

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
2006 SSR Annual Meeting—Omaha, Nebraska
Qwest Center Omaha (Qwest) and Hilton Omaha (Hilton)
(Hosted by the University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, Nebraska)

Thursday, 27 July 2006

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm **SSR Finance Committee Meeting.** *Hilton–Fontenelle Board Room.*
7:00 pm – 10:00 pm **SSR Board of Directors Meeting.** *Hilton–Hill Room.*

Friday, 28 July 2006

8:00 am – 5:00 pm **SSR Board of Directors Meeting.** *Hilton–Hill Room.*

Saturday, 29 July 2006

8:30 am – 12:30 pm **Editorial Retreat**, continental breakfast, break & lunch. *Hilton–Herndon Room.*

9:00 am – 6:00 pm **Registration.** *Hilton–Second Floor Registration Desk.*

Slide Preview Room. *Qwest 209.*

1:30 pm – 2:30 pm **2006 Program Committee and Session Chairs Meeting.** *Qwest 204.*

3:00 pm – 3:30 pm **Opening Ceremony.** *Qwest North Ballroom.*

Welcome: William W. Thatcher, Ph.D. (University of Florida, Gainesville, FL), President, SSR.

Remarks: Thomas R. Hansen, Ph.D. (Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO), Chair, 2006 SSR 2006 Program; **Shyamal K. Roy, Ph.D.** (University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE), Chair, 2006 SSR Local Arrangements Committee.

Response: Ms. Ayesha Graves, the Assistant to the Mayor, the Honorable Mike Fahey (Mayor, Omaha, NE); **Carl V. Smith, M.D.** (Chairman, OB/GYN, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE).

Introduction of SSR Trainee Research Finalists: Janet F. Roser, Ph.D. (University of California-Davis, Davis, CA), Chair, 2006 SSR Awards Committee. *(Sustaining support from Serono Research Institute.)*

Awards Presentations: Janet F. Roser, Ph.D. (University of California-Davis, Davis, CA), Chair, 2006 SSR Awards Committee.

Carl G. Hartman Award: R. Michael Roberts, Ph.D. (University of Missouri, Columbia, MO).

Distinguished Service Award: P. Landis Keyes, Ph.D. (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI). *(Sustaining support from Serono Research Institute.)*

3:30 pm – 4:30 pm **Keynote Address (Abstract K1).** Introduction: **William W. Thatcher, Ph.D.** (University of Florida, Gainesville, FL), President, SSR. Speaker: **Jean-Paul Renard, Ph.D.** (Director, Unite de Biologie du Developpement, INRA, Jouy en Josas, France), “*Nuclear Reprogramming and the Fetal-Maternal Dialogue.*”

4:45 pm – 6:15 pm **Platform Presentations, Concurrent Sessions 1–6;** six presentations per session.

Platform Session 1. Comparative Reproduction (Abstracts 1-6). *Qwest 201.*

Platform Session 2. Genomics- and Proteomics-Based Investigation of Male Reproductive Function (Abstracts 7-12). *Qwest 202.*

Platform Session 3. Immunology of the Reproductive System (Abstracts 13-18). *Qwest 203.*

Platform Session 4. Neuroendocrinology and Behavior (Abstracts 19-24). *Qwest 204.*

Platform Session 5. Sex Determination and Development (Abstracts 25-30). *Qwest 205-206.*

Platform Session 6. Signaling and Signal Transduction in Endocrine Tissues I (Abstracts 31-36). *Qwest 210-211.*

7:00 pm – 10:30 pm **Welcome Reception at the Omaha’s Henry Doorly Zoo.** *Shuttle bus schedules and information will be available at the Registration Desk.*

Sunday, 30 July 2006

7:00 am – 8:00 am **LAC Meeting.** *Qwest 208.*
Emeritus/Senior Breakfast. *Hilton–Hill Room.*

- 7:30 am – 5:00 pm **Registration.** *Hilton–Second Floor Registration Desk.*
Slide Preview Room. *Qwest 209.*
Placement Service. *Qwest 207.*
Funding Agencies. *Qwest Alcove.*
- 7:30 am – 9:30 am **Continental Breakfast.** *Qwest Exhibit Hall A.*
Poster Session I & Exhibits. (One-third of the posters will be presented each day. Please see the online itinerary builder [available at www.ssr.org] and the scientific program listing of posters by day.) *Qwest Exhibit Hall A.*
- 9:30 am – 11:00 am **Minisymposia I–V**, five concurrent. *Qwest 201, 202, 203, 204, 205-206.*
Minisymposium I. New Insights into the Role of Development Signaling Pathways in the Ovarian Follicle (Abstracts MS1–MS3). *Qwest 201.* Chair: **Susan M. Quirk, Ph.D.** (Cornell University, Ithaca, NY); Co-Chair: **Bruce D. Murphy, Ph.D.** (Université de Montréal, St-Hyacinth, QC, Canada). Speakers: **Derek Boerboom, D.V.M., Ph.D.** (Université de Montréal, St-Hyacinth, QC, Canada), “*Wnt Signaling in Ovarian Granulosa Cell Biology and Tumorigenesis*”; **Stephanie A. Pangas, Ph.D.** (Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX) “*Genetic Models for TGFbeta Superfamily Signaling in Ovarian Follicle Development*”; **Susan M. Quirk, Ph.D.** (Cornell University, Ithaca, NY), “*The Hedgehog Signaling Pathway in Ovarian Follicle Development.*”
Minisymposium II. Relaxin in the 21st Century: The Identification of Relaxin Receptors Has Generated Novel Physiological Applications (Abstracts MS4–MS6). *Qwest 202.* Chair: **Phillip A. Fields, Ph.D.** (University of South Alabama, Mobile, AL); Co-Chair: **Gillian Bryant-Greenwood, Ph.D.** (University of Hawaii at Manoa); Speakers: **Ross A.D. Bathgate, Ph.D.** (Howard Florey Institute, University of Melbourne, VIC, Australia), “*Evolution, Structure, and Function of the Relaxin Family Peptides and Their Receptors*”; **Richard Ivell, Ph.D.** (University of Adelaide, Adelaide, SA, Australia), “*Relaxin Family Peptides Signaling Pathways in Pregnant and Non-Pregnant Tissues*”; **Dennis R. Stewart, Ph.D.** (BAS Medical, Inc., San Mateo, CA), “*Novel Clinical Applications for Relaxin: Reproductive Potentials and Beyond.*”
Minisymposium III. Long-Term Health Effects of Perturbations to the Oocyte and Preimplantation Embryo (Abstracts MS7–MS9). *Qwest 203.* Chair: **Jay M. Baltz, Ph.D.** (University of Ottawa, Ottawa, ON, Canada); Co-Chair: **Maxime Sasseville, Ph.D.** (Centre de Recherche en Biologie de la Reproduction). Speakers: **Richard M. Schultz, Ph.D.**, (University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA) “*Effects of Calcium Oscillations and Embryo Culture on Gene Expression and Behavior*”; **Kelle H. Moley, M.D.** (Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, MO), “*Effect of Maternal Diabetes on Embryos and the Health of Offspring*”; **Tom Fleming, Ph.D.** (University of Southampton, Southampton, SO, England), “*Effect of Maternal Nutrition on Embryos.*”
Minisymposium IV. Pheromones: Environmental Messengers (Abstracts MS10–MS12). *Qwest 204.* Chair: **Douglas L. Foster, Ph.D.** (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI); Co-Chair: **Kelly Brant, Ph.D.** (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI). Speakers: **Yuji Mori, Ph.D.** (The University of Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan), “*Identification of the Reproductive Pheromone in the Goat and the Neural Circuitry Mediating Its Action on GnRH Neurosecretory System*”; **Catherine R. Propper, Ph.D.** (Northern Arizona State University, Flagstaff, AZ), “*Disruption of Reproductive Pheromonal Communication by Environmental Contaminants*”; **Charles Wysocki, Ph.D.** (Monell Chemical Senses Center, Philadelphia, PA), “*Facts, Fallacies, Fears & Frustrations with Human Pheromones.*”
Minisymposium V. Mechanisms Involved in Age-Related Decline in Leydig Cell Testosterone Biosynthesis (Abstracts MS13–MS15). *Qwest 205-206.* Chair: **Douglas M. Stocco, Ph.D.** (Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX); Co-Chair: **Benson Akingbemi, D.V.M., Ph. D.** (Auburn University, Auburn, AL); Speakers: **Barry R. Zirkin, Ph.D.** (Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD), “*Steroidogenic Decline in Aging Leydig Cells: The Roles of cAMP and Reactive Oxygen-Induced Damage*”; **Dale Buchanan Hales, Ph.D.** (University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL), “*The Role of Inflammation, Oxidative Stress, and the Decline in Mitochondrial Function in Steroidogenic Senescence*”; **Douglas M. Stocco, Ph.D.** (Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX), “*The Role of COX2 in Steroidogenesis in the Aging Leydig Cell.*”
- 11:15 am – 12:00 pm **Plenary 1 (Abstract P1).** *Qwest North Ballroom.* Chair: **Thomas R. Hansen, Ph.D.** (Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO), Chair, SSR 2006 Program Committee. Speaker: **Olivia P. Judson, Ph.D.** (Research Fellow in Evolutionary Biology, Imperial College at Silwood Park, Ascot, Berks., United Kingdom), “*The Evolutionary Biology of Pregnancy.*”
- 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm **Lunch.** Box lunch pick-up in Poster & Exhibit area. *Qwest Exhibit Hall A.*
Trainee-Mentor Luncheon. *Hilton–Saint Nicholas Room.*
- 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm **Platform Presentations, Concurrent Sessions 7–12;** eight presentations per session.
Platform Session 7. Effects of the Environment on Development and Function of Gametes (Abstracts 37-44). *Qwest 201.*

Platform Session 8. Signaling and Signal Transduction in Endocrine Tissues II (Abstracts 45-52). *Qwest 202.*

Platform Session 9. Spermatogenesis (Abstracts 53-60). *Qwest 203.*

Platform Session 10. Functional Analysis of Gene Expression in Reproductive Tissues (Abstracts 61-68). *Qwest 204.*

Platform Session 11. Implantation, Pregnancy, and Parturition I (Abstracts 69-76). *Qwest 205-206.*

Platform Session 12. Assisted Reproductive Technologies I (Abstracts 77-84). *Qwest 210-211.*

3:30 pm – 4:00 pm

Coffee Break in Poster & Exhibits Area. *Qwest Exhibit Hall A.*

4:00 pm – 4:15 pm

Awards Presentation: SSR Research Award (*sustaining support from NV Organon*) and **SSR New Investigator Award** (*sustaining support from the Virendra B. Mahesh New Investigator Endowment Fund*). Introduction: **Janet F. Roser, Ph.D.** (University of California-Davis, Davis, CA), Chair, 2006 SSR Awards Committee. *Qwest North Ballroom.*

SSR Research Award: Michael D. Griswold, Ph.D. (Washington State University, Pullman, WA).

SSR New Investigator Award: Andrea S. Cupp, Ph.D. (University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE).

4:15 pm – 6:15 pm

President's Symposium: Nutritional Regulation of Reproductive Function (Abstracts PS1 and PS2). *Qwest North Ballroom.* Chair: **William W. Thatcher, Ph.D.** (University of Florida, Gainesville, FL), President, SSR. Speakers: **Pushpa S. Kalra, Ph.D.** (University of Florida, Gainesville, FL), "*Energy Homeostasis and Reproduction: The Neuropeptide Connection.*" **Robert Webb, Ph.D.** (University of Nottingham School of Biosciences, Loughborough, Leics., United Kingdom), "*Nutritional Impact on Female Reproductive Function: From Genetics to Metabolomics.*"

6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

Minority Affairs Dinner. (Invitation only.) *Hilton–Saint Nicholas Room.*

8:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Minority Affairs Symposium (Abstract MA). *Hilton–St. Nicholas Room.* Chair: **Susan B. Suarez, Ph.D.** (Cornell University, Ithaca, NY), Chair, SSR Minority Affairs Committee. Speaker: **John Parrish, Ph.D.** (University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI), "*Challenges to Succeed in the Absence of Diversity.*"

Free evening.

Monday, 31 July 2006

7:00 am – 8:00 am

LAC Meeting. *Qwest 208.*

Past Presidents' Breakfast. *Hilton–Washington City Room.*

Past Trainee Representatives' Breakfast. *Hilton–Hill Room.*

7:30 am – 5:00 pm

Registration. *Hilton–Second Floor Registration Desk.*

Slide Preview Room. *Qwest 209.*

Placement Service. *Qwest 207.*

Funding Agencies. *Qwest Alcove.*

7:30 am – 9:30 am

Continental Breakfast. *Qwest, Exhibit Hall A.*

Poster Session II & Exhibits. (One-third of the posters will be presented each day. Please see the online itinerary builder [available at www.ssr.org] and the scientific program listing of posters by day.) *Qwest Exhibit Hall A.*

9:30 am – 11:00 am

Minisymposia VI–X, five concurrent. *Qwest 201, 202, 203, 204, 205-206.*

Minisymposium VI. Insights into Reproductive Aging Gained in Primate Studies (Abstracts MS16–MS18). *Qwest 201.* Chair: **Mary Ann Ottinger, Ph.D.** (University of Maryland, College Park, MD); Co-Chair: **Julie Mattison, Ph.D.** (Laboratory of Experimental Gerontology, NIH, Poolesville, MD). Speakers: **Mary B. Zelinski, Ph.D.** (Oregon National Primate Research Center, Beaverton, OR), "*Is Caloric Restriction an Ovarian Fountain of Youth in Primates?*"; **Henryk F. Urbanski, Ph.D.** (Oregon National Primate Research Center, Beaverton, OR), "*Circadian Neuroendocrine Changes Within the Adrenal and Gonadal Axes*"; **Jeffrey A. French, Ph.D.** (University of Nebraska at Omaha, Omaha, NE), "*Aging and Reproductive Function in Nontraditional Primates: Lessons from the Lab and Field.*"

Minisymposium VII. Using Domestic Livestock as Models to Understand Reproductive Function (Abstracts MS19–MS21). *Qwest 202.* Chair: **Andrea S. Cupp, Ph.D.** (University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE); Co-Chair: **Rebecca C. Bott, Ph.D.** (Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO). Speakers: **George W. Smith, Ph.D.** (Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI), "*Use of the Bovine Model to Search for Oocyte- and Cumulus Cell-Derived Markers of Egg Quality: Functional and Diagnostic Implications*"; **Peter Sutovsky, Ph.D.** (University of Missouri-

Columbia, Columbia, MO), “*Sperm Proteasome During Porcine and Bovine Fertilization*”; **Colin M. Clay, Ph.D.**, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO), “*Insights into Regulation of GnRH Receptor Gene Expression Derived from Cross-Species Studies.*”

Minisymposium VIII. Obesity and Reproduction (Abstracts MS22–MS24). *Qwest 203.* Chair: **John D. Brannian, Ph.D.** (University of South Dakota School of Medicine, Sioux Falls, SD); Co-Chair: **Warren B. Nothnick, Ph.D.** (Kansas University Medical Center, Kansas City, KS).

Speakers: **Robert J. Norman, M.D.** (University of Adelaide, Adelaide, SA, Australia), “*Nutrition, Obesity, and Human Reproduction*”; **Andrea Dunaif, M.D.** (Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University, Chicago, IL), “*PCOS, Obesity and Metabolic Syndrome*”; **Michael C. Henson, Ph.D.** (Tulane University Health Science Center, New Orleans, LA), “*Adipokines in Pregnancy.*”

Minisymposium IX. Regulation of Cellular Differentiation in Gametes (Abstracts MS25–MS27). *Qwest 204.* Chair: **Kate Lakoski Loveland, Ph.D.**, Monash Institute of Reproduction & Development, Clayton, VIC, Australia); Co-Chair: **Sarah Meachem, Ph.D.** (Prince Henry’s Institute of Medical Research, Clayton, VIC, Australia). Speakers: **Blanche Capel, Ph.D.**, Duke University Medical Center, Durham, NC), “*Paracrine Regulation of Fetal Gonad Differentiation*”; **David Jans, Ph.D.** (Monash University, VIC, Australia), “*Modulation of Nuclear Transport as a Driver of Testis Development*”; **Norman Hecht, Ph.D.** (University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, Philadelphia, PA), “*Regulation of mRNAs.*”

Minisymposium X. Pituitary Plasticity (Abstracts MS28–MS30). *Qwest 205–206.* Chair: **Gwen V. Childs, Ph.D.** (University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Little Rock, AR); Co-Chair: **Noor Akhter, Ph.D.** (University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Little Rock, AR). Speakers: **Hugo Vankelecom, Ph.D.** (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Leuven, Belgium), “*The Pituitary Cell Lineage Tree: A Model in Need of Refinement*”; **Carlos Villalobos, Ph.D.** (Universidad de Valladolid, Valladolid, Spain), “*Multifunctional Cells of the Anterior Pituitary Depend on the Age-Related Endocrine State and Sex*”; **William L. Miller, Ph.D.** (North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC), “*Purified Primary Gonadotropes and Their Paracrine/Autocrine Regulation.*”

11:15 am – 12:00 pm

Plenary 2 (Abstract P2). *Qwest North Ballroom.* Chair: **Thomas R. Hansen, Ph.D.** (Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO), Chair, SSR 2006 Program Committee. Speaker: **John D. Gearhart, Ph.D.** (C. Michael Armstrong Professor of Medicine, Director of Stem Cell Biology and the Division of Developmental Genetics, Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD), “*Embryonic Stem Cells.*”

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

Lunch. Box lunch pick-up in Poster & Exhibit area. *Qwest Exhibit Hall A.*

Trainee Forum. *Qwest 204.* Chair: **Kimberly Barnett** (University of Maryland, Baltimore, MD), Chair, SSR Trainee Affairs Committee. Speaker: **Howard G. Adams, Ph.D.** (H.G. Adams & Associates, Inc., Norfolk, VA), “*Get Up with Something on Your Mind: Strategic Careering in the 21st Century.*”

1:30 pm – 3:30 pm

Platform Presentations, Concurrent Sessions 13–18; eight presentations per session.

Platform Session 13. Effect of the Environment on Reproductive Function (Abstracts 85-92). *Qwest 201.*

Platform Session 14. Fertilization and Early Embryo Development (Abstracts 93-100). *Qwest 202.*

Platform Session 15. Germ Cells and Early Gametogenesis (Abstracts 101-108). *Qwest 203.*

Platform Session 16. Gene Regulation in the HPG Axis (Abstracts 109-116). *Qwest 204.*

Platform Session 17. Genomics- and Proteomics-Based Investigation of Female Reproductive Function (Abstracts 117-124). *Qwest 205-206.*

Platform Session 18. Implantation, Pregnancy, and Parturition II (Abstracts 125-132). *Qwest 210-211.*

3:30 pm – 4:00 pm

Coffee Break in Poster & Exhibit Area. *Qwest Exhibit Hall A.*

4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

New Investigator & Exchange Lectures (Abstracts EX1–EX3). *Qwest North Ballroom.* Chair: **William W. Thatcher, Ph.D.** (University of Florida, Gainesville, FL), President, SSR. Speakers: **Andrea S. Cupp, Ph.D.** (Department of Animal Science, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE), SSR New Investigator, “*Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor (VEGFA) Is Involved in Sex-Specific Vascular Development and Morphogenesis Within the Developing Gonads.*” **Colin Duncan, Ph.D.** (Simpson Centre for Reproductive Health, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh UK), SRF New Investigator, “*Epithelial and Stromal Interactions in the Regulation of Luteal Tissue Remodeling.*” **Dolores J. Lamb, Ph.D.** (Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX), ASRM Distinguished Scientist, “*Concerns for Infertile Men and Their Offspring Conceived by ICSI.*”

Free Evening.

Tuesday, 1 August 2006

7:00 am – 8:00 am

LAC Meeting. *Qwest 208.*

7:30 am – 5:00 pm

Registration. *Hilton–Second Floor Registration Desk.*

Slide Preview Room. *Qwest 209.*

Placement Service. *Qwest 207.*

Funding Agencies. *Qwest Alcove.*

7:30 am – 9:30 am

Continental Breakfast. *Qwest Exhibit Hall A.*

Poster Session III & Exhibits. (One-third of the posters will be presented each day. Please see the online itinerary builder [available at www.ssr.org] and the scientific program listing of posters by day.) *Qwest Exhibit Hall A.*

9:30 am – 11:00 am

Minisymposia XI–XV, five concurrent. *Qwest 201, 202, 203, 204, 205–206.*

Minisymposium XI. Novel Tools to Generate Sperm from Human Testicular Stem Cells (Abstracts MS31–MS33). *Qwest 201.* Chair: **Stefan Schlatt, Ph.D.** (University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Pittsburgh, PA); Co-Chair: **Jens Ehmcke, Ph.D.** (University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Pittsburgh, PA). Speakers: **Takashi Shinohara, M.D., Ph.D.** (Graduate School of Medicine, Kyoto, Japan), “*In Vitro Culture of Male Germline Stem Cells*”; **Yu-Fen Chou, Ph.D.** (Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA), “*In Vitro Generation of Germ Cells from Embryonic Stem Cells*”; **Jens Ehmcke, Ph.D.** (University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Pittsburgh, PA), “*Xenografting of Testicular Tissue: A New Pathway to Generate Human Sperm and Testicular Tissue?*”

Minisymposium XII. Polyunsaturated Fatty Acids (PUFAs) in the Diet—Do They Make a Difference to Reproduction? (Abstracts MS34–MS36.) *Qwest 202.* Chair: **D. Claire Wathes, Ph.D., D.Sc.** (University of London, North Mymms, Hatfield, Herts, UK); Co-Chair: **Adam L. Lock, Ph.D.** (Cornell University, Ithaca, NY). Speakers: **D. Claire Wathes, Ph.D., D.Sc.** (University of London, North Mymms, Hatfield, Herts, UK), “*PUFAs and the Control of Prostaglandin Production in the Reproductive Tract*”; **D. Robert E. Abayasekara, Ph.D.** (Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge, UK), “*PUFA Modulation of Steroidogenesis Through Actions on Cholesterol Trafficking*”; **R. John Aitken, Ph.D., D.Sc., FRSE** (University of Newcastle, Callaghan, NSW, Australia), “*Unsaturated Fatty Acids and Sperm Function.*”

Minisymposium XIII. Comparative Aspects of Endometrial Remodeling for Implantation and Placentation (Abstracts MS37–MS39). *Qwest 203.* Chair: **Thomas E. Spencer, Ph.D.** (Texas A&M University, College Station, TX); Co-Chair: *To Be Announced.* Speakers: **Asgerally T. Fazleabas, Ph.D.** (University of Illinois College of Medicine at Chicago, Chicago, IL), “*Embryonic Signals in the Primate: Modulation of the Uterine Environment*”; **Daniel Carson, Ph.D.** (University of Delaware, Newark, DE), “*Strategies for Remodeling the Apical Glycocalyx During Embryo Attachment*”; **Lois A. Salamonsen, Ph.D.** (Prince Henry's Institute of Medical Research, Melbourne, VIC, Australia), “*Proteases and Remodeling for Implantation: Commonalities Across Species.*”

Minisymposium XIV. Regulation of Corpus Luteum Function: New Players and Old Favorites (Abstracts MS40–MS42). *Qwest 204.* Chair: **Geula Gibori, Ph.D.** (University of Illinois, Chicago, IL); Co-Chair: **Julia Halperin, Ph.D.** (University of Illinois, Chicago, IL). Speakers: **Akio Miyamoto, Ph.D.** (Obihiro University of Agriculture & Veterinary Medicine, Inada-cho, Obihiro, Japan), “*Corpus Luteum Regression and Luteal Blood Flow in the Cow: Local Hemodynamics Control by Vasoactive Molecules*”; **Rina Meidan, Ph.D.** (Hebrew University, Rehovot, Israel), “*Endothelial Cells as Luteal Chaperones*”; **Carlos Stocco, Ph.D.** (Yale University, New Haven, CT), “*Regulation of Luteal Gene Expression in Rodents: Progesterone Will Find Its Way.*”

Minisymposium XV. Mahesh Neuroendocrine Minisymposium: New Concepts of Puberty (Abstracts MS43–MS45). *Qwest 205–206.* Chair: **Jon E. Levine, Ph.D.** (Northwestern University, Evanston, IL); Co-Chair: *To Be Announced.* Speakers: **Cheryl L. Sisk, Ph.D.** (Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI), “*Testosterone's Actions in Brain at Puberty*”; **Tony M. Plant, Ph.D.** (University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA), “*New Factors (Kisspeptins, GPR54) Regulating Pubertal GnRH Release in Primates*”; **Michelle Gottsch, Ph.D.** (University of Washington, Seattle, WA), “*Kisspeptin-GPR54 Signaling as a Neuroendocrine Regulator of Puberty in Mice.*”

11:15 am – 12:00 pm

Historical Perspectives Lecture (Abstract HPI). *Qwest North Ballroom.* Chair: **Fredrick Stormshak, Ph.D.** (Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR), Chair, SSR Emeritus Committee. Speaker: **Jack Gorski, Ph.D.** (Professor Emeritus, Department of Biochemistry, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI), “*Discovery of the Nuclear Estrogen Receptor: A History Lesson.*”

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Lunch & Business Meeting. *Qwest 204.* Box lunch pick-up at entrance to room reserved for Business Meeting.

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Platform Presentations, Concurrent Sessions 19–24; eight presentations per session.

Platform Session 19. Diseases of the Reproductive System (Abstracts 133-140). *Qwest 201.*

Platform Session 20. Oocytes, Cumulus, and Maturation (Abstracts 141-148). *Qwest 202.*

Platform Session 21. Gene Expression in Reproductive Tissues (Abstracts 149-156). *Qwest 203.*

Platform Session 22. Implantation, Pregnancy, and Parturition III (Abstracts 157-164). *Qwest 204.*

Platform Session 23. Gametes and Early Embryo Development (Abstracts 165-172). *Qwest 205-206.*

Platform Session 24. Assisted Reproductive Technology Session II (Abstracts 173-180). *Qwest 210-211.*

Coffee Break. *Qwest Grand Ballroom Pre-function Area.*

3:00 pm – 3:30 pm

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Plenary 3 (Abstract P3). Taking Your Science to the People: Media 101 for Reproductive Biologists. *Qwest North Ballroom.* Chair: **Joan S. Hunt, Ph.D.** (University of Kansas Medical Center, Kansas City, KS). Speakers: **Amy Kostant** (Director, EMS/Science Communication Network), “*The Special Role of Scientists in Talking With the Media.*” **Elizabeth Weise** (Science Reporter, USA Today), “*What Reporters Need from You to Report Your Findings Fairly and Accurately.*” **John D. Gearhart, Ph.D.** (Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD), “*Baptism by Fire: What You Learn When Your Research Suddenly Becomes Newsworthy.*”

5:00 pm – 5:30 pm

Awards Presentations and Closing Ceremony. *Qwest North Ballroom.*

Presentation of Trainee Research Awards (*sustaining support from Serono Research Institute*): **Janet F. Roser, Ph.D.** (University of California-Davis, Davis, CA), Chair, 2006 SSR Awards Committee.

Recognition of Lalor Fellows (*supported by a grant from the Lalor Foundation*) **and USDA NRI Fellows** (*supported by a grant from the USDA National Research Initiative*): **Janet F. Roser, Ph.D.** (University of California-Davis, Davis, CA), Chair, 2006 SSR Awards Committee.

Recognition of Burroughs Wellcome Fellows (*supported by a grant from the Burroughs Wellcome Fund*). **Susan B. Suarez, Ph.D.** (Cornell University, Ithaca, NY).

5:30 pm

Meeting adjourned.

5:30 pm – 7:00 pm

2006-2007 Board of Directors Meeting. *Hilton-Hill Room.*

6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

BBQ. *Qwest South Ballroom.*

9:00 pm – 12:00 am

Social & Dance. *Qwest South Ballroom and Terrace.*

Third International Symposium on Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) for the Conservation and Genetic Management of Companion Animals, Non-Domestic and Endangered Species (CANDES)

Saturday, 29 July 2006, Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo Wild Kingdom Pavilion

*In association with the 39th Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Reproduction
Qwest-Omaha, Omaha, Nebraska*

- 8:00 am – 8:15 am **Welcome.**
- 8:15 am – 8:45 am **Preservation of Gonads and Xenografting as a Tool for Gamete Recovery in CANDES.** Monique Paris (University of Glasgow, Glasgow, UK) and Katarina Jewgenow (Institute for Zoo Biology and Wildlife Research, Germany).
- 8:45 am – 9:15 am **The Production of Designer Gonadotropins for Use in ART with CANDES.** Elliott Bedows (University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE, USA).
- 9:15 am – 9:45 am **Sperm Sorting Technology for Use with ART in CANDES.** Justine O'Brien (Busch Entertainment Corporation, University of Sydney, Sydney, NSW, Australia).
- 9:45 am – 10:15 am **Metabolism and Embryo Culture Tools to Improve the Success of Gamete Rescue in CANDES.** Rebecca Spindler (Toronto Zoo, Toronto, ON, Canada).
- 10:15 am – 10:45 am **Break.**
- 10:45 am – 11:15 am **Cloning Technologies—Advances Since the Dolly Phenomenon.** Philip Damiani (Genetic Savings and Clone, Waunakee, WI, USA).
- 11:15 am – 11:45 am **Cloning and Heteroplasmy—What's the Concern?** Gabriela Mastromonaco (University of Guelph, Guelph, ON, Canada).
- 11:45 am – 12:15 pm **The Development and Use of Embryonic Stem Cells in CANDES.** Steve Baran (University of Washington, Seattle, WA, USA).
- 12:15 pm – 1:15 pm **Lunch.**
- 1:15 pm – 1:45 pm **Comparative Disease Risks Transporting Embryos and Semen Versus Live Animals.** Linda Penfold (White Oak Conservation Center, Yulee, FL, USA).
- 1:45 pm – 2:15 pm **Disinfection Procedures for Semen Contaminated with Microbes and Viruses.** Naida Loskutoff (The Bill & Berniece Grewcock Center for Conservation and Research, Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo, Omaha, NE, USA).
- 2:15 pm – 2:45 pm **Capitalizing on Sperm Competition and Diversity: What Makes a Good Sperm.** William V. Holt (Zoological Society of London, London, UK).
- 2:45 pm – 3:15 pm **Break.**
- 3:15 pm – 3:45 pm **Unique Male Reproductive Strategies in CANDES.** Damien Paris (University of Glasgow, Glasgow, UK).
- 3:45 pm – 4:15 pm **Unique Female Reproductive Strategies in CANDES.** Rebecca Krisher (Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN, USA).
- 4:15 pm – 5:30 pm **Concluding Remarks.**
- 4:30 pm – 6:30 pm **Poster Session.**
- 7:00 pm – 10:30 pm **Reception with SSR Delegates.**