

# SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF REPRODUCTION Newsletter

Volume 23, Number 3

October 2006

*From the President—*

## Where have we been and where are we going?

It is interesting to look back before looking forward to what is down the road for SSR. The wise founders of the Society stated in the bylaws that “The purposes of the Society are to promote the study of reproduction by fostering interdisciplinary communication within the science, by holding conferences, and by publication of meritorious studies or by any other means deemed appropriate.” This led to SSR’s Annual Meetings, launching of *Biology of Reproduction*, and other appropriate activities such as presentation of awards and providing support for trainee travel.



**SSR meetings:** We have come to expect superb Annual Meetings and the 2006 gathering was no exception. The 39th Annual Meeting was the first time SSR convened in Omaha or in Nebraska. The scientific program is the heart of the meeting and serves to foster interdisciplinary communication in several ways. We owe a debt of gratitude to the Program Committee, led by Tod Hansen, for crafting a program that encompassed the multiple domains of reproductive biology and presented the up-to-date information about research in reproductive biology. This was achieved by inviting plenary speakers who are leaders in their fields, assembling 15 minisymposia and 24 platform sessions, and organizing over 525 posters into more than 50 categories presented in three sessions.

Looking ahead, dust off your boots and cowboy hat for the 2007 SSR meeting in San Antonio at the Marriott Rivercenter Hotel. The Local Arrangements Committee is chaired by John McCarrey, and you will enjoy reading his article in this newsletter. Chairing the Program Committee is Marty Matzuk, and he is building a program

around the theme “Cross-Species Genetic and Genomic Approaches to Studying Reproduction.” The plenary speakers have been chosen and a substantial number of excellent suggestions for minisymposium topics and speakers have come from the Program Committee and other SSR members. More information about the program will be forthcoming when titles for the plenary talks become available and the minisymposium topics and speakers are selected. You can count on it being another excellent SSR meeting program.

There was a lot of buzz in Omaha about the 2008 meeting in Hawaii. It will be held at the Sheraton Keauhou Bay Resort on the Kona coast of the big island of Hawaii. President-Elect Doug Stocco has asked John McCarrey to be the program chair for this meeting, and Steve Ward will oversee local arrangements. One of the main reasons we are meeting in Hawaii is to allow the SSR meeting to be held in tandem with the First World Congress of Reproductive Biology (WCRB). The current plan is for the WCRB to be held May 23–25, with the SSR meeting to take place May 26–29. The WCRB is being organized by SSR, the Australian Society for Reproductive Biology (SRB), the Japanese Society for Animal Reproduction (JSAR), and the UK Society for Reproduction and Fertility (SRF). The chair of the Organizing Committee is Joy Pate, and it her enthusiasm for building stronger ties with our international colleagues that has moved the WCRB from a concept to a plan. The program outline for the WCRB meeting is subject to change, but is expected to begin with an opening reception on the evening of May 23. The program on the following two days will include a morning and afternoon plenary speaker followed by concurrent sessions with three speakers, and a poster session to be held on the afternoon of the first day. The SSR meeting will commence with an opening reception on May 26, and the scientific program will occur over the next three days. The meeting will be shortened, but otherwise like previous SSR meet-



ings. The programs for the two meetings will be coordinated closely to ensure they are complementary and not duplicative.

**Biology of Reproduction:** The first issue of *BOR* was published April 1969 and reached volume 75, number 3, with the September 2006 issue. It is interesting that the areas of research reported in the articles in the first issue are still major areas of research reported at SSR meetings and in *BOR*. An unfortunate reality is that earlier excellent articles that cannot be retrieved via PubMed are ignored. However, all articles that appeared in *BOR* from April 1969 to the present are now indexed in PubMed and available in PDF format online. The twelfth editorial term for *BOR* is headed by Editors-in-Chief Mary Ann Handel and John Eppig, who began their 4-year term in June 2004. Looking ahead, the Publications Committee recently invited applications for the next editorship of *BOR*, beginning June 2008. Bob Burghardt and Virendra Mahesh co-chair SSR's Publications Committee, and Bob is managing the search for this important office.

As was mentioned recently in the President's State of the Society letter, *BOR* is facing some significant challenges. The consequences of "open access" on *BOR* revenues are a significant concern, and the outcome of legislation on this issue remains to be determined. Virendra Mahesh will keep the Board and SSR members informed of developments as they occur in this area. The Editors-in-Chief in this newsletter address some of the strategies being employed to attract more high-quality manuscripts to enhance the attractiveness of journal contents to readers and to ease the financial burden on authors whose data need to be shown in color.

You may remember a survey by the Publications Committee earlier this year regarding preferences for options to maintain both the print and electronic versions of the journal, to publish only the electronic version of the journal, or to publish the electronic version of the journal and make available "print on demand" to those who want hard copies of specific articles or issues. Print on demand would involve a per-page printing charge. About one-fourth of the 474 members responding preferred print and electronic, about one-fourth preferred electronic only, and one-half preferred electronic plus print on demand. Which of these options will be chosen has not been determined, and further study will be needed before any changes are made.

**By other means deemed appropriate:** The founders of SSR realized that there are other ways to foster interdisciplinary communication in addition to the meeting and the journal. One of these is conferring awards on outstanding members of the reproductive biology com-

munity. At this year's meeting, the Carl G. Hartman award, supported by SSR, was presented to Michael Roberts for his many years of excellent work focused primarily on the molecular events of early recognition of pregnancy. The recipient of the SSR Research Award, supported also by SSR, was Michael Griswold, recognized for his studies on Sertoli cell functions and the relationship to regulation of spermatogenesis. The SSR New Investigator Award, supported by the Virendra B. Mahesh New Investigator Endowment Fund, was presented to Andrea Cupp, recognized for her work on the role played by growth factors on early gonadal differentiation and development. The SSR Distinguished Service Award, supported by Serono Research Institute, was presented to Landis Keyes for his unselfish service and leadership in advancing the field of reproductive biology. We are fortunate that these individuals chose reproductive biology for their life's work and are active SSR members.

Another means to accomplish the purposes of the Society has been to encourage trainee participation in SSR meetings. This is done by providing support for trainee travel awards, trainee research awards, the Trainee-Mentor Luncheon, and the Trainee Forum. In addition, there is a Trainee Affairs Committee, Trainee representatives attend the meetings of the Board of Directors, trainees co-chair platform sessions, and trainees present a substantial fraction of the platform talks and posters. However, we need to keep an open mind about how effective these efforts have been, to determine if there are other or better ways to encourage the development of future generations of reproductive biologists, and to consider what else we can do to foster trainee participation in SSR activities.

It should be acknowledged that there would not be an SSR if it were not for the substantial amount of time and effort freely given by many to support SSR activities. In particular, we are indebted to Bill Thatcher, the immediate Past-President of SSR, for his outstanding service, to Pat Hoyer and Milo Wiltbank, who recently completed their 3-year terms on the Board of Directors, and Kimberly Barnett, who just completed her term as Trainee Representative to the Board of Directors. In addition, 19 SSR members chair committees and subcommittees and over 200 SSR members serve on these committees. Finally, it can not be stated too often that SSR is indebted to Judy Jansen, Executive Director of SSR, and her outstanding staff for the excellent job they do in managing the business affairs of the Society, organizing the meetings, and keeping SSR on an even keel. ■

—Mitch Eddy

## Nominations sought for SSR officers

Service to a society that the members live and work in is an indicator of the vibrancy of that community. Service is the bedrock of a successful community and is testament to the individual's commitment to the future of that society. Service can come in many forms. You can serve SSR by nominating those who will serve in a leadership role for the office of President-Elect, Secretary, and Director. From your nominations a slate will be selected and presented to the membership for the Spring 2007 election. To be considered for an office is an honor that recognizes past service, a disciplined work ethic, and success at what the nominee does. Our Society has an enviable reputation of producing leaders with the vision that has led us to become one of the premier organizations in the biological sciences. To continue this legacy our Society needs you to identify and nominate the next leadership team.

To assist you with this process, the service record of each SSR member is available at <[www.ssr.org/servicelist.html](http://www.ssr.org/servicelist.html)> and the list of officers and directors at <[www.ssr.org/administration.html](http://www.ssr.org/administration.html)>. Although written some time back, there is an informative article on the nomination and election process that can be found on page 11 of the October 1997 issue of the SSR Newsletter (go to <[www.ssr.org/newsletter.html](http://www.ssr.org/newsletter.html)>). Feel free to discuss the nomination and election process with any member of the Nominating Committee (see list at <[www.ssr.org/administration.html](http://www.ssr.org/administration.html)>).

Please submit your nominations by November 10. ■

—*Michael J. Fields, Chair  
Nominating Committee*

## CoRE devises plans in Omaha

The Committee on Reproduction and the Environment (CoRE) met during the SSR Annual Meeting in Omaha. In addition to the appointed members of CoRE, former members of the committee and all interested SSR members were invited to attend the meeting. We had excellent attendance and have added everyone interested to our e-mail list.

During the meeting, Lou Guillette gave an overview of recent CoRE activities, which include sponsoring symposia both at the SSR meeting and in collaboration with other societies. Doug Foster provided insight on the background and history of the formation and mission of CoRE to inform our newer committee members. Both emphasized the need for member involvement and for keeping CoRE active, especially given the importance and spectrum of environmental issues to domestic species. Ongoing committee activities include submission of proposed symposia to the Program Committee for the next SSR meeting, interfacing with other professional organizations, and co-sponsoring symposia. In addition, CoRE will develop topics for minisymposia at the 2008 meeting to be held in Hawaii. We discussed a suggestion made by Doug Foster that we could consider sponsoring a pre-SSR workshop on alternate years from the Ovarian Workshop. The concept of developing a white paper or review for submission to *Biology of Reproduction* was also discussed. We will continue these activities and will work with other SSR committees to see what CoRE can do to enhance upcoming SSR meetings. ■

—*Mary Ann Ottinger, Chair  
Committee on Reproduction and the Environment*

## Committee seeks hosts for future Annual Meetings

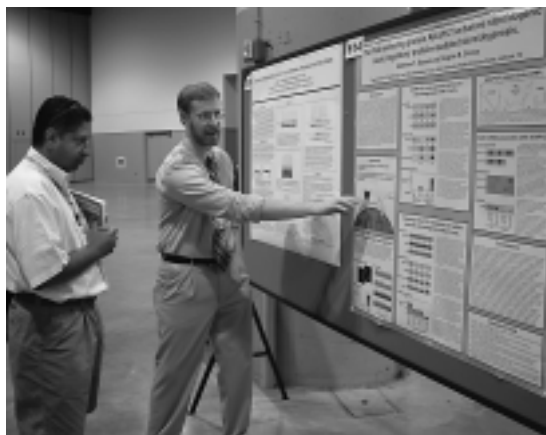
SSR long held its Annual Meetings on university campuses. In recent years, however, there has been a major shift to hotel/convention centers, which have been better able to meet the needs of our growing Society. Nevertheless, many still think of the campus meetings fondly, especially because they facilitated trainee participation. The Society still welcomes proposals for meetings on campuses that can offer excellent facilities and housing. SSR now provides more extensive meeting planning support, permitting the local arrangements committee, which does not have to be large, to devote its efforts primarily to social

events and other activities that lend a local flavor to the meeting.

Anyone who would like to nominate a university or college campus as the site for a future meeting should contact the chair of the Future Meeting Sites Committee ([rkoos@umaryland.edu](mailto:rkoos@umaryland.edu); 410-706-8033). Remember, it's a great opportunity to showcase your campus and programs. We also welcome all suggestions from members for non-campus sites. ■

—*Bob Koos, Chair  
Future Meeting Sites Committee*

## Views from the Annual Meeting in Omaha



(Photos by John Wolf)



SSR members interested in viewing photos taken at the Annual Meeting in Omaha may send an e-mail request to <jwolf@execpc.com>. All requests will be directed to an external Web site where some 270 images have been posted.

## Important news about *BOR* that you don't want to miss

**Free color!** The Editors of *Biology of Reproduction* and the Board of Directors of SSR are pleased to announce that as of August 2006, fees for the first color figure will be waived if both the first and last authors are members in good standing of SSR on the date of initial submission of a manuscript. To qualify for this waiver, either the first or the last author must be a Regular member; the other may be a Trainee member. If you are contemplating submitting a paper to *BOR*, we urge you to ensure that you and your co-authors are SSR members. Remember, to qualify for the color fee reduction, membership must be established and current, so don't wait until the last moment!

**MiniReviews.** The Editors will be pleased to consider MiniReviews for publication in *Biology of Reproduction*. We are interested in short and pithy review essays that provide topical overviews of important and/or emerging areas. Such articles are intended to bring together a succinct overview of known information to construct new models or hypotheses that lay the foundation for future innovative research. The articles should be written to be interesting and informative not just for the specialists, but for the general readers of *BOR*. For maximum impact and readability, these review essays should be approximately 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*.

**What's in a name? Or nomenclature, schomenclature.** If you are a reader or author of papers published in *Biology of Reproduction* over the last two years, you have probably noticed that our papers strictly adhere to the nomenclature for genes and proteins established by committees relevant to the species used for the research. Why is this happening? Clarity. Impact. Clarity! Impact! It is crucially important that readers of your papers know exactly which gene, transcript, or protein you are referring to. The best way to assure this is by using standard nomenclature for names, symbols, and formatting. We have prepared a URL that you can consult that summarizes the rules for formatting and directs you to relevant databases ([www.ssr.org/NomenBullets.html](http://www.ssr.org/NomenBullets.html)). Frankly, it is not hard and well worth the effort to check every gene/protein that you refer to in your paper to make sure that it is correct. Even though you have seen a symbol published someplace, or seen a symbol used commonly, that does not mean it is correct!

Why is this worth your effort? If you use the wrong

symbol, databases and abstractors that assemble gene/protein ontologies or functional networks and relationships will probably miss your paper and the impact of your work will be diminished. You may also have noticed that gene chip and proteomic data from virtually all commercial sources use standardized nomenclature. Moreover, analytical tools for gene ontologies and pathways analyses do so as well. We encourage our authors and members of SSR to use standardized nomenclature and formatting for all their papers, not just those published in *BOR*! ■

—John Eppig and Mary Ann Handel

### SEARCH FOR NEW *BOR* EDITOR

The Board of Directors of SSR has requested the Publications Committee commence a search for successors to the co-Editors-in-Chief of *Biology of Reproduction*, Drs. John J. Eppig and Mary Ann Handel, whose term ends in June 2008. Therefore, we are now seeking applicants for the position of Editor(s)-in-Chief, whose duties will start officially in July 2008 and extend through June 2012.

Applicants should be active scientists with a distinguished record of service to SSR, a broad background in reproductive sciences, an appreciation for integrative as well as cellular/molecular approaches, and a strong commitment to fairness and high standards for publication. Applicants must be fully committed to maintaining *Biology of Reproduction* as the premier journal in its field.

If you are interested in applying for the position of Editor-in-Chief, or wish to nominate a qualified individual for this important and prestigious position, please contact Robert C. Burghardt, Co-Chair of the Publications Committee for 2006–07 ([rburghardt@cvm.tamu.edu](mailto:rburghardt@cvm.tamu.edu)); William Thatcher, Board Liaison ([thatcher@animal.ufl.edu](mailto:thatcher@animal.ufl.edu)); or any Committee member listed below. Guidelines for submitting an application packet will be forwarded to nominees beginning October 1, 2006. The deadline for applications is December 31, 2006.

Virendra Mahesh (Co-Chair), [vmahesh@mail.mcg.edu](mailto:vmahesh@mail.mcg.edu)  
James A. Dias, [james.dias@wadsworth.org](mailto:james.dias@wadsworth.org)  
David Garbers, [david.garbers@utsouthwestern.edu](mailto:david.garbers@utsouthwestern.edu)  
Michael Hensen, [henson@calumet.purdue.edu](mailto:henson@calumet.purdue.edu)  
Vasanth Padmanabhan, [vasantha@umich.edu](mailto:vasantha@umich.edu)  
JoAnne S. Richards, [joanner@bcm.tmc.edu](mailto:joanner@bcm.tmc.edu)  
R. Michael Roberts, [robertsr@missouri.edu](mailto:robertsr@missouri.edu)  
Barbara Sanborn, [Barbara.Sanborn@colostate.edu](mailto:Barbara.Sanborn@colostate.edu)  
Richard Stouffer, [stouffri@ohsu.edu](mailto:stouffri@ohsu.edu)

# SSR's Development Committee needs your help

**Help us connect with industry sponsors!** SSR relies on external support to fund its educational and research activities. Every member of the Society can help obtain support from corporate and foundation sources. Many of us collaborate in company-sponsored research studies in human or animal reproduction. Do you have any contacts through your research with companies in the agricultural or pharmaceutical industry? If so, you can assist the Development Committee by helping us work with the companies to secure funding for the lectures, minisymposia, awards, etc. at the Annual Meeting. Specifically, we ask you to either make the initial contact about possible funding with your corporate colleagues or obtain the contact information for the appropriate corporate officials and send that information to Andrew R. La Barbera, chair of the Annual Meetings and Industrial Relations Subcommittee, at <labarbar@ucmail.uc.edu>. Please contact Andy whenever you have a lead on potential support. He will follow up on your initial contact.

**Support the Society's journal—contribute to the Legacy Fund!** *Biology of Reproduction* has been self-sustaining primarily through library subscriptions. Because of online availability, increased pressures on library budgets, and open-access initiatives, library subscriptions have been declining; this trend is expected to continue and even accelerate. The time will come when *BOR* is no longer self-sustaining. Thus the need for the Legacy Fund.

The Legacy Fund was established by SSR in 2004 specifically to create a digital archive of the back issues of *BOR*, to post this content online, and to maintain, sustain, and enhance the archive. The entire journal archive (since its first issue was published in 1969) is now available electronically, searchable, and FREE at the *BOR* Web site ([www.biolreprod.org](http://www.biolreprod.org)). The Legacy Fund financed this endeavour, which cost \$60,000. The cost of maintaining the site is about \$20,000 annually.

In collaboration with Fred Stormshak and the Emeritus Committee, the Endowment Subcommittee conducted a major campaign in 2006 requesting support for the Legacy Fund, which has yielded over \$10,000. We are sincerely grateful to those individuals—largely our distinguished emeriti—for their vision and generosity. Their support will help ensure the growth and development of *BOR* for future generations of researchers. Thanks to such donations, the Legacy Fund now stands at about \$31,000.

The Development Committee is now asking all users of *Biology of Reproduction* to donate to the Legacy Fund. Our goal is to raise \$400,000. *Make giving a habit!* To make your donation, simply send credit card information, a check, or a money order to SSR at these coordinates:

SSR Business Office  
1619 Monroe Street  
Madison, WI 53711-2063

SSR is also prepared to accept gifts of stock or securities. *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.*

**Changes in Canadian trainee support for attending SSR Annual Meetings.** For the past several years, SSR has received a block grant from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research to support Canadian trainees attending the Annual Meeting. This policy has now changed. Ten travel awards of up to CAN\$1,000 are now made *directly to individuals* through the CIHR-IHDCYH program at two annual competitions with November 1 and April 1 deadlines. Details can be found at <[www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/30713.html](http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/30713.html)>. ■

—Janice Bailey, Chair  
SSR Endowment Subcommittee

## Trainees propose Mentoring Award

The 2006 Trainee Placement Service was a huge success, serving over 80 participants including candidates and potential employers. Olga Bolden-Tiller and Rita Vassena would like to thank all of those who volunteered at the Placement Service to make it a huge success.

The Trainee Affairs Committee has also proposed a new SSR award, the SSR Trainee Mentoring Award. This award will honor an outstanding mentor who has been nominated by his or her current or former trainee. Look for details on the nomination process for this award coming soon! Rebecca Bott is heading the subcommittee working to establish this endeavor. Please feel free to contact her ([rcbott@lamar.colostate.edu](mailto:rcbott@lamar.colostate.edu); 970-556-4736) or Olga Bolden-Tiller ([obtiller@tuskegee.edu](mailto:obtiller@tuskegee.edu); 334-727-8403) for more information. ■

—Olga Bolden-Tiller  
Trainee Representative

## Committee details changes in SSR bylaws

The following proposed changes to the SSR bylaws were presented at the annual Business Meeting held in Omaha on August 1, 2006. These changes were approved by the Board of Directors prior to the Business Meeting. The membership unanimously accepted the changes.

### *(1) Succession of the President-Elect to the office of the President*

**Rationale:** There is a current discrepancy in the SSR bylaws regarding the mechanism by which the President-Elect becomes the President. Section 2(b) of Article X states that the Nominating Committee is supposed to nominate the President-Elect to serve as President. Section 8(a) of Article X, however, states that the President-Elect shall succeed automatically to the office of the President in the following year. The latter process is the current practice. To correct this discrepancy, the Bylaws Committee recommends deletion of the statement regarding the need to nominate the President-Elect to assume the office of the President from Article X, Section 2(b).

### **Proposed change: Amend Article X, Section 2(b), as follows:**

The Nominating Committee shall solicit from the Regular Members of the Society nominations for the offices of President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and Director when applicable. ~~It 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. The Committee's recommendations shall be transmitted to the Board of Directors for their approval at the midwinter Board meeting. The election shall be held not more than five months and no 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.

### *(2) Filling the office of the President-Elect in the event of unexpected vacancy*

**Rationale:** In the current SSR bylaws, there is no provi-

sion regarding succession in case of an unexpected vacancy of the office of President-Elect. The Bylaws Committee was asked to propose changes to the bylaws regarding the procedure for filling the position of President-Elect in such an event. The committee makes the recommendation that the person on the ballot for President-Elect who did not receive the highest number of votes becomes the President-Elect. The rationale for this recommendation is that both candidates on the ballot for President-Elect would have undergone scrutiny as they were selected from a slate of candidates by the Nominating Committee.

### **Proposed change: Amend Article X, Section 8, by adding a new item as follows:**

(d) If the office of President-Elect becomes vacant, the person who was on the ballot for that office but who was not elected shall assume the office of President-Elect.

### *(3) Dissolution of the Animal Care and Use Committee*

**Rationale:** The SSR Board of Directors recently decided to establish an ad hoc Animal Ethics Subcommittee of the Publications Committee. The Animal Ethics Subcommittee will assume as part of its mandate many of the activities of the Animal Care and Use Committee. Consequently, the Board voted to dissolve the Animal Care and Use Committee and the Bylaws Committee recommends the following changes to Article XI of the SSR bylaws to reflect the dissolution of this committee.

### **Proposed change: Amend Article XI, Section 4, as follows:**

Delete (g) Animal Care and Use Committee.

~~(g) Animal Care and Use Committee: The Animal Care and Use Committee, composed of five or more Members of the Society, shall review issues related to the humane care and use of animals in research and shall disseminate relevant information in the newsletter. The Committee shall provide updates to the membership on animal research related legislation or other public activities. The Committee shall make recommendations of the Board of Directors concerning the Society's development of education or other programs on animal care and experimentation, and advise the Board of Directors on matters regarding public education on the role and importance on animal research in reproductive sciences.~~

Change the lettering of the headings of the two subsequent sections to restore appropriate sequence:

- (h) Minority Affairs Committee becomes:
  - (g) Minority Affairs Committee
- (i) Development Committee becomes
  - (h) Development Committee

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

# SSR's 40th Annual Meeting in San Antonio next year!

Arrangements for next year's big celebration of SSR's 40th anniversary in San Antonio are already well under way. The meeting will be held July 22-25, 2007, at the San Antonio Marriott Rivercenter Hotel along the famous Riverwalk in downtown San Antonio, just steps from the most famous landmark in all of Texas, the Alamo! The opening-night reception will be held in historic La Villita, located on the south bank of the San Antonio River. La



Villita, San Antonio's first neighborhood, was originally a settlement of primitive huts for the Spanish soldiers stationed at the Mission San Antonio Valero (the Alamo). In 1836, La Villita was the site of General Santa Ana's cannon line during the Battle of the Alamo. Late in the 19th century, European immigrants from Germany and France moved into the area. These pioneers became San Antonio's business leaders, bankers, educators, and craftsmen. The cultural mix that occurred at this time is now illustrated by the variety of architectural styles seen in La Villita's buildings, reflecting an evolution of buildings from palisado to Victorian houses. Today La Villita is a thriving art community that stands as a monument to San Antonio's past ([www.lavillita.com](http://www.lavillita.com)).

Our opening-night reception in La Villita will allow you to immerse yourself in the historic culture of San Antonio as you greet old friends and meet new colleagues. The reception will be highlighted by stroll-

ing mariachis and a performance of the Ballet Folklorico. You will be treated to a varied offering of delicious Mexican cuisine plus margaritas and other refreshments!

The Marriott Rivercenter Hotel affords luxurious accommodations and outstanding meeting facilities ([marriott.com/property/propertypage/SATRC](http://marriott.com/property/propertypage/SATRC)). Our entire scientific program, including posters and exhibits, will be held on one floor in this hotel, making moving among sessions extremely easy and convenient. Throughout the meeting you may enjoy the famous San Antonio Riverwalk, which is lined with restaurants, shops, bars, and other attractions ([www.sanantonioreverwalk.com](http://www.sanantonioreverwalk.com)). The Marriott Rivercenter is located directly on the Riverwalk. Although it is always fairly warm during the summer in South Texas, the Riverwalk, which is below street level and overhung with large cypress trees, provides a unique respite from the heat. A favorite activity of locals and visitors alike is dining outside along the Riverwalk and then gathering at one of the many adjacent bars or lounges for late-night refreshments.

For the barbecue and dance, we will leave the confines of downtown San Antonio and the Riverwalk, and take a short bus ride into the beautiful Texas Hill Country. An authentic Texas barbecue will be served, followed by dancing to the sounds of the Jody Jenkins



Band, at the Knibbe Ranch located in Spring Branch, just north of San Antonio ([www.knibberanch.com](http://www.knibberanch.com)). This is a historic, six-generation family ranch located on an ancient Indian archaeological site. The owner of the ranch, Chuck Knibbe, will guide "hayride" tours of this site and portray for us the habits of the Indians who once lived on this land, as well as describing many fascinating aspects of ranching in South Texas. The barbecue dinner will feature a selection of mouth-watering specialties, including barbecued steaks, bris-

ket, and chicken—all prepared on site. Vegetarian alternatives will also be provided. Culminating this event will be the dance held in an enclosed, 12,000-square-foot, air-conditioned pavilion featuring live music provided by the Jody Jenkins Band, including old-time rock 'n' roll with a bit of Texas country influence as well!

San Antonio is the most popular tourist destination in Texas. It offers myriad cultural and recreational opportunities. The missions established along the San



Antonio River in the 18th century are reminders of one of Spain's most successful attempts to extend its New World dominion northward from Mexico, and represent the greatest concentration of Catholic missions in North America. You can visit these missions, including the Alamo, as part of the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park ([hotx.com/missions](http://hotx.com/missions)). Recreational attractions also abound in San Antonio, such as Sea World San Antonio ([www.4adventure.com/seaworld/tx/](http://www.4adventure.com/seaworld/tx/)), Six Flags Fiesta Texas ([www.sixflags.com/parks/fiestatexas/](http://www.sixflags.com/parks/fiestatexas/)), and the Schlitterbahn waterpark in nearby New Braunfels ([www.schlitterbahn.com/nb/](http://www.schlitterbahn.com/nb/)). Other nearby attractions include Big Bend National Park in West Texas, South Padre Island off the southern tip of Texas, and Corpus Christi and Galveston along the Gulf of Mexico southeast of San Antonio. With all these great attractions, you have a wonderful opportunity to combine attending the SSR meeting with a great family vacation! We look forward to hosting you here next year! ■

—John McCarrey, Chair  
Local Arrangement Committee

## Time for SSR award nominations

The Awards Committee urges SSR members to exercise the privilege and responsibility of membership by nominating individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the science of reproductive biology. Four major awards are presented annually.

**The Carl G. Hartman Award** is SSR's highest award and recognizes a career of research and scholarly activities in reproductive biology.

**The SSR Research Award** recognizes an active, Regular member of the Society for outstanding research published during 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 the Society for outstanding research completed and published within 10 years after receiving the Ph.D. or equivalent professional degree.

Guidelines for nominating candidates for awards are published in the September issue of *Biology of Reproduction* and posted on the SSR Web site ([www.ssr.org/Awards.html](http://www.ssr.org/Awards.html)). Nominating materials for these awards must be received by December 1, 2006.

SSR also honors trainees in reproductive biology. Trainee Research Awards (sponsored by Serono Research Institute) are given in recognition of excellence in the quality and presentation of research as judged during the Annual Meeting. Merit Awards for Travel (sponsored by both USDA NRI and the Lalor Foundation) support travel to attend and present at the Annual Meeting. Information on the Trainee Research Awards and travel fellowships will be included in the Call for Abstracts and posted on the SSR Web site.

Please assist the Awards Committee in carrying out this important function of the Society by sending nominations to me at <[JFRoser@UCDavis.Edu](mailto:JFRoser@UCDavis.Edu)>. ■

—Janet F. Roser, Chair  
Awards Committee

## How can you help to recruit new SSR members?

We have an enthusiastic and ambitious Membership Committee consisting of 26 members representing the U.S., Canada, Europe, Asia, Australia, New Zealand, and South America. We again are using the pyramid model to contact current SSR members and attract new members. Each person on the Membership Committee is in charge of a region that includes a number of states, provinces, or countries. The regional leaders and their areas of responsibility are:

Regional Leader	Region	
		<b>United States</b>
Joe Cloud	1	WA, OR, ID, MT
Mike Day	2	CA, NV, AK, HI
Sanjoy Das	3	UT, AZ, CO, WY, NM
Kim Vonnahme	4	ND, SD, NE, KS, IA
Brent Bany	5	MN, MO, IL, IN, WI, MI
Nancy Ing	6	AR, LA, OK, TX
Ko Chemyong	7	KY, OH, TN, WV, VA,
Mala Mahendroo	8	NC, SC, GA, FL, AL, MS
John Alvarez	9	PA, MD, DE, DC, NY
Paul Tsang	10	ME, NH, VT, RI, CT
Zoltan Machaty	11	MA, NJ
		<b>Canada</b>
Robert Viger	1	British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Alberta
Jacques Tremblay	2	Quebec, Nova Scotia, Ontario
		<b>Europe</b>
Vibeke Dantzer	1	Poland, Switzerland, Spain, Italy, Hungary, Austria, Croatia, Greece
Denise Escalier	2	Netherlands, Belgium, France, Germany
Andrzej Madej	3	Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark
Mark Crowe	4	British Isles
Rina Median	5	Israel, India
		<b>Asia (Far East)</b>
Akio Miyamoto	1	Japan
Jaemog Soh	2	Korea
William S.B. Young	3	Hong Kong, China, Taiwan
Jenny Juengel	4	Australia, New Zealand
		<b>South America</b>
Luis Renato Franca	1	Brazil, Venezuela
Marta Tesone	2	Argentina, Chile, Mexico

**We need your help:** *These regional leaders need your help to serve as a representative who can contact the SSR members in a given state or province or country.* Let me use Joe Cloud, one of our committee members, as an example. If you live in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, or Montana, Joe would be extremely

happy if you would offer to be the representative for one of these states. He will send you the list of SSR members in that state. I am asking our regional leaders and their representatives to contact the SSR members in their region after the membership renewal notice for 2007 is sent electronically. Ideally, all members would renew before December 31, 2006, so that our membership spans the calendar year. As it is now, it is amazing how many of even our most loyal members forget to renew until they get a reminder from the Membership Committee. **A major problem exists with the trainees.** Many of them do not renew until the day before or the day of registration for the Annual Meeting, which causes a huge overload at the SSR Business Office.

**Membership does have its value:** The Board of Directors has approved a means for SSR members to save money on publishing and to attract more outstanding papers. For initial submissions of manuscripts to *Biology of Reproduction* after August 2006, fees for the first color figure will be waived when both the first and last authors are SSR members in good standing at the time of submission. Either the first or last author must be a Regular member; the other author may be a Trainee or Regular member. A second color print can be published for \$200. *For further details, see the BOR Editors' report in this newsletter.*

**Brief survey:** The Membership Committee will be sending out a brief survey later this year. We are seeking responses to three questions. I welcome your responses at any time.

1. What do you want from your membership in SSR?
2. Is SSR providing what you want?
3. Are there other services SSR can provide that would attract *new* members?

**Consider yourself a member of the Membership Committee:** We have an active Membership Committee, but we cannot do it by ourselves. My challenge to you is to invite one person to become a member this year. How about your fellow colleagues? How many of you are directors of laboratories that have many potential SSR trainees? If you are thinking of retirement, do maintain your association with SSR by requesting Emeritus status.

**Membership statistics:** As of July 6, 2006, our total membership was 2,218. Last year's total at that time was

2,368. The decrease in numbers was due to 74 fewer Regular members (5% drop) and 85 fewer Trainee members (14% drop) than a year ago. The decrease in trainees was most likely due to fewer trainees attending the Annual Meeting. It is possible that the decrease in Regular members is for the same reason. In a past survey, Regular members indicated that one of their primary reasons for being a member was the opportunity to attend the Annual Meeting.

**Ideas and suggestions welcomed:** Again, I urge you to relay to me or other members on the Membership Committee any ideas or suggestions you have for strengthening our membership. One recommendation I submitted to the Board last July was to reduce member-

ship dues for members in the World Bank Designated Developing Countries. This recommendation will be considered again at the winter Board meeting after more data regarding membership dues are provided.

**A special thanks to the SSR Business Office:** We sincerely appreciate the services provided to the Membership Committee by the staff of the SSR Business Office. Very special thanks go to Evan Evanson, the computer guru who is able to provide listings of the membership and other data on demand, and to Anna Lorenz, who processes membership requests. ■

—Janice Bahr, Chair  
Membership Committee

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## New Members

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### Regular

Ayman Al-Hendy  
Jerlisa Arizala  
Doug Colvard  
Karen Downs  
Joelle Dupont  
Eugenia Mata-Greenwood  
Susan C. Nagel  
Jose Eduardo P. Santos

Perla M. Baez  
Wassim Basheer  
Brittany Bell  
Jian Cai-Yun  
Kim M. Chau  
Maricarmen Colon Diaz  
Dee Cooper  
Garry Cooper  
Katherine Degenstein  
Catherine Dolbec

Seethal S. Johnson  
Aileen Keating  
Jin-Young Kim  
Olga V. Klinkova  
Scott Lankford  
JeHoon Lee  
Caleb O. Lemley  
Jinsong Li  
Lori McPartlin  
Joseph P. Meyer

Lynnette A. Ruiz Ortiz  
Kiemi Sasahara  
Ingrid Segers  
Zhanquan Shi  
Bayli Slepicka  
Sara Beth Turk  
Celine Van Themsche  
Gensheng Wang  
Chad Wilkerson

### Associate

Lisa F. Bentson  
Geoffrey Harris  
Judith A. Stribley

Tianbing Ding  
Douglas Eborn  
Michelle L. Eroh  
Rogerio Ferreira  
Kennesha L. Forbes  
Katherine Forsey  
Louise Garrett  
Erika Nomura Guerreiro

Geraldine Meyers-Brown  
Kaya Nagai  
Laszlo Nanassy  
Dong Niu  
Ana Maria Ocampo  
Mathew O'Neil  
Jieyan Pan  
Preethi Pirlamarla

### Change of status

*To Regular:*  
Vance Trudeau  
Zhibing Zhang

### Trainee

Mayuresh Abhyankar  
Valentine A. Agbor

Severina N. Haddad  
Mehnaaz B. Haniff  
Yvonne D. Hoang  
Guey-Shyang Hwang  
Lynn Jacobson

Sandee A. Ranpura  
Annette L. Rezac  
Cynthia V. Rider  
George A. Riding  
Desiree K. Rucker-Oliver

*To Associate:*  
Shari Laprise

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## Healthy increase of CMEs offered at 2006 Annual Meeting

The Clinical Outreach Committee is pleased to announce an approximate 20% increase in those attendees who requested continuing medical education credits (CMEs) at the 2006 Annual Meeting. We intend to offer CMEs again at the 2007 meeting in San Antonio in collaboration with the Education Division of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine. The committee would like to ask all SSR members to encourage their clinical colleagues, especially obstetrics and gynecology fellows, to consider the Annual Meeting as a venue for showcasing their basic

science and translational research projects. I would also like to ask SSR members to encourage clinical trainees to apply for Trainee membership in SSR. These are just a few avenues through which the committee brings clinical reproductive science to the attention of Society members and strengthens the relationship between basic and clinical scientists. ■

—Warren B. Nothnick, Chair  
Clinical Outreach Committee

## An update from the Society's Treasurer

As indicated in the June newsletter, I was re-elected as SSR Treasurer. I am grateful for the confidence of the membership expressed with their votes, and will continue my efforts to maintain a balanced budget and build the wealth of the Society.

This will not be without its challenges. Maintaining the fiscal health of our journal will require creative response to the rapidly changing technology of publication in the electronic age. The predicted decline in library subscriptions has begun to come to pass, leading to a reduction of 20% in library subscription revenue since 2003. The amount is substantial, in excess of \$100K. A temporary and, perhaps counterintuitive, fix for this decline was devised. Review of the subscription costs to libraries revealed that *Biology of Reproduction* was substantially cheaper than other journals with an equivalent number of pages and issues, and many with lower scientific impact (e.g., \$575/yr for *BOR* versus \$1,265 for *Reproduction* and a remarkable \$5,350 for *Molecular Reproduction and Development*). It was therefore decided to increase the subscription rate by 12% for 2007, which, in the absence of further subscription loss, will provide approximately \$40K in new revenue. We hope to gradually increase the subscription fee over 3 or so years, to defray the loss of subscription numbers and the reduction in color charges.

The 2006 Annual Meeting in Omaha was a scientific success, in spite of attendance that was substantially lower than the previous year (947 versus 1,300). (Among the social highlights was the excellent har-

monica performance by the SSR Secretary at the banquet/dance on the last evening.) The Society depends on income from the Annual Meeting to help balance the annual budget. Given the fixed costs associated with the program (speaker costs, auditorium and session room rentals, etc.), there was concern about whether the meeting would be a fiscal success. Accounting of revenue and costs is not complete, but indications are that we can expect a modest positive revenue for the 2006 meeting, and we are hopeful that the Society will be in the black for the year.

The U.S. equities market, in which most of the SSR portfolio is invested, has had an up then down then up year. The total value attained for the overall SSR portfolio approached \$2.8M in late April. It was substantially reduced by the May market declines, but has since recovered to approximately \$2.7M. The unrealized gain for the year to date is 4.7%, and the 12-month unrealized gain was 8.5%. This compares with the broader S&P index that increased by approximately 4.4% and 7%, respectively, over the same intervals. In overview, the markets have been good to us since those investments were made. While these gains are a positive sign, the financial health of the Society would be more robust with an investment portfolio of twofold the annual budget, or about \$4M. As increasing the endowment represents the best means to meet this goal, your help and contributions are welcome.

—Bruce D. Murphy

### SYMPOSIUM ON WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

A symposium entitled "Success in Science, Scholarship, and Business—Women in Agriculture" was held September 14 at the University of Maryland to celebrate the accomplishments of women in agriculture. Dr. Phyllis Wise delivered the keynote address, after which panelists representing diverse agricultural careers convened to discuss their "paths to success" and key events and mentors in their lives. Among the panelists were Dr. Erin E. Connor, USDA Beltsville Agricultural Research Center; Dr. Mary McPhail Gray, USDA Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Ser-

vice; Dr. Rosemary Haggett, National Science Foundation; Ms. Odonna Mathews, consumer adviser; Ms. Lynn Moore, owner of Larriland Farm; Dr. Katey Pelican, Smithsonian's National Zoological Park Conservation and Research Center; and Ms. Holly Shimizu, Executive Director of the United States Botanical Gardens. Proceedings of this meeting will be published, and there will be information on the Web ([agnr.umd.edu](http://agnr.umd.edu)). Please contact Mary Ann Ottinger ([maotting@umd.edu](mailto:maotting@umd.edu)) for more details.

## Your PAC is building bridges

Following a productive meeting in Omaha, your Public Affairs Committee (PAC) is shifting gears. Our goal is to become a bridge between SSR membership and our representatives in the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB), the “primary liaison between the biomedical research community and the federal government.” Because 21 societies currently call FASEB home, its strength is in its numbers. As a member society, SSR reaps the benefits of FASEB’s strong voice and leadership. In fact, SSR has several representatives on FASEB committees, including Virendra Mahesh (Board of Directors and NIH Funding), Azgi Fazleabas (Alternate, Board of Directors), Alan Johnson (Publications and Communications), Doug Stocco (Research Conferences), Mary Zelinski (Excellence in Science), Pete Hansen (*The FASEB Journal* Editorial Board), and Judy Jansen (Executive Officers’ Advisory Committee and ex-officio member of Board of Directors and of the Standing Committees). These representatives devote significant time and energy to FASEB activities yet most of us are not aware of their significant contributions. Your PAC and FASEB representatives will work to streamline the vast amount of information coming from FASEB and disseminate that which is most relevant to SSR. We will also identify areas of interest to SSR that are currently outside the realm of FASEB and advocate for those issues. Communication is key to a strong society, and our goal is to provide a more visible path between Washington and our membership. ■

—Chris Quirk, Chair  
Public Affairs Committee

## FASEB: an advocate for science

In this period of record deficits and increased budgetary demands from various sources, NIH funding appears to have taken a back seat, as evidenced by the 2006 and 2007 budget. Thus a campaign of public education on the benefits of medical research and the enormous returns on dollars invested in such research is necessary to protect NIH funding. From time to time during the budgetary process, you will be called on to write or call your Representative and/or Senator for their support of biomedical research. This note is to draw your attention to a wealth of material that may be of interest to you at the FASEB.org Web site under Office of Public Affairs. On the Publications page is a series of articles dealing with “Breakthroughs in Bioscience”; these illustrated essays discuss recent breakthroughs in biomedical research and how they are important to society. Some of these articles include:

- ◆ Cholesterol: From Biochemical Riddle to Blockbuster Drug for Heart Disease
- ◆ Genetic Research: Mining for Medical Treasures
- ◆ Transplantation: The Challenging Road Ahead
- ◆ Cloning: Past, Present, and the Exciting Future
- ◆ Cardiovascular Disease and the Endothelium
- ◆ The Polymerase Chain Reaction
- ◆ Serendipity, Science, and a New Hantavirus

Other timely resources on the FASEB Web site can be found under Policy Issues, Advocacy & Capitol Hill, and Public/Educators. ■

—Virendra B Mahesh, SSR Representative  
FASEB Board of Directors

## Emeritus Committee reviews Annual Meeting activities

The Emeritus Committee hosted a well-attended Emeritus/Senior Breakfast at this year’s Annual Meeting. Approximately 40 emeriti, senior members, and officers of the Society were present to hear Neena Schwartz and others pay tribute to the many contributions of Cornelia Channing to the field of reproductive biology.

Because of health issues, Dr. Jack Gorski was unable to attend the meeting to present the Historical Perspectives lecture on the events leading to the discovery of the nuclear estrogen receptor. However, a taped presentation of his lecture was made available and was viewed by a capacity crowd of meeting attendees. We were fortunate in arranging to have his lecture taped and now part of the Society’s archives. All who knew

Jack were saddened to learn of his death on August 30. He will be missed by the scientific community.

The Emeritus Committee is making plans to host another Emeritus/Senior Breakfast at the 2007 Annual Meeting in San Antonio. Again, as in the previous two years, we anticipate honoring the philosophical and scientific contributions of an individual who has contributed significantly to the field of biology of reproduction. The name of the chosen individual will be announced at a later date. The Emeritus Committee is exploring possibilities for other activities that might serve the Society. ■

—Fredrick Stormshak, Chair  
Emeritus Committee

# Minutes of 2006 Business Meeting

Business Meeting, August 1, 2006  
2006 SSR Annual Meeting, Omaha, Nebraska  
Qwest Center Omaha, Room 24

Called to order at 12:15 PM by President William “Bill” Thatcher, Ph.D., immediately after the Historical Perspectives plenary session. Approximately 80 delegates were in attendance.

## (1) Approval of the minutes of the 2005 SSR Business Meeting

Janice Bahr moves to accept the minutes of the 2005 Business Meeting; Asgi Fazleabas, second; motion carries.

## (2) Reports

**a. Report of the Program Committee:** Tod Hansen, Ph.D., Chair

Dr. Hansen thanks Bill Thatcher for his mentorship. He also thanks Judy Jansen, Melissa Clifton, Fraser Gurd, the A/V folks, and Shyamal Roy and LAC crew (round of applause). The Program Committee plus additional SSR members—in all, more than 100 people—were involved in developing and arranging the program. Dr. Hansen makes some general comments on program components—minisymposia, plenaries, special sessions, etc.—and thanks Dr. Joy Pate for chairing the Exchange Lectures plenary session.

Dr. Thatcher presents Dr. Hansen with a plaque acknowledging his service as chair of the 2005–06 Program Committee.

**b. Report of Local Arrangements Committee:** Shyamal Roy, Ph.D., Chair

Dr. Roy takes responsibility for any and all problems, and states that credit for the success of the meeting is due to the work of the LAC. He thanks Judy Jansen, Gwen Abramson, and Tod Hanson for their hard work. Dr. Roy then recognizes Brenda Ram, UNMC CME office, for her help as liaison with the Omaha Convention and Visitors’ Bureau and presents her with a gift from SSR. He also thanks many other people, including John Davis and Joe Ford. Dr. Roy’s overall impression is that the meeting went well—especially considering that the staff at the Qwest Center had not worked with a scientific-type meeting before.

Dr. Thatcher presents Dr. Roy with a plaque acknowledging his service as chair of the 2005–06 Local Arrangements Committee.

**c. Report of the Treasurer:** Bruce Murphy, Ph.D., Treasurer

Dr. Murphy explains that management of SSR’s budget is a collaborative effort between the Treasurer and the Business Office, and the strategy has been to maintain a balanced budget and to build the wealth of the Society. The Annual Meeting is the usual source of profit for the Society. This year’s 962 delegates represent a 25% decrease from last year. The final balance sheet for the meeting is not yet known, but there is some concern. Subscription revenue (libraries) for *BOR* has eroded over the past several years. The subscription fee for our journal is half that of other comparable journals in our discipline (about one-tenth the subscription fee of others), so the Board of Directors has approved a gradual increase in subscription fees for libraries to make up for this loss. With respect to investments and endowments—Dr. Murphy reports an approximate 11% return over the last year. The Society’s investment policy will be revised by a newly formed subcommittee in response to the changing fiscal climate.

**d. Report of the Editors-in-Chief:** John Eppig, Ph.D., and Mary Ann Handel, Ph.D.

The Editors report that *Biology of Reproduction* is running smoothly due to efforts of the Associate Editors and the journal office in Madison, evidenced by 24 days from submission to acceptance. The time from final acceptance to publication for the print version is 3.1 months; however, the actual time to publication is much less because every paper is published ahead of print within 2 weeks of acceptance—which is another advantage to publishing in *BOR*. The Board of Directors has approved a new plan for the journal which includes a benefit for SSR members: for papers whose first and last authors are SSR members (one of whom must be a Regular member) at the time of submission, the first color plate is free. A member of the audience suggests that there be a link on the manuscript submission site to the membership site; Dr. Eppig agrees that this is a good idea, but will require a modest amount of work. He notes that authors are now able to post video clips as supplemental data. *BOR*’s 2005 Impact Factor is 3.5 (a reflection of papers published in 2003 and 2004). The Immediacy Index, however, is 0.7, which will be reflected in an increase in Impact Factor over the next several years.

**e. Report of the Membership Committee:** Janice Bahr, Ph.D., Chair

Dr. Bahr notes those SSR members who have passed away since the previous annual meeting and asks for a moment of silence in their memory: Alan E. Beer, Irving Rothchild, Charles H Sawyer, and William L. Williams. Dr. Bahr then notes that the total number of members in SSR is 2018, down 6% from the previous year. The number of Regular members is down 5%, Trainees down 14%, Emeritus down 4%, and Associate members remain the same. Last year, 65% of members were from the United States; now, 63% are from the USA. Dr. Bahr then discusses membership composition in terms of geographic distribution, and describes the Committee's "pyramid" scheme: The entire world has been divided into regions, and each member of the Committee is in charge of one region. Members of the Committee may call upon SSR members to help the retention and recruitment efforts. Dr. Bahr also reminds members to encourage the members of their labs to join/renew. The Committee will send a survey to members asking: "What can SSR do for you?" Dr. Bahr responds to a question from the audience: "Does SSR track members who left the Society?" The answer is, "Yes. We follow up on those who did not renew. The answers received by the Committee are that one-half forgot and the remainder do not attend the meeting or no longer need a subscription to the journal."

Geula Gibori moves to accept the report of the Membership Committee; Marvin Miestritch, second; motion carries.

**f. Report of the Bylaws Committee:** Jerry Menon, Ph.D., Chair

Refers to handout with proposed changes in bylaws for discussion and comment. Discrepancy in Article X, section 2(b); Article X, section 8; and Article XI, section 4. No comments or questions.

Janice Bahr moves to accept the report of the Bylaws Committee; Sherrill Echtenkamp, second; motion carries.

**g. Report of the Awards Committee:** Jan Roser, Ph.D., Chair

Dr. Roser thanks Mel Clifton and Judy Jansen for streamlining the abstract evaluation process for the Committee, and also thanks Mitch Eddy and Bill Thatcher for their help. The Trainee Research Awards and the Lalor and USDA NRI Merit Awards will be presented at the Closing Ceremony. Dr. Roser solicits nominations for the Hartman, Distinguished Service, SSR Research, and SSR New Investigator Awards and encourages members to nominate their colleagues for them. She also notes that the process for nominations is described on the SSR Web site and also in *Biology of Reproduction*. The deadline for nominations for the 2007 awards is December 1, 2006.

Trish Berger moves to accept the report of the Awards Committee; Marvin Miestritch, second; motion carries.

**h. Report of the Nominating Committee:** Phillip Fields, Ph.D., Chair

Dr. Fields acknowledges the members of the Nominating Committee, then presents the election results and announces the newly elected Board members: President-Elect, Dr. Doug Stocco; Treasurer, Dr. Bruce Murphy; Directors, Drs Marco Conti and Robert Koos. The Committee received 18 nominations, one-half of which came from the members of the Committee. A little less than half (47.3%) of the Regular members voted, similar to the turnout in 2005. Dr. Fields encourages membership to vote; the online ballot is very simple and straightforward. He then thanks Judy Jansen and Fraser Gurd.

Landis Keyes moves to approve the report of the Nominating Committee; Joanne Fortune, second; motion carries.

Dr. Thatcher continues the meeting by calling several retiring Board members to the podium to acknowledge their contributions and to present each with a plaque:

Dr. Joy Pate, Past President

Dr. Milo Wiltbank, Director

Dr. Pat Hoyer, Director (not able to be present)

Kimberly Barnett, Trainee Representative

Dr. Thatcher also recognizes Dr. Rita Vassena, the newly elected Trainee Representative to the Board of Directors.

Dr. Thatcher recognizes Dr. Mitch Eddy as outgoing President-Elect and thanks the Society for such a great year. He comments that "SSR is like a family," and he offers his thanks and appreciation. He then turns the gavel over to Dr. Mitch Eddy, the 2006-07 President of SSR.

Dr. Eddy acknowledges Dr. Thatcher's important contributions to the Society and recognizes incoming officers and directors.

Dr. Eddy adjourns the Business Meeting with a devastating bang of the gavel at 12:59 PM. ■

*Respectfully submitted,*  
*Buck Hales, Ph.D.*  
*Secretary*

*Editor's column—*

## Where have those trainees gone?

*Starting in the this issue, the SSR Newsletter is introducing a new column featuring the career development of a past Trainee Representative or Trainee Research Award winner. We hope that this column will provide a venue for past trainees to share their experiences with current trainees. Dr. Amy Way, Trainee Representative to the Board of Directors from 1997 to 1999, has kindly written the inaugural article for this column. The Editor encourages past trainees to contribute. If you know of any past trainees who may have an intriguing career experience to share, please forward their names to me. I also appreciate your comments and suggestions.*

—Humphrey H-C Yao  
SSR Newsletter Editor

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**M**y involvement in SSR began in 1991 when I attended the SSR Annual Meeting at Knoxville as an undergraduate. Thanks to a generous mentor, I was able to attend subsequent meetings, as an undergraduate and then as a research technician, to present my own research. In addition to providing opportunities to present and to learn about developments in the field of reproduction, SSR was a society that I felt I could contribute to in a meaningful way. In 1996 I chaired the committee that handles the Larry Ewing Memorial Trainee Travel Grant and from 1997 to 1999 I served as Trainee Representative. Serving on the Board of Directors is one of the unique privileges of being a Trainee Representative, and it allows trainees to better understand how SSR conducts the business of the Society. While I was on the Board I felt welcome and it was clear that trainee input was important to the members. Through my involvement as Trainee Representative I had the chance to work with some wonderful people, including Judy Jansen and her staff in the SSR Business Office. After my service as representative I knew that I wanted to con-

tinue to be involved in SSR and to move from Trainee member to Regular member after I completed my degree.

After obtaining my Ph.D. in 2001, I accepted a faculty position at Lock Haven University, a liberal arts university in rural Pennsylvania. I wanted to contribute to the development of future scientists through education at the undergraduate level. This level of education has always been of interest to me, and I maintain a small research program involving undergraduates and now high school students in addition to teaching anatomy and physiology. I applied for Regular membership to SSR in 2002 and joined the Membership Committee in 2003. It has been my pleasure to serve the Society that has provided me with over 15 years of great science, fellowship, and professional growth. Since arriving at Lock Haven University I have been promoted to the rank of associate professor and have earned tenure. Attending the SSR meetings invigorates me to continue to conduct research despite sometimes limited resources. Although I am alone in my research interest at my university, I never feel without colleagues with whom I can consult and collaborate, thanks to SSR.

I feel that by attending SSR Annual Meetings I can also serve as a role model for those who want to consider teaching as a career emphasis. I am delighted that the Education section for poster presentations is growing because I feel that part of our duty as scientists is to educate on every level possible. I look forward to continuing to regularly attend and present at the Annual Meetings and to serve the Society in many capacities in the future. SSR has a place for anyone with an interest in the science of reproduction and within its membership I truly feel I have found a home. ■

—Amy L. Way  
Associate Professor  
Lock Haven University

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