



# SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF REPRODUCTION Newsletter

Volume 23, Number 1

February 2006

*From the President—*

## Forum and infrastructure for science

The SSR engine is in full gear as we move into the New Year—identifying and meeting the needs of the Society and preparing for its upcoming Annual Meeting. A survey of attendees at SSR's 2005 Annual Meeting in Québec City brought useful comments regarding the dynamics of the Annual Meeting and suggestions on how to best anticipate and fulfill the expectations of SSR members and trainees. Tod Hansen and his Program Committee have assembled a very exciting program that brings new faces and topics to the 2006 meeting, and excellent speakers have been invited. They have also developed a schedule with diversified content that provides more opportunities for scientific dialogue (see Program Committee report, page 6). The overall number of platform sessions has been increased (more platform presentations) and the number of concurrent sessions has decreased (fewer conflicts in scheduling). Shyamal Roy and the Local Arrangements Committee have selected a state-of-the-art venue, the Qwest Center Omaha, to showcase this exceptional meeting. Of course, the success of the meeting depends on the full participation of the members and trainees who are encouraged to present their best science in the platform and poster sessions. The dialogue between scientists is what makes the meeting especially productive. This scientific dialogue encourages creative thinking, which is essential to the vision that informs our individual research programs. The meeting is organized to foster such dialogues.

The scientist's basic attitude toward scientific research is critical to the scientific method and to subsequent public confidence in the scientific community; it also has influences on the direction and support of research to improve human and animal health. The recent scandals relating to stem cell research have shaken the foundation of scientific pursuits and have had a profound effect on our vehicle for documenting scientific advancements in reproductive biology (i.e., *Biology of Reproduction*). I would like to direct your attention to a recent publication on the SSR Web site by the late Dr. Irving Rothchild, M.D., Ph.D., Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. Irv was one of SSR's founding members and a continuous mentor to members and trainees. His insightful

perspective on carrying out science is entitled "Induction, Deduction, and the Scientific Method: An Eclectic Overview of the Practice of Science"; this monograph was published on the SSR Web site on January 6, 2006 ([www.ssr.org/Induction.html](http://www.ssr.org/Induction.html)). During this time of turmoil in the scientific arena, it is both comforting and renewing for us all (scientific trainees and established scientists) to read Irv's perspective on science. It serves as a guiding light.

Dr. Irving Rothchild died January 9, 2006, at the age of 92. Irv had a love for SSR and requested that his farewell poem be made available to us all.

### **Irv's Last Poem**

(January 2006)

*I've said farewell to science, laced  
With Nature's quirks and charms,  
To chocolate, cheese and almond paste,  
Bach, Mozart, Schubert, Brahms...  
I've said good-bye to movies, too,  
Biking trips and walks,  
To beer, wine, gin—a fond adieu  
And to swimming, poker, talks...  
To many friends I've said good-bye,  
Farewells to many places;  
Au revoirs replaced by the need to cry  
For the loss of dear embraces  
And now, dear friends and kin, a last  
Good-bye to all I know.  
Till now life's been a **super blast!**  
And now it's time to go...*

I believe that Dr. Rothchild would have relished the opportunity for carrying out science and would have enjoyed the fellowship that will flourish at our 2006 Annual Meeting in Omaha, Nebraska. Please support the SSR Annual Meeting and the Society's activities. Do not hesitate to contact our officers or SSR Board members regarding suggestions to positively impact the Society for the Study of Reproduction. ■

—Bill Thatcher

## THE INTELLIGENT DESIGNER

*Is it female or male? Does it have any sex?  
Does it come with a name, like Jane, Irving, or Rex?  
What we need is a super-intelligent definer  
To define this uncanny Intelligent Designer!*

*Has it got any features? Does it have any limbs?  
Is it made of dark matter or two-dimensional films?  
Among all the world's gods, is it major or minor?  
This amorphous, intangible Intelligent Designer!*

*Does it live on a planet, a star, or a comet?  
Inside a black hole or far, far away from it?  
Can it ride on a light beam or something diviner?  
This incongruous, elusive Intelligent Designer!*

*Would a galactic ensemble fit most of it in,  
Or is it as small as the head of a pin,  
Or perhaps in between, like a grand ocean liner?  
This mysterious, pretentious Intelligent Designer!*

*Does it get a big charge out of making malaria,  
Cholera, AIDS, or a cook who's a carrier  
Of typhoid or worms who love to live in your spine or  
Your belly? this heartless Intelligent Designer!*

*Did the brain carcinoma (what's more unbenigner?)  
Come out of the shop of the Intelligent Designer?  
Does the tse-tse fly sing a clear thankful hosanna  
To the ID every time it makes someone a goner?*

*Does it have any purpose except to confuse  
Bible myths of creation with what scientists use  
To learn how designs in nature are made?  
This Intelligent Designer — a pointless charade!*

—Irving Rothchild

(Used by permission of the Skeptical Inquirer magazine <[www.csicop.org](http://www.csicop.org)>.)

## Emeritus events in Omaha

The Emeritus Committee will again host a breakfast at the Society's Annual Meeting in Omaha. The breakfast this year, scheduled for 7 a.m. on July 30, will include not only emeriti but longtime senior members as well. As initiated last year, we will again recognize a scientist who made significant contributions to reproductive biology. This year we will recognize Dr. Cornelia Channing. The tribute and anecdotes will be presented by Dr. Neena Schwartz, who collaborated with Dr. Channing in research and knew her well.

Dr. Jack Gorski, who was unable to attend the 2005 meeting, has agreed to present the historical perspectives lecture highlighting key players and events that led to the discovery of the nuclear estrogen receptor. Dr. Gorski's lecture is scheduled for 11:15 a.m. on August 1. This presentation should be very interesting and everyone is welcome to attend, especially trainees. All emeriti and senior members will be contacted to encourage their attendance at the breakfast and sponsored lecture.

The Emeritus Committee is saddened by the recent passing of Dr. Irv Rothchild. Dr. Rothchild was encouraged by the committee to share with SSR members and trainees his philosophy regarding research and experimentation. He enthusiastically accepted the challenge and seemed to derive pleasure in being able to express his opinions on the subject. His completed essay, entitled "Induction, Deduction, and the Scientific Method: An Eclectic Overview of the Practice of Science," can be viewed on the SSR Web site. This remarkably well-written document is worth reading by all members and trainees. ■

—Fredrick Stormshak, Chair  
Emeritus Committee



Irving Rothchild with his wife Ellen and SSR Past-President Joy Pate. Photo taken at the Rothchilds' home on December 30, 2005, by Judy Jansen.

## Membership Committee

**Have you renewed your SSR membership?** If you are reading this newsletter, you probably did renew your SSR membership. So maybe I am “preaching to the choir!” If you have not renewed, you will be getting another reminder from the SSR office shortly. Later in March-April, our Membership Committee will be contacting members who have not renewed. However, if you have renewed, let’s double our membership by asking one other reproductive biologist if he/she has renewed or is a member of SSR.

**Membership renewals ahead of last year’s numbers!** To determine the status of membership, we compare the current numbers with numbers at this time last year. Last year’s numbers are in parentheses. Our membership according to level is: regular 1,063 (1,031), associate 140 (123), trainee 243 (278), and emeritus 98 (96), for a total of 1,544 (1,528).

**Trainee renewal rate needs to improve.** The renewal rate is the poorest for trainees, at least until it is time to either register for the SSR Annual Meeting or apply for financial aid to travel to the meeting. Wouldn’t it be great if the trainees would renew their membership now because of the value of being a member of SSR rather than to be coerced by a financial benefit from a reduced registration fee and/or the opportunity to get travel funds? We regular members who have responsibility for trainees need to develop in the trainees an appreciation of the value of being a member of a scientific society such as SSR.

**Your suggestions are needed for increasing international membership.** The Membership Committee is most interested in increasing membership in foreign countries. There are many reproductive biology associations throughout the world and many of these associations have yearly meetings. The Membership Committee will be planning a traveling poster describing SSR and the benefits of membership. This poster could be downloaded by SSR members who will be attending these meetings and be exhibited at these meetings. We would greatly appreciate knowing when you plan to attend a foreign reproductive biology meeting so that you could take this poster and exhibit it at the meeting. Also you could be the resource person for people who have questions about SSR. There is a whole world of reproductive biologists out there who have not heard of SSR nor been invited to join SSR. What a rich territory for new members. ■

—Janice Bahr, Chair  
Membership Committee

---

## New Members

---

### Regular

Francois Dube  
Michael A. Ensslin  
Ali Eroglu  
Yuichi Kameyama  
Moira O’Bryan  
Israel Rozenboim  
Alka Shaunik  
Hiroshi Tamura

Jennifer L. Mook  
Dilyara Murtazina  
Wanzirai Muruvi  
Matthew J. Paul  
Santhi Potireddy  
Flor Sanchez Ramos  
Silvia B. V. Ramos  
Lalita Shrestha  
Angela Walker  
Renita C. Woods Marshall

### Associate

Greg Fontenot  
Fabio Lozano

### Trainee

Hyo-Won Ahn  
Victor O. Akande  
Michael Bradaric  
Kim Brown  
Amy Campbell  
Amy C. Ditewig  
Kelly Bonner Engel  
Young S. Lee  
Su-Min Li  
Joy McIntosh  
Yuko Miyake

### Change of status

*To Regular:*  
Mario Binelli  
Hyungchul Han  
Kanako Hayashi  
Takehito Kaneko  
Michael Kaproth  
Gaurishankar Manandhar  
Sue McCoard  
Eric M. Walters  
Richard B. White

*To Associate:*  
Silvina M. Bocca  
Christian Mittelholzer  
Bui Hong Thuy

---

## Looking ahead to 2007

It might seem early to begin thinking about SSR’s 2007 Annual Meeting with the 2006 meeting still several months away, but plans are moving forward for the 40th Annual Meeting of SSR to take place July 22–25 next year in San Antonio. John McCarry is chairing the Local Affairs Committee and arrangements are under way for the meeting site, the Marriott Rivercenter Hotel, and for the locations of the Welcome Reception and Social. There will be a decidedly Texas flavor to the official and unofficial social activities which you will enjoy at the meeting. Marty Matzuk will be the Program Chair, and he expects to have outstanding speakers for the main presentations, with the general theme of “Cross-Species Genetic and Genomic Approaches to Studying Reproduction.” You will hear more in Omaha about the 2007 meeting, but you can expect both the science and the social activities to be outstanding. ■

—Mitch Eddy  
President-Elect

## Message from the Treasurer

The annual accounting of SSR revenues and expenditures for 2005 is nearing completion, and it appears that our budget approximation of \$1.9M was near the mark for the costs of membership services, the Annual Meeting, and the journal. Based on the best estimate of revenues for 2005, we have concluded that the budget will balance for the year, with a few percent surplus. This occurred because the Society benefited from solid Annual Meeting revenue that offset the costs of management of the membership, and a publications budget in which *Biology of Reproduction* paid for itself. This favorable result is the sixth consecutive balanced budget for the Society and indicates that our short-term fiscal health is good.

After a brief leveling off to \$1.4M in terrifying 2002 (from an investment point of view), the SSR investment portfolio has continued to grow through 2005. Most of this increase is in the form of unrealized gain in mutual fund values. Nonetheless, as noted in my last message, new money was invested in July 2005, comprising donations to the Endowment Fund, funds for establishment of the New Investigator Endowment, and modest budget surplus funds, bringing the total value to \$2.4M. As of this writing (January

10, 2006), these funds have performed well, as an unrealized gain of 11.5 % has been made over the last six and one-half months. The broader S&P market appreciated only 6.5 % over the same interval. The recent and historic unrealized gains, along with new investments, brought our total portfolio to \$2.67M, again indicating a good short-term financial position for the Society.

The important fiscal challenges remain. In particular, we are concerned about continued maintenance of *Biology of Reproduction* as the premier publication in the field in this time of rapid evolution of publishing and subscription that threatens the income base of the journal. We need a robust investment portfolio of at least twofold the annual budget, or about \$4M, to ensure our survival. The Development Committee has a goal of increasing the Endowment Fund to \$1M. We are not quite halfway there, but when this goal is met it will contribute greatly to the financial vigor of SSR. Your help and contributions are always welcome. ■

—Bruce D. Murphy

---

## SSR Endowment Fund

---

The Society gratefully acknowledges these contributors to the Endowment Fund during 2005.

### **Silver:** \$1000–2499

Janice M. Bahr  
Edward M. Eddy  
Irving Rothchild

### **Bronze:** \$250–999

Charles L. Chaffin  
Denise Escalier  
Mary Ann Handel  
Kengo Manase  
Martin M. Matzuk  
Takashi Miyano  
JoAnne S. Richards  
R. Michael Roberts  
Richard M. Schultz  
Bayard T. Storey  
W. W. Thatcher  
Carmen J. Williams

### **Contributor:** \$1–249

D. Randall Armant  
Frank F. Bartol  
K. J. Betteridge  
William T. K. Bosu  
George R. Bousfield  
Carol Brenner  
AnaMargarida Calado  
Ian P. Callard  
Daniel Carson  
John Richard Chaillet

Yee-Hsiung Chen  
Ronald K. Christenson  
Eric D. Clegg  
Robert L. Cochrane  
Alan James Conley  
Luiz Augusto de Castro  
e Paula  
Tom Ducibella  
Charles A. Ducsay  
John J. Eppig  
Peter W. Farin  
Michael J. Fields  
Jodi Anne Flaws  
J. Joe Ford  
Joanne Fortune  
Frank S. French  
George R. Fritz Jr  
Hiroyuki Fujinaga  
John Evan Gadsby  
Rodney D. Geisert  
Stanley R. Glasser  
Laura T. Goldsmith  
R. A. Gorski  
Roger G. Gosden  
Yasuo Hamada  
Matthew P. Hardy  
Norman Hecht  
Leslie L. Heckert  
Frank Hertelendy  
Yuji Hirao  
Toshitaka Horiuchi  
Harlan J. Howard  
Patricia B. Hoyer

Ronald R. Humphrey  
Patricia A. Hunt  
E. Keith Inskeep  
Weizhi Ji  
Hiroyuki Kaneko  
Yoko Kato  
Carol L. Keefer  
John D. Kirby  
Zlatko Kniewald  
D. C. Kraemer  
A. Brian Little  
Julia Lobotsky  
Judith Lee Luborsky  
Grant R. MacGregor  
Shin-Ichiro Matsumoto  
Jeffrey V. May  
Michael E. McClure  
John A. McCracken  
Alan C. Menge  
Frederick A. Miller  
Mark Mirando  
Hiroshi Nagashima  
Peter W. Nathanielsz  
Koji Niwa  
Yoichi Noda  
Romana Nowak  
Wai-Sum O  
Hitoshi Okamura  
Richard J. Oko  
Kiyoshi Okuda  
Terry T. Olar  
Takeshi Osawa  
Harold Papkoff  
Joy L. Pate

Sally D. Perreault  
William Plummer  
Seymour H. Pomerantz  
Vernon Pursel  
Janet F. Roser  
Shyamal K. Roy  
Heywood R. Sawyer  
Frederick H. Schmidt  
Alan Schneyer  
David W. Schomberg  
Neena B. Schwartz  
O. David Sherwood  
Thomas E. Spencer  
Bernard G. Steinetz  
John N. Stellflug  
Bayard T. Storey  
Susan S. Suarez  
Teruo Sugawara  
Norihiro Sugino  
Osamu Suzuki  
Chikashi Tachi  
Toshio Tsubota  
Donna L. Vogel  
Shinya Watanabe  
Yoshie S. Weems  
Don P. Wolf  
Ming-Che Wu  
Katsuhiko Yasuda  
Denise J. Zaczek

### **New Investigator Endowment**

Donna L. Vogel

## The Legacy Fund: Why is it so important?

We are very fortunate that *Biology of Reproduction* has been self-sustaining, primarily through subscriptions to academic libraries. However, online availability and increased pressures on library budgets have resulted in declining library subscriptions, and this trend is expected to continue. We will inevitably reach the point at which *BOR* will no longer be able to sustain itself, and this is when the Legacy Fund becomes so vital to SSR.

The Legacy Fund was established by the Society in 2004 specifically to convert back issues of *BOR* to an online version as well as to maintain and enhance this archive. We are pleased to announce that full-text articles since the journal's inception in 1969 have all been transferred online and are electronically available at the *Biology of Reproduction* Web site ([www.bioreprod.org](http://www.bioreprod.org)). *The Legacy Fund helped finance this endeavor, which cost approximately \$60,000.*

The SSR Development Committee is now asking users of *BOR* online to make a financial donation to the Legacy Fund, which now stands at about \$20,000; our goal is to raise \$400,000. It costs about \$20,000 annually to maintain the *BOR* Web site. *We are grateful for contributions to the Legacy Fund, including the generous donation of \$15,000 in 2004 by one long-standing member of the Society.*

There are several ways that you can contribute to the Legacy Fund and support *Biology of Reproduction*:

- Send a check or money order directly to the SSR Business Office at 1619 Monroe Street, Madison, WI 53711-2063.
- Donate your honorarium to SSR after giving an invited presentation.
- Donate the financial portion of an award to SSR.

You may contact the SSR Business Office or the Endowment Subcommittee for guidance. **Remember that SSR is a 501(c)(3) corporation. Contact the Executive Director for a copy of the IRS document that confirms the tax-deductibility of your gift to the Society or the Endowment Fund.**

By supporting the Legacy Fund, you personally help ensure the growth and development of *Biology of Reproduction* for future generations of researchers.

Make giving a habit! ■

—Janice Bailey, Chair  
Endowment Subcommittee

---

## SSR Legacy Fund

---

The Society gratefully acknowledges these contributors to the Legacy Fund during 2005.

**Silver:** \$1000–2499

Douglas M. Stocco

**Bronze** \$250–999

Bayard T. Storey  
Fredrick Stormshak

**Contributor:** \$1–249

Tomas J. Acosta Ayala  
Norman Hecht  
Patricia B. Hoyer  
Yoko Kato  
Kengo Manase  
Bernard G. Steinetz

---

## Nominating Committee

The work of the Nominating Committee is close to completion. The slate of candidates for President-Elect, Treasurer, and two Directors has been submitted to the Board of Directors. Once we have the Board's final approval, we will announce the candidates for these positions. The committee would like to thank the nominees who agreed to serve if elected and those members of SSR who took the time to nominate these candidates. For those who were unsuccessful in being selected for the final ballot, please do not be discouraged. We sincerely ask you to run again in the future. Our Society is endowed with a large number of qualified individuals who are capable of serving on the Board of Directors. Thus, the final outcomes were determined by a very small margin of votes. We urge you to keep in mind that, except for the Chair of the Nominating Committee, the members of the Nominating Committee change each year. I also encourage members of SSR to begin thinking about those you would like to nominate this next fall (next year will be President-Elect and two Directors). Or, if you are interested in running for one of the positions, let your colleagues know while attending the SSR Annual Meeting so they can nominate you. ■

—Phillip Fields, Chair  
Nominating Committee

---

### LOCAL SEARCHING ON SSR WEB SITE

---

*Local searching has been implemented on the SSR Web site ([www.ssr.org](http://www.ssr.org)). You can choose to limit your search to pages that have Annual Meeting information, or to SSR newsletters only, or search the entire SSR Web site. A search limited to Annual Meeting materials will cover all Annual Meeting information, including this issue of the newsletter. All Annual Meeting information is searchable as soon as it is available.*

# Highlights of the 2006 SSR Program

SSR's 39th Annual Meeting will offer a revised format, while covering the breadth and scope of intriguing topics that reflect the varied interests of SSR scientists and physicians with a focus on research in reproduction. This meeting will be held in Omaha, Nebraska ([www.visitomaha.com](http://www.visitomaha.com)) from July 29 through August 1.

The SSR meeting will be preceded by the Third International Symposium on Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) for the Conservation and Genetic Management of Companion Animals, Non-Domestic and Endangered Species (CANDES). This symposium will be held at Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo Wild Kingdom Pavilion and will convene in the morning of July 29, prior to the SSR meeting. Topics to be discussed include preservation of gonads, designer gonadotropins, sperm sorting for ART, metabolism and embryo culture, cloning technologies, cloning and heteroplasmy, embryonic stem cells in CANDES, disease risks in transporting embryos and semen, disinfection procedures for semen, sperm competition and diversity, unique male reproductive strategies, and unique female reproductive strategies. Abstracts for this meeting will be submitted via SSR's abstract submission site and will be published in the SSR program; participation in both meetings is invited and encouraged. We will share an evening reception with this group on Saturday, July 29.

Dr. William W. Thatcher, 2006 SSR President, will open the meeting Saturday afternoon. The Opening Ceremony will include an introduction of the SSR Trainee Research Finalists and presentation of the Carl Hartman and Distinguished Service Awards. *All Trainee Research Finalists are expected to attend the Opening Ceremony, the SSR Research and New Investigator Awards presentations, and the Closing Ceremony.* The Keynote Address and the President's Symposium focus on the roles of environment and functional nutrients on critical reproductive windows. Overall fertility, embryo-fetal-placental development, well-being of the newborn and mother, and subsequent reproductive outcome will be considered. Presentations will describe 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.

The Keynote Address, "Nuclear reprogramming and the fetal-maternal dialogue," will be presented by Jean-

Paul Renard (Director, Unite de Biologie du Developpement, INRA, Jouy en Josas, France).

The President's Symposium will focus on nutritional regulation of reproductive function. Pushpa S. Kalra (University of Florida, Gainesville) will give a talk on "Energy homeostasis and reproduction: The neuropeptide connection." Robert Webb (University of Nottingham School of Biosciences, Loughborough, United Kingdom) will give a talk on "Nutritional impact on female reproductive function: From genetics to metabolomics."

Dr. Olivia P. Judson (Imperial College at Silwood Park, Ascot, United Kingdom), author of *Dr. Tatiana's Sex Advice to All Creation*, will deliver the first plenary. She will speak on "The evolutionary biology of pregnancy." Dr. John D. Gearhart (Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine) will give the second plenary talk on "Embryonic stem cells."

Dr. Gearhart will also participate in a new expanded plenary session: Taking Your Science to the People: Media 101 for Reproductive Biologists. This special session on interaction with the media was organized by Dr. Patricia Hunt. Amy Kostant (Director, EMS/Science Communication Network) will open the session with a talk on "The special role of scientists in talking with the media." Then, Elizabeth Weise (science reporter, *USA Today*) will discuss "What reporters need from you to report your findings fairly and accurately." The session will end with a talk by Dr. Gearhart on "Baptism by fire: What you learn when your research suddenly becomes newsworthy."

The New Investigator and Exchange Lectures have been expanded to include a speaker from the American Society of Reproductive Medicine, in addition to speakers from SSR and the Society for the Study of Fertility. The Historical Perspectives Lecture is now a formal component of the SSR program. The lecture is organized by SSR's Emeritus Committee and will be chaired by Fredrick Stormshak. We are very fortunate to have Jack Gorski (University of Wisconsin-Madison) giving a talk on "Discovery of the nuclear estrogen receptor: A history lesson."

The Program, Clinical Outreach, and Reproduction and Environment Committees, as well as the general SSR membership, collectively proposed 79 minisymposia. The Program Committee reviewed these suggestions to develop the following 15 minisymposia (listed in order of presentation at the meeting, **not** in rank order). Each minisymposium includes three 30-minute talks related to the general topic of the session.



**Minisymposium I. New Insights into the Role of Development Signaling Pathways in the Ovarian Follicle.** Chair: **Susan M. Quirk** (Cornell University)

**Minisymposium II. Relaxin in the 21st Century: The Identification of Relaxin Receptors Has Generated Novel Physiological Applications.** Chair: **Phillip A. Fields**

**Minisymposium III. Long-Term Health Effects of Perturbations to the Oocyte and Preimplantation Embryo.** Chair: **Jay M. Baltz** (University of Ottawa)

**Minisymposium IV. Pheromones: Environmental Messengers.** Chair: **Douglas L. Foster** (University of Michigan)

**Minisymposium V. Mechanisms Involved in Age-Related Decline in Leydig Cell Testosterone Biosynthesis.** Chair: **Douglas M. Stocco** (Texas Tech University, Lubbock)

**Minisymposium VI. Insights into Reproductive Aging Gained in Primate Studies.** Chair: **Mary Ann Ottinger** (University of Maryland, College Park)

**Minisymposium VII. Using Domestic Livestock as Models to Understand Reproductive Function.** Chair: **Andrea S. Cupp** (University of Nebraska, Lincoln)

**Minisymposium VIII. Obesity and Reproduction.** Chair: **John D. Brannian** (University of South Dakota School of Medicine, Sioux Falls)

**Minisymposium IX. Regulation of Cellular Differentiation in Gametes.** Chair: **Kate Lakoski Loveland** (Monash Institute of Reproduction & Development, Australia)

**Minisymposium X. Pituitary Plasticity.** Chair: **Gwen V. Childs** (University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Little Rock)

**Minisymposium XI. Novel Tools to Generate Sperm from Human Testicular Stem Cells.** Chair: **Stefan Schlatt** (University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine)

**Minisymposium XII. Polyunsaturated Fatty Acids (PUFAs) in the Diet – Do They Make a Difference to Reproduction?** Chair: **D. Claire Wathes** (University of London, North Mymms, Hatfield, UK)

**Minisymposium XIII. Comparative Aspects of Endometrial Remodeling for Implantation and Placentation.** Chair: **Thomas E. Spencer** (Texas A&M University)

**Minisymposium XIV. Regulation of Corpus Luteum Function: New Players and Old Favorites.** Chair: **Geula Gibori** (University of Illinois, Chicago)

**Minisymposium XV. Mahesh Neuroendocrine Minisymposium: New Concepts of Puberty.** Chair: **Jon E. Levine** (Northwestern University)

The SSR staff has been crucial in preparing the 2006 SSR program. The SSR office contracted with a new online abstract submission company to facilitate submission of abstracts and to improve the program book and the online meeting scheduler.

We have planned for 24 platform sessions (six concurrent sessions with six talks per session on the first day and with eight talks per session on subsequent days, with a total of 180 platform presentation at the meeting) and three poster sessions. All abstracts will be reviewed, prioritized, and organized into sessions—either platform or poster—by the Program Committee. Poster sessions will be held in the morning immediately after a continental breakfast. The Qwest Center is large enough to accommodate all posters for the duration of the meeting. Presenters will be in attendance at their posters and available to discuss their research for a 2-hour period. Posters will be grouped by topic categories, and one-third of the posters will be presented each morning. We also have moved most of the committee meetings to the day before (July 28) or the morning before (July 29) the opening session. This was done to allow and encourage more informal interactions during the lunch breaks, rather than having to attend committee meetings during these times. The meeting will end on Tuesday evening, August 1, with a barbecue followed by a Social and Dance at the Qwest Center.

Please plan to attend the 2006 SSR Annual Meeting in Omaha. ■

—Thomas R. Hansen, Chair  
2006 Program Committee

## LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS AT OMAHA

*Preparations for SSR's Annual Meeting in Omaha are in full gear. The Local Arrangements Committee is working to set up a state-of-the-art audiovisual system so that all presenters have glitch-free talks. The committee has also developed a colorful cover design for the abstract book, and the T-shirt design is moving toward approval. The bottom line is that the meeting is becoming a reality. Please remember there is plenty to see in Omaha, Lincoln, and throughout Nebraska, so plan to bring your family to enjoy some quality summer time. Please remember to register soon so that you can get your choice of hotel. The meeting cannot succeed without your participation. The SSR Web site has all the information you need to plan your trip and a link to the LAC site for any additional information that you may need. We will see you soon.*

—Shyamal K. Roy, Chair  
Local Arrangements Committee

---

## Larry Ewing Memorial Trainee Travel Fund

---

The Society gratefully acknowledges these contributors to the Larry Ewing Memorial Trainee Travel Fund during 2005.

D. Randall Armant  
Janice M. Bahr  
Frank F. Bartol  
William T. K. Bosu  
Barry L. Brown  
AnaMargarida Calado  
Ian P. Callard  
Kevin G. Carnahan  
Eric D. Clegg  
Joseph G. Cloud  
Duane L. Davis  
Luiz Augusto de Castro  
e Paula  
Tom Ducibella  
Charles A. Ducsay  
Rajasha Duggavathi  
Edward M. Eddy  
John J. Eppig  
Michael J. Fields  
J. Joe Ford  
Joanne Fortune  
Hiroyuki Fujinaga  
Christoph Gabler  
B. M. Gadella  
John Evan Gadsby

Stanley R. Glasser  
Erwin Goldberg  
Robert L. Goodman  
R. A. Gorski  
Yan Gu  
Dale Buck Hales  
Yasuo Hamada  
Matthew P. Hardy  
Leslie L. Heckert  
Frank Hertelendy  
Bernd Hoffmann  
Toshitaka Horiuchi  
Harlan J. Howard  
Kembra Howdeshell  
Ronald R. Humphrey  
E. Keith Inskoop  
Gary Jackson  
Laurie A. Jaeger  
Weizhi Ji  
Mary Lynn Johnson  
Larry S. Katz  
Julia Lobotsky  
Judith Lee Luborsky  
Ulrike Luderer  
Shin-Ichiro Matsumoto

Jeffrey V. May  
Michael E. McClure  
John A. McCracken  
Rina Meidan  
Marvin L. Meistrich  
Chamindrani  
Mendis-Handagama  
Alan C. Menge  
Frederick A. Miller  
Mark Mirando  
Akio Miyamoto  
Takashi Miyano  
Junichi Mori  
Maria I. Nino-Soto  
Koji Niwa  
Yoichi Noda  
Wai-Sum O  
Richard J. Oko  
Kiyoshi Okuda  
Joseph Orly  
Takeshi Osawa  
Laura Parry  
Sally D. Perreault  
Bela E. Piacsek  
William Plummer

Seymour H. Pomerantz  
JoAnne S. Richards  
Janet F. Roser  
Alan Schneyer  
O. David Sherwood  
Rosalia C. M. Simmen  
Thomas E. Spencer  
Douglas M. Stocco  
Bayard T. Storey  
You-Qiang Su  
Susan S. Suarez  
Teruo Sugawara  
Osamu Suzuki  
Chikashi Tachi  
Catherine D. Thaler  
Margaret Thompson Reece  
Toshio Tsubota  
Mehmet Uzumcu  
Shinya Watanabe  
Amy L. Way  
Yoshie S. Weems  
Brett R. White  
Don P. Wolf  
William Wright  
Denise J. Zaczek

---

## Great things ahead for trainees in Omaha

The Trainee Affairs Committee is working extremely hard on plans for the Annual Meeting in Omaha. As with every year, there will be a number of events designed for trainee participation. Specifically, at the Trainee-Mentor Luncheon, trainees will have the opportunity to meet and greet some of the Society's eminent scientists as well as fellow trainees. Chrissy Schilling will be organizing this year's luncheon. Be sure to sign up for this incredible networking opportunity on the conference registration form. Keep in mind that the earlier you register, the more likely you will have meet with your mentor of choice.

The 2006 Trainee Forum also promises to be a very informative and entertaining event. This year **Dr. Howard Adams** will be speaking on "Strategic careering in the 21st century." Dr. Adams is founder and president of H.G. Adams & Associates, Inc., a consulting company that provides human development services and products to educational, governmental, and industrial organizations. Dr. Adams is a leading expert on mentoring and mentorship program development and has written, lectured, and consulted extensively on mentoring as an effective strategy for professional, educational, and personal development. I hope to see all trainees there to hear this outstanding presentation!

The trainee-organized placement service will also be available at the Annual Meeting. Closer to the meeting, volunteers will be solicited for 1-2 hour time slots. During that time, volunteers will be able to meet other trainees and search the job market themselves. It is best to register for the placement service in advance, so check the Web site for further information. Most important, update your CVs and bring copies to the meeting.

While we are working very hard on this year's event, we hope that our trainees are working hard gathering data to present this summer. Trainees who have submitted abstracts prior to the abstract deadline will be eligible to apply for the Larry Ewing Memorial Trainee Travel Award. This award is based on financial need and helps many trainees attend the Annual Meeting and present their research. Trainees are also eligible to compete for merit-based awards, so be sure to stay updated on the details of registering for the Annual Meeting by visiting the SSR Web site at <[www.ssr.org](http://www.ssr.org)>.

Finally, it is never too late to get involved in trainee events. Please e-mail me ([kbarnett@epi.umaryland.edu](mailto:kbarnett@epi.umaryland.edu)) or Olga ([olgabolden@yahoo.com](mailto:olgabolden@yahoo.com)) if you can help out in any way. ■

—*Kimberly R. Barnett, Chair  
Trainee Affairs Committee*

## MAC events at Annual Meeting

The Minority Affairs Committee (MAC) is very pleased to announce that Burroughs Wellcome has graciously offered to fund our request for support of MAC activities. Their very generous gift will enable us to offer travel awards and support the annual MAC dinner and symposium.

MAC is planning the second annual dinner and symposium to be held at SSR's 2006 Annual Meeting. The speaker will be Dr. John Parrish, University of Wisconsin-Madison. Dr. Parrish will speak about challenges faced by minority students who move from small schools with large minority populations to large universities. The title of his talk will be "Challenges to succeed in the absence of diversity."

SSR will sponsor a MAC booth at the Annual Meeting where members and trainees can obtain information on funding sources for minorities. This year, the booth will be stocked with refreshments and chairs, so it can be a place to relax and meet people.

Be on the lookout for notice of a competition for travel grants for trainees and new assistant professors to attend the 2006 Annual Meeting. ■

— Susan S. Suarez, Chair  
Minority Affairs Committee

### SSR MEMBER WINS TOP UK AWARD FOR OVARIAN RESEARCH

Australian biomedical scientist and SSR member Jock Findlay has been awarded the UK Society for Reproduction and Fertility Distinguished Scientist Award for 2006. This award honors Professor Findlay's outstanding contribution to reproduction and fertility research. He is the only Australian to have won this prestigious award.

Professor Findlay is a world-renowned reproductive biologist with more than 30 years of experience in reproductive health research. He has been a pioneer in understanding the ovary and its function, including the hormone inhibin, regulating fertility, and treating infertility in women. He was one of the original collaborators on the first paper on hormone replacement in women receiving IVF.

"It is a great honor to receive this award, which recognizes the very important contributions made by my coworkers and students. It also recognizes Australia as a leader in research and reproductive health," said Professor Findlay.

## ANIMAL SCIENCE IMAGE GALLERY

If you need images for your teaching or outreach, check out the Animal Science Image Gallery ([anscigallery.nal.usda.gov/](http://anscigallery.nal.usda.gov/)). As of January 1, nearly 200 peer-reviewed images are in the Gallery, and another 1,500 images are either in or awaiting review. Most of the images now in the Gallery are for topics such as reproduction and nutrition. However, several new sections were added late in 2005 and more are planned. The images are divided into sections according to species and topics and maintained by different editors:

Section	Editor
Beef Cattle	Daniel Buskirk buskirk@msu.edu
Dairy Cattle	Michel Wattiaux wattiaux@wisc.edu
Ethology	Larry Katz katz@aesop.rutgers.edu
Horses	Christine Skelly skellych@msu.edu
Nutrition	Martin Stokes stokes@maine.edu
Pork Industry	David Meisinger drdave@iastate.edu
Reproduction	John Riesen John.Riesen@UConn.edu
Sheep and Goats	Susan Schoenian sschoen@umd.edu
Other Species	Pat Schoknecht pat.schoknecht@wagner.edu

The section editors are likely to contact you to review submitted images and their descriptions. You can also help by submitting your images, using the instructions on the Gallery Web site. While the Gallery is focused on animal science, we solicit images for all species—especially mammals and birds. We welcome your comments and suggestions.

—Harold Hafs  
hafsa@aesop.rutgers.edu

### Another honor for an Australian SSR member

SSR member, David M. de Kretser, has been named Governor of Victoria, Australia. He will begin his 5-year appointment on April 7. Victoria Premier Steve Bracks notes that "Professor de Kretser is one of Australia's most significant medical researchers with an international reputation in the field of reproductive biology that has been recognized by a number of professional bodies. His contribution to medical research in the area of male infertility was acknowledged in 2000 when Professor de Kretser was admitted as an Officer of the Order of Australia." ■

# Scenes from SSR's 2005 Annual Meeting in Québec City





*(Photos by the Local Arrangements Committee)*

# Major changes to NIH grant application process just around the corner!

## **The times, they are a-changing.**

At this time of the year, it is easy to get mired in the uncertainties of the Congressional budget appropriation process and its impact on the NIH budget. One thing for certain, however, is that we are entering into a period of restrained budget growth for NIH. Lost in these budget woes are major changes in the way NIH will process grant applications. These changes are closer to reality than you might think. The two major changes are (1) the conversion of paper grant applications to electronic submission of grant applications and (2) the conversion of the PHS 398 forms to the new Standard Form (SF) 424 Research and Research (R&R) data set. The two changes are interrelated in that the new forms can only be submitted electronically.

Using a phased-in approach, NIH will require electronic submission of all grant applications through Grants.gov by May 2007. Grants.gov is the federal government's single, online portal to electronically find grant opportunities from and apply for grants to all federal agencies. Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOAs) will be posted on Grants.gov generally several months before an application deadline. NIH will also continue to announce its FOAs in the *NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts*. Even unsolicited Investigator-Initiated Research Projects (R01s) will be announced as FOAs. Each FOA will have an application package associated with it. It is envisioned that you would find the FOA, click on a button, and the application package would appear.

To begin the transition to paperless grant submission, NIH required all its Small Business grant applications (SBIR/STTR) to be submitted electronically for the December 1, 2005 deadline. This was followed by electronic submission requirements for R13/U13 conference grants for the December 15, 2005 deadline and R15 AREA grants for the February 25, 2006 deadline (electronic submission timeline and other information on electronic submission are available at <era.nih.gov/ElectronicReceipt>). Electronic submission of R01 applications is scheduled to be required sometime during fall 2006. Mechanisms not yet transitioned will continue to require submission on the current PHS 398 forms.

To be able to submit applications electronically, applicant institutions (not applicants) are required to complete a one-time-only registration. Detailed instructions are provided at <grants.gov/GetStarted>. Registration is not required to find funding opportunities or to download application packages, but only to submit completed application forms. Before applicant institutions can apply, they must establish the capacity to complete fields required by

the application. This requires an institution to either download the PureEdge Viewer software from the Grants.gov site or establish an electronic system that allows the institution to submit to Grants.gov using a system-to-system data stream.

Answers to questions on NIH's overall plan for electronic receipt can be obtained at <grantsinfo@nih.gov>. Questions on registration for Grants.gov and submission questions can be found at <www.grants.gov/CustomerSupport>. As with anything still in development, timelines and Web addresses may be subject to change.

## **eRA Commons**

The Electronic Research Administration (eRA) Commons is the electronic interface between the applicant and the NIH IMPAC II database. (IMPAC stands for Information for Management, Planning, Analysis, and Coordination.) The IMPAC database is the same database used by NIH staff to access outcomes of the scientific review of grant applications (e.g., priority scores/percentile rankings, summary statements, etc.). Beginning October 2005, NIH will no longer send either paper or electronic copies of summary statements, and beginning February 1, 2006, NIH will no longer send copies of the notification letter (also known as the "snap-out mailer"). Therefore, it is imperative that applicant institutions complete a one-time-only registration to allow their investigators to use the Commons. eRA Commons registration and post-submission questions on Commons functionality can be found at <era.nih.gov/commons/index.cfm> or by accessing the Help Desk at <commons@od.nih.gov>.

## **The bottom line:**

- Bookmark <Grants.gov>.
- Work with your Sponsored Research Offices during this transition.
- Use the eRA Commons.
- Keep the applications coming in—remember the NIH budget is still \$27–28 billion. ■

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