 2005. The Proceedings of ISER 9 will be published as extended abstracts in a special issue of Animal Reproduction Science and will be available at the meeting. Further details are available on the ISER Web site (www.ivis.org/ISER/) or from the ISER Secretariat:

Mrs Jan Wade
R&W Communications
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SSR AWARD NOMINATIONS

The Awards Committee is soliciting nominations for four major awards presented by SSR at our Annual Meeting. These awards are:

The CARL G. HARTMAN AWARD (sponsored by Johnson & Johnson Pharmaceutical Research & Development, LLC) is the SSR's highest award in recognition of a career of research and scholarly activities in the field of reproductive biology.

The SSR RESEARCH AWARD (sponsored by N.V Organon) recognizes an active, regular member of the Society for outstanding research published over the previous six years.

The SSR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD (sponsored by Serono Research Institute) recognizes an individual who has demonstrated unselfish service and leadership in advancing the discipline of reproductive biology.

The SSR NEW INVESTIGATOR AWARD (sponsored by the Virendra B. Mahesh New Investigator Endowment Fund) recognizes an active, regular member of SSR for outstanding research completed and published within 10 years after receiving the Ph.D. or other equivalent professional degree.

As a member of SSR, you have the privilege and responsibility to recognize colleagues who have made outstanding contributions to the reproductive biology community. The Awards Committee urges you to exercise this privilege and nominate qualified candidates. Guidelines for nomination will be published in the September issue of Biology of Reproduction and posted on the SSR Web site. Nominating materials for these awards must be submitted electronically to the Chair of the Awards Committee by December 1, 2005.

—Janet F. Roser, Chair
SSR Awards Committee
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From SSR's 2005 Annual Meeting



(Annual Meeting photos by Charlotte Dubé)

Recipients of USDA National Research Initiative Merit Awards include (left to right) Hiraki Taniguchi (Laval University), Satoshi Tsukamoto (Kyoto University), Joao Suzuki (Universite de Montreal), Tamer Hussein (University of Adelaide), Kelli M. Breen (University of Michigan), Kathrin A. Dunlap (Texas A&M University), and Frankie J. White (Texas A&M University). At the right are Robert C. Burghart (Chair, SSR Awards Committee), Mark Mirando (USDA NRI), and Joy L. Pate (President, SSR)



In the center is USDA NRI Merit Award recipient Justyna Pielecka (University of Virginia) with Joy L. Pate and Robert C. Burghardt.

“SSR: The Generation of a Legacy”

This 44-minute documentary film, edited by Patricia Hoyer and Craig Highberger, relates the story of the Society's founding nearly four decades ago. It features interviews with many of the individuals responsible for SSR's creation who also helped guide it toward its present stature as a respected worldwide scientific organization.

“SSR: Generation of a Legacy” lets its members tell the story of the Society. In their own words, through their own eyes, these remarkable men and women bring our history to life—starting, incidentally, with the contentious debate over what to name the new organization. This is history laced with poignant memories and spiced with humor.

The documentary is available in both VHS videotape (\$20, including shipping and handling) and DVD (\$15) formats. To order your copy, print and fill out the order form below. Return it—along with cash, check, or credit card information—to:

Society for the Study of Reproduction
1619 Monroe St
Madison, WI 53711-2063



Gordon Niswender (Colorado State University) received the 2005 Carl Hartman Award (sponsored by Johnson & Johnson Pharmaceutical Research & Development, LLC).

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News from the Reproductive Sciences Branch at NIH

The Reproductive Sciences Branch at NIH is heavily invested in the creation and implementation of two important innovative programs to enhance the ability of the research community to bridge the significant gaps in moving scientific advances and discoveries in basic research into reproductive medicine clinical practice. These perceived gaps or roadblocks are (a) the difficulty in moving ideas for novel therapeutic interventions forward to clinical testing and (b) a lack of sufficient numbers of appropriately trained clinical researchers in reproductive medicine. A description of the two innovative programs follows.

NIH-RAID

To address the need to move from bench-to-bedside in testing new high-risk ideas or therapies for disorders that might attract only limited or no private sector investment, NIH has initiated the NIH-Rapid Access to Interventional Development (RAID) Pilot Program. This program will make available, on a competitive basis, a number of critical resources needed to develop small molecule therapeutic agents. Phyllis C. Leppert, Chief of the Reproductive Sciences Branch, has been the NICHD representative to this Roadmap initiative. The objective of the program is to provide public resources to close the gap between discovery and clinical testing to ensure that a more efficient translation of promising discoveries will take place and thus reduce some of the common barriers between laboratory and clinical trials for new therapies. A major goal of the NIH-RAID Pilot is to facilitate access of academic centers and investigators to the opportunity for therapeutic development arising from their research. Projects in both the early and late stages of preclinical development are suitable for NIH-RAID.

The NIH-RAID Pilot is not a grant program. Successful projects will gain access to the government's contract resources as well as assistance of the NIH in establishing and implementing a product development plan. Government contracts will be made available on a competitive basis for preclinical development. The necessary tasks will vary from project to project. In some cases the NIH-RAID Pilot will support only one or two key steps for early preclinical efficacy testing. In other cases it may be possible to provide assistance with most of the development tasks needed to file an IND. The final output of the NIH-RAID activities, both products and information, will be made fully available to the originating investigator for support of additional studies or of an IND application and performance of clinical trials. Data and products will be transferred to the applicant under the terms of an NIH Materials Transfer Agreement.

The main tasks that are supported by the NIH-RAID Pilot are: synthesis in bulk of small molecules and oligonucleotides and chemical synthesis of peptides; scale-up production from lab-scale to clinical trials lot scale; development of analytical methods for bulk substances; isolation and purification of pharmacologically active agents from natural sources; development of pharmacology assays; conduct of pharmacology studies with predetermined assays; development of suitable formulations; physicochemical characterization of formulations developed, including tests of disintegration, dissolution, and lot-to-lot variability; range-finding initial toxicology; IND-directed toxicology with correlative pharmacology and histopathology. In addition detailed product development planning and advice in IND preparation are also available through the NIH-RAID program.

Applicants are required to submit a preliminary application. Following a review to determine if the resources requested are appropriate for NIH-RAID, the applicant will be invited to submit a full proposal. Upcoming preliminary request submission dates are January 2, 2006, with an invited full proposal due April 3, 2006, and June 1, 2006, with an invited full proposal submission date of September 1, 2006.

All NIH Institutes and Centers are participating in the funding of this Roadmap program. NIH-RAID projects are cosponsored by Roadmap resources and one or more Institutes. The NIH-RAID Pilot is intended for use by academic discovery laboratories and not by for-profit organizations. Each request should have a Project Leader with an academic appointment in an institution with an NIH-assured Institutional Review Board or involve collaborations with a staff member of such an institution. For more information please visit <nihroadmap.nih.gov/raid/>.

CREST

The NICHD, in collaboration with the American Society of Reproductive Medicine and Duke University, has launched an innovative training program for clinicians with demonstrated exceptional competence in reproductive medicine. Known as CREST (Clinical Research/REproductive Scientist Training Program), the program is designed to meet an existing need for formalized academic training in quantitative and methodological principles of clinical research in reproduction. Designed specifically for physicians in private or academic clinical practice, CREST will enable the scholars to develop the basic skills necessary for developing and managing practice-based clinical research. CREST engages the practicing physician in clinical research while allowing the individual to maintain an active role in clinical practice. Acquisition of core principles of research design, research conduct and management, and statistics and epidemiologic analysis accompanied by a thorough understanding of the challenges unique to clinical research in reproduction will allow clinician researchers to achieve their potential as investigators.

The first cohort of four highly competitive CREST scholars will receive interactive and didactic online training interspersed with intensive face-to-face seminars. The initial seminar will be held at the ASRM annual meeting, October 15-16, 2005, followed by two intensive on-site weekend seminars at the NIH in March and July 2006. The CREST scholars will be required to conduct a research practicum project under the mentorship of Duke and NIH faculty. Successful scholars will receive a Certificate in Clinical Research from Duke University School of Medicine. The ultimate goal of the program is to develop a cadre of clinical investigators in the clinical practice community who will possess the research abilities and skills to enable them to be integral members of the clinical research teams of the future. For additional information regarding CREST please contact Phyllis C. Leppert, MD, PhD, Chief, Reproductive Sciences Branch, CREST Program Director, at 301-496-6516 or <leppert@mail.nih.gov>. ■

—Louis V. DePaolo

Associate Chief for Translational Center Programs
Director, Reproductive Neuroendocrinology Program

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