



SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF REPRODUCTION Newsletter

Volume 24, Number 1

February 2007

From the President—

A look behind the scenes

Everyone would agree that SSR's most important activities are the journal and the Annual Meeting, but there is much more going on in support of these and other activities of the Society than meets the eye. To begin with, *Biology of Reproduction* typically receives over 800 manuscript submissions each year. In addition to being handled by the Editors-in-Chief and an Associate Editor, each manuscript is evaluated by two or three Editorial Board members and other reviewers, often twice. Furthermore, it takes most of the time of two talented staff members in the *BOR* editorial office to manage the flow of these manuscripts from submission to publication.

The 2007 Annual Meeting in San Antonio will be the Society's 40th such meeting. The theme of the scientific program is Cross-Species Genetic and Genomic Approaches to Studying Reproduction and covers the spectrum of SSR members' research interests. The program is jam-packed with plenary addresses, symposia, minisymposia, platform talks, poster sessions, the SRF and ASRM Exchange Lectures, the SSR New Investigator Lecture, and many committee meetings. SSR has met in Texas twice before, in Austin in 1977 and in College Station in 1998. However, if you think you know the great state of Texas and have never been to San Antonio, you are in for a surprise and a treat. I hope to see you there!

The work of mounting an Annual Meeting begins 3 or 4 years in advance, starting with requests from SSR members to have their sites considered and then evaluations of the candidate sites by the Future Meetings Committee. Once a site is identified and approved by the Board of Directors, the Local Arrangements Committee swings into action to provide advice to SSR management on venues for the scientific and social activities and on the local details associated with a meeting, and to raise funds to help with the costs of the event. The LACs coordinate their fund-raising activities with the Annual Meeting and Industrial Relations Subcommittee of the Development Committee, which raises significant monetary support each year from commercial donors. These efforts are essential to keep meeting registration costs as low as possible. The Program Committee begins its work more than a year and a half before the meeting by identifying potential plenary speakers and minisymposium topics and speakers. This committee also evaluates the abstracts and organizes them into platform

and poster sessions. Organizing the schedule, allocating meeting space, assembling the program book, and managing registration details also require a considerable amount of behind-the-scenes time and effort by SSR management staff.

There are other committees whose duties do not directly involve running the journal or the Annual Meeting, but are nevertheless essential to the vitality and success of the Society. These include eight standing committees, two with two subcommittees, and eight ad hoc committees—Awards, Bylaws, Development, Membership, Minority Affairs, Public Affairs, Publications, Clinical Outreach, Emeritus, Finance, Nominating, Committee on Reproduction and the Environment (CoRE), and Trainee Affairs.

Important activities also occur outside of our committees. SSR is represented by nine members on eleven FASEB committees and subcommittees. These contributions have been largely unnoticed, but this is changing through the efforts of the Public Affairs Committee, as indicated elsewhere in the Newsletter. Twenty-one constituent societies make up FASEB (Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology), which provides "collaborative advocacy for research policies that promote scientific progress and education and lead to improvements in human health." FASEB represents tens of thousands of scientists and speaks with a loud voice on Capitol Hill. The participation of our members in FASEB activities gives SSR a significant role in defining the message that is delivered. This is particularly significant at the present time because of the decline in funding to federal agencies for research in reproductive biology. A former SSR trainee and current associate member, Carrie Golash Wolinetz, is the Associate Director for Communications in the Office of Public Affairs of FASEB. You can read her recent news releases reporting some of the activities of FASEB at opa.faseb.org/.

Nearly 20 percent of members serve on SSR committees in any one year, and most members serve on one or more committees at some time. If you have not had the opportunity to be on an SSR committee, I encourage you to volunteer when committee openings are announced. Finally, we all owe a special thanks to the SSR members who have given so much of their time and effort to these essential activities. ■

—Mitch Eddy

Print versus online—

Pondering the future format of our journal

The Publications Committee appreciates the feedback received from the SSR membership regarding the possibility of producing only an online version of *Biology of Reproduction*, if dictated by declining revenues from library and personal subscriptions. The concerns expressed were in five major categories.

The first major concern was the preference of some SSR members for reading articles in the printed form rather than on a screen, as well as for the portability of the printed version. This problem could be alleviated if the subscriber could print out, in journal format, the articles he or she wanted to read and/or save. We are investigating whether this is possible.

The second major concern was about archiving. *Biology of Reproduction* has access control over all published articles for one year. All previously published articles are available from the journal Web site, and one does not have to be a subscriber to obtain them. Although there are substantial safeguards at HighWire Press for maintaining the archives for their publications, several archiving sources are under development. *BOR* will not give up the printed version until a reliable archiving arrangement beyond the one at HighWire Press is in place.

The third major question was the quality of figures. It is true that in some instances, figures produced photo-

graphically are of superior quality to those generated digitally. Digital reproduction of figures is in an ongoing process of development and improvement, and the journal will use the best technology available.

The fourth question concerned confusion about the printed copies (as they are now produced) versus Print on Demand. The Print on Demand version would be printed from the electronic copy rather than from a separate printed version. The Print on Demand version would permit copies to be printed in bulk from the electronic version at a saving in cost. Libraries that cannot handle the electronic-only version of the journal would be able to receive a printed version using Print on Demand.

Finally, cost estimates for the electronic and print versions, the electronic only version, and the electronic and Print on Demand version are being gathered by the Business Office and will be considered carefully before any decision is made.

In conclusion, the Publications Committee seeks the views, advice, and concerns of the membership about the future form of publication of *Biology of Reproduction* when financial pressures dictate that a change needs to be made. Your input is vital in this ongoing process. ■

—Virendra B Mahesh, Co-Chair
Publications Committee

The Membership Committee needs your help to recruit more members to join SSR!

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

Membership renewals are ahead of last year's numbers! To determine the status of membership, we compare current membership numbers with those of a year ago (in parentheses). Our membership is: regular members 1,176 (1,063), associate members 172 (140), trainee members 312 (243), and emeritus members 113 (98), for a total of 1,773 (1,544). However to meet the membership numbers as of July 2006, we need to add 200 more regular, 220 more trainees, and 37 more associate members by July 2007. The Membership Committee's goal is to increase membership by 200. We need your help!

Trainee renewal rate needs to improve. Trainees have the poorest renewal rate, at least until it is time to register for the SSR Annual Meeting or to seek financial aid to travel to the meeting. It would be great if the trainees would renew their membership now because of the value of being an SSR member rather than to gain a financial benefit from a reduced registration fee and/or the opportunity to receive travel funds. *We regular members who mentor trainees need to instill in the trainees an appreciation of the value of being a member of a scientific society such as SSR.*

Did you read the October issue of the SSR Newsletter? Sometimes those of us who write articles for the Newsletter wonder if anyone reads them. I know that one member did read the regional distribution of countries to which Membership Committee members are assigned. I had incorrectly grouped some countries—e.g., Israel and India are in Asia, not Europe. I appreciate the reader who called this mistake to my attention. Corrections have been made. ■

—Janice Bahr, Chair
Membership Committee

Donors to SSR in 2006

The Society gratefully acknowledges these contributors to the Endowment Fund, the Legacy Fund, the New Investigator Fund, and the Larry Ewing Memorial Trainee Travel Fund during 2006.

Diamond: ≥ \$10,000
Irving Rothchild

Platinum: \$5,000–\$9,999
Virendra B. Mahesh
Harold G. Spies

Silver: \$1,000–\$2,499
Fuller W. Bazer
Mitch Eddy
M. Susan Smith
Douglas M. Stocco
Bayard T. Storey
Ryuzo Yanagimachi
Koji Yoshinaga

Bronze: \$250–\$999
David T. Armstrong
Janice M. Bahr
Kenneth L. Barker
Frank F. Bartol
Robert M. Brenner
John J. Eppig
Denise Escalier
Robert H. Foote
Erwin Goldberg
Nicolas Gueritee
Mary Ann Handel
William Hansel
Matthew P. Hardy
Kazuyoshi Hashizume
Gary Jackson
Jyh-Cherng Ju
P. Landis Keyes
Henry A. Lardy
A. Brian Little
Julia Lobotsky
Martin M. Matzuk
Alan C. Menge
Reid L. Norman
Anita H. Payne
John A. Resko
Thomas E. Spencer
Fredrick Stormshak
W.W. Thatcher
Toshiro Tominaga
Carmen J. Williams
Don P. Wolf

Contributor: \$1–\$249
David F. Albertini
H.W. Gordon Baker
David M. Baldwin
Andrzej Bartke
Mary A. Bedell
Trish Berger
K. J. Betteridge
Charles A. Blake
William T. K. Bosu
Robert C. Burghardt
Gloria V. Callard
Francisco O. Calvo
Kevin G. Carnahan
Daniel Carson
Charles L. Chaffin

John Richard Chaillet
Jorge Chedrese
Dongbao Chen
Yee-Hsiung Chen
Jasti B. Choudary
Colin M. Clay
Joseph G. Cloud
Robert L. Cochrane
Alan James Conley
Thomas M. Crisp
B. Anne Croy
Thomas E. Curry, Jr.
Duane L. Davis
Billy N. Day
Luiz Augusto de Castro
e Paula
Vincent J. DeFeo
Donald J. Dierschke
W. Colin Duncan
Thomas G. Dunn
Philip J. Dziuk
Charlotte E. Farin
Michael J. Fields
Jodi Anne Flaws
J. Joe Ford
Joanne Fortune
Marc Freeman
Frank S. French
George R. Fritz, Jr.
Anna-Riitta Fuchs
John W. Fuquay
B. M. Gadella
John Evan Gadsby
Alfonsa Garcia Ayala
Rodney D. Geisert
Stanley R. Glasser
R. A. Gorski
Roger G. Gosden
Leon E. Gray, Jr.
Chuck Greenfeld
Yan Gu
Dale Buck Hales
Yasuo Hamada
Thomas R. Hansen
Michael J. K. Harper
Naka Hattori
Norman Hecht
Leslie L. Heckert
Frank Hertelendy
Yuji Hirao
Bernd Hoffmann
Dale D. Hoskins
Kembra Howdeshell
Patricia B. Hoyer
Ronald R. Humphrey
Juan-Juan Hwang
E. Keith Inskip
Laurie A. Jaeger
Friederike L. Jayes
Carol L. Keefer
Brooks A. Keel
Kwan Hee Kim
Andrew R. LaBarbera
Keith Latham
Dennis E. Leszczynski

Judith Lee Luborsky
Esther Lubzens
Gordon J. Macdonald
Mala Mahendroo
David R. Mann
John C. Marshall
Shin-Ichiro Matsumoto
Jeffrey V. May
Michael E. McClure
Charles E. McCormack
John A. McCracken
Derek J. McLean
Rina Meidan
Chamindrani Mendis-
Handagama
Frederick A. Miller
Nathaniel Mills
Mark Mirando
Masashi Miyake
Akio Miyamoto
Takashi Miyano
Junichi Mori
Naomi Nakagata
Yoshitake Nishimune
Junko Noguchi
Wai-Sum O
Richard J. Oko
Kiyoshi Okuda
William C. Okulicz
Joseph Orly
Takeshi Osawa
Harold Papkoff
John J. Parrish
Laura Parry
Sally D. Perreault
Bela E. Piacsek
E. D. Plotka
William Plummer
Seymour H. Pomerantz
James K. Pru
Vernon Pursel
James I. Raeside
Aleksandar Rajkovic
Renee A. Reijo Pera

JoAnne S. Richards
Bernard Robaire
Janet F. Roser
Shyamal K. Roy
Barbara M. Sanborn
Heywood R. Sawyer
Tim Schedl
Frederick H. Schmidt
David W. Schomberg
Allen W. Schuetz
Neena B. Schwartz
O. David Sherwood
Fangxiong Shi
Masayuki Shimada
Mariko Shiota
Margaret A. Shupnik
Mario Sousa
Jimmy L. Spearow
Bernard G. Steinetz
Carlos O. Stocco
You-Qiang Su
Susan S. Suarez
Norihiro Sugino
Peter Sutovsky
Chikashi Tachi
Satoshi Tanaka
Kazuyoshi Taya
Margaret Thompson Reece
Stephen A. Tillson
Toshio Tsubota
Hitoshi Ushijima
Mehmet Uzumcu
Catherine A. VandeVoort
Donna L. Vogel
Nancy L. Wayne
Yoshie S. Weems
Brett R. White
Anne A. Wiley
Ming-Che Wu
Wen Xuan Wu
Fuhua Xu
Peixin Yang
Denise J. Zaczek
Mary B. Zelinski

GET SSREPRO?

SSR depends on the SSREPRO e-mailing facility to transmit to its members up-to-date notices relating to the Annual Meeting, important deadlines, and special announcements, as well as meeting and position announcements.

If you are not receiving these e-mails, either you have not yet renewed your SSR membership or our messages are being caught as spam by your institution or on your own computer. Please ask the computer people at your institution how to ensure that e-mail from SSREPRO (ssrepro@ssr.org) gets to you.

We use SSREPRO sparingly because we ourselves do not like to receive too many e-mails—especially long e-mail messages. SSREPRO position announcement e-mails are sent to SSR members every 2 weeks on average, and meeting announcements are sent a bit less often.

Please help us to make sure that you receive SSREPRO.

New Members

Regular

Alfonsa Garcia Ayala
Abu T. Khan
Wei Shen
Jose M. Teixeira
Olga Zatsepina

Associate

Dilip P. Bhandari
Sharon H. Meachum
Tessie Paulose

Trainee

Dalhia N. Abramovich
Alfredo Q. Antoniazzi

AnnMarie E. Armenti
Ivraym B. Barsoum
Andrew P. Benson
Miranda L. Bernhardt

Daniel L. Clark
Diane T. Dalo
Kevin T. Ebata
Harris M. Caleb
Unmesh Jadhav
Yizhou Jiang
Tamsin R. M. Lannagan

Takumi Iizuka
Chia-Feng Liu
Melinda E. McConaha
Noriko Nakamura
Etkovitz Nir
Heewon Seo

Megan L. Shoemaker
Danielle A. Smith
Woro Anindito Sri Tunjung
Rebekah L. Weck

Change of status

To Regular:

Brenda Alexander
Marcel Amstalden
Zeki Beyhan
Derek Boerboom
Gerrit J. Bouma
Kristi M. Cammack
Luis E. Dettin
Francesc X. Donadeu
Steven R. King

Barbara B. Knowles
Zhenmin Lei
Jeremy R. Miles
Robert S. Robinson
Rachel M. Santymire
Fengyun Sun
Marc Tetel
Anne Turner
Hongmei Wang
Fuhua Xu

To Associate:

Todd Bilby
Becky L. Sartini

To Trainee:

Tamara Keeley

Trainee Affairs Committee prepares for San Antonio

The election of a new Trainee Representative for 2007–09 will be held soon. Several nominations have been received and voting will begin in late March, so be on the lookout for voting information.

In addition to the upcoming elections, the Trainee Affairs Committee (TAC) is working hard on plans for the Annual Meeting in San Antonio. Every year, TAC organizes several events that benefit trainees and other members of the organizations.

Among the scheduled events is the **Trainee-Mentor Luncheon**, at which trainees will have the opportunity to visit with the Society's eminent scientists. Leah Zorrilla is coordinating the luncheon this year. As always, trainees will be able to select their preferred mentor on the registration form. Any regular/associate members interested in mentoring at this event are encouraged to contact Leah as soon as possible.

Another annual feature is the trainee-organized **Placement Service**, which is designed to connect potential employers with candidates seeking employment or fellowships and assistantships. Candidates and employers will be able to register with the service at the SSR Web site prior to the Annual Meeting as well as on-site. As the Annual Meeting approaches, Rita Vassena, the Junior Trainee Representative, will be soliciting trainee volunteers to staff the Placement Service. **NEW** for this year is an additional service, **Career Services in Reproduction**, which will highlight various fellowship opportunities available in reproduction all over the world! Look for the displays near the Placement Service.

Also **NEW** for this year is the first annual **Trainee Outstanding Mentor Award**. Several nominations have

been received for this award, and TAC is hard at work completing the selection process. We are very excited about this new award and anticipate even more nominations in the coming years to recognize outstanding mentorship!

Last, but not least, is the **Trainee Forum**. The speaker for this event will focus on the professional development of trainees.

To maximize the number of trainee participants at the Annual Meeting, two avenues exist to help defray conference costs—travel awards and roommate referral. Trainees whose abstracts have been accepted and meet certain membership qualifications are eligible to apply for the **Larry Ewing Memorial Trainee Travel Award**. The coordinator for this award this year is Xuan Zhang. The Ewing award is based on financial need. Additionally, several other merit-based travel awards are available. Trainees can visit the SSR Web site for details of these awards. **Roommate referral** service will also be offered this year and is being coordinated by Rita Vassena. This service will connect trainees (and others) with persons seeking roommates for the conference. Be sure to look for details on the SSR Web site as well as on the Annual Meeting registration form.

Remember, it is never too late to get involved in trainee events! Please e-mail me (obtiller@tuskegee.edu) or Rita (rvassena@hotmail.com) if you would like to assist with any of the events mentioned above or are interested in serving on the Trainee Affairs Committee. ■

—Olga Bolden-Tiller, Chair
Trainee Affairs Committee

CoRE plans for Annual Meetings

The Committee on Reproduction and the Environment (CoRE) invites SSR members to attend our symposium on Cross-Species and Long-Term Consequences of Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals during the 2007 Annual Meeting in San Antonio. In addition, we welcome SSR members to come to our committee meeting and encourage your input as we put together suggestions for CoRE-sponsored symposia at the 2008 Annual Meeting. CoRE members have suggested potential symposia for our Annual Meetings (see list below) and have been involved in other meetings relevant to environmental factors that affect endocrine processes. Please contact our committee with suggestions for CoRE-sponsored minisymposia for the 2008 meeting. ■

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

SUGGESTED CoRE SYMPOSIA TOPICS

*Aging and the environment
Gender ratio
Nutrition
Social environment
Geophysical cues
Reproductive disease
Human encroachment
Environmental effects on males and females
Endocrine disruption
Fetal origins of adult disease
Energetic issues and pharmaceuticals
Gametes*

Bylaws Committee report

The Bylaws Committee proposed three changes in the existing SSR bylaws (Article X section 2(b); Article X section 8; and Article XI section 4); these changes were approved by the Board of Directors and by SSR members attending the annual business meeting in Omaha. These changes are currently being prepared for electronic vote by the SSR general membership for incorporation into the Society's bylaws.

The Bylaws Committee is currently developing standard operating procedures for the benefit of the incoming chair. ■

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

A call to action

One role of your Public Affairs Committee is to share with you vital information from the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB), the primary liaison between SSR and the federal government. Virendra Mahesh, member of many SSR committees, including Public Affairs, currently serves as the SSR representative on the Board of Directors of FASEB. Dr. Mahesh attended the FASEB Board Meeting in December and has made a report of that meeting available on the SSR Web site at <www.ssr.org/News.html>. One highlight of the report is a discussion of FASEB's role in formulating science policy for the House of Representatives. The FASEB Office of Public Affairs and the staff of Congressman Joe Barton, Chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, worked tirelessly on a reauthorization bill for NIH. Rep. Barton invited the President of FASEB, Dr. Leo Furcht, to testify before Congress in support of the bill, which favored broad-based support for research approaches that are often applicable to disease prevention, management, and/or cure, rather than of line items for certain diseases. A bipartisan effort in the House and Senate resulted in some major modifications in the NIH Reauthorization Bill, including changing the NIH funding increase from 5% each year for the next 3 years to 6.7% in 2007, 8.3% in 2008, and as needed in 2009. All changes in the NIH structure supported by FASEB were approved by Congress. The NIH Reauthorization Bill was passed by the House and Senate as the NIH Reform Act, which was signed by the President on January 15. We are proud that SSR could play a role in this major initiative.

As you have been notified via SSR e-mail alert, a Joint Funding Resolution for NIH passed by Congress at the end of January provides a \$620 million increase in FY2007 to allow NIH to award an additional 500 research grants. The funding resolution will create a new \$40 million program to support innovative, thinking-outside-the-box research, and it looks to the future by providing \$91 million for grants to first-time investigators.

Now what is your job? The take-home message from the FASEB Board is the importance of contacting your Congressional representatives to educate them on the importance of scientific research. Invite them to your laboratory and show them the significance of what you are doing. In addition to your own research, materials you may find useful for these meetings are available from the Office of Public Affairs through FASEB (www.faseb.org). ■

—*Chris Quirk, Chair
Public Affairs Committee*

Report from the Treasurer

My goals as Treasurer of SSR have been to maintain our fiscal integrity in the form of balanced annual budgets, and to build the wealth of the Society. Analysis of SSR's financial returns for 2006 has recently been completed by the Business Office, with the favorable result of the seventh consecutive balanced budget. The 2006 Annual Meeting in Omaha, while a scientific success, did not contribute much to the bottom line; the number of attendees and consequent revenue were lower, while expenses were similar to those of previous meetings. We are hoping for increased attendance at the 2007 Annual Meeting in San Antonio, which promises an exciting scientific program in a historical venue.

The SSR budget for 2007 details a pattern of expected revenue and expenditure similar to 2006. The totals of both have declined from the 2004 high of \$2M to approximately \$1.7M, due primarily to the reduced number of articles published in *Biology of Reproduction*. After a rather precipitous decline in library subscriptions to the journal (20%) between 2003 and 2005, the number appears to have stabilized for 2006. As it was recognized that the price of *BOR* to libraries is substantially lower than for other comparable scientific journals, the SSR Board voted a modest increase in the subscription fee for 2007. Despite a decline in income from the journal, associated declines in cost of production, along with measures taken by the Business Office to increase efficiency, have improved the bottom line for the journal. As noted in

earlier newsletters, there is concern in the medium term about the fiscal health of the journal, and it is hoped that the recent measures will aid in maintaining the viability of *BOR*. The Legacy Fund is an endowment fund targeted to the support of the journal. Contributions in 2006 were on the order of \$ 40K, and quite encouraging. Needless to say, more is required, and your contributions are welcome.

The equity markets were good to SSR investments in 2006, as there was a nearly 14% increase in the unrealized value of the portfolio. The first days of 2007 have been less kind, but we hope that this will be a minor correction and that the value will continue to climb. The current total value of the portfolio is \$2.9M, up from \$2.6M in 2006. Placement of investments is regulated by the SSR Investment Policy, last revised in 1995. The nature of the equity markets has evolved since that revision, and a committee is therefore being formed to evaluate and update the investment policy.

The other news is that I have been appointed to the FASEB Finance Committee as SSR's representative. In addition, I have been nominated by President Mitch Eddy to serve on the FASEB Investment Task Force as the Society's representative. The value of FASEB's portfolio is some fivefold greater than that of SSR's, so I hope that insight into continued successful investment of SSR funds will result from participation in these committees. ■

—Bruce D. Murphy

Emeritus Committee to recognize Dr. Robert Melampy

The Emeritus Committee will again host an Emeritus/Senior Breakfast at the 2007 Annual Meeting. The breakfast will be held on Monday, July 22, and will cost \$15 per attendee. All emeritus, regular, and associate members 55 years of age or older are welcome and encouraged to attend this breakfast. The registration material for the Annual Meeting will contain a form enabling individuals to register for the breakfast.

In 2007, as has been the custom in the past 2 years, the committee will recognize and pay tribute to a legendary member of the Society who made significant contributions to the field of reproductive biology. This year the committee has chosen to recognize the contributions of Dr. Robert Melampy. Dr. Melampy was a Charter Member and the first President of SSR.

A 15- to 20-minute tribute will be presented by Dr. Bill Day, who was one of Dr. Melampy's first graduate students. The purpose of these tribute presentations is to reveal not only the nature of the honoree's research contributions but also the individual's philosophical approach to science and mentoring style. It is anticipated that others of Dr. Melampy's graduate students and colleagues in attendance will offer stories of their interaction and/or work with him.

The committee encourages all age-eligible members at the meeting in San Antonio to plan on attending this excellent breakfast. ■

—Fredrick Stormshak, Chair
Emeritus Committee

2008 FASEB EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE AWARD: CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Description and Eligibility

The FASEB Excellence in Science Award is sponsored by Eli Lilly and Company to recognize outstanding achievement by a woman in biological science who has contributed significantly to further our understanding of a particular discipline by excellence in research. Nominees are nationally known for their outstanding contributions in research, leadership, and mentorship. Female members of the Society for the Study of Reproduction are eligible for nomination.

Nomination Procedure

Nominators and their candidates must both be members of a FASEB Society—SSR is a member of FASEB. Self-nominations and paper submissions will not be accepted. All nominations must be submitted through the FASEB Excellence in Science Award Web site at <www.faseb.org/excellenceinscience/pages/page04.htm>.

Documents must be uploaded individually in PDF form and include:

1 nomination letter describing in detail the outstanding contributions, evidence of national recognition, honors and awards, leadership, and mentorship;

1 full CV including all publications;
5 reprints;
3 (minimum, 10 maximum) letters of support from nominee's peers;
3 (minimum, 10 maximum) trainee recommendations.

Deadline

Nominations will be accepted January 1, 2007–March 1, 2007.

Award Presentation

The awardee will present an Excellence in Science Award Lecture at an annual meeting of a FASEB member society of her choice. The award includes a \$10,000 unrestricted grant from Eli Lilly and Company, travel expenses, complimentary registration at the meeting, and a plaque.

For more information about the award and past recipients, visit the FASEB Excellence in Science Award Web site at <www.faseb.org/excellenceinscience>.

—Mary Zelinski, SSR Representative
FASEB Excellence in Science Committee

Legacy Fund: Thanks to our Emeriti!

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 now yielded close to \$25,000. The entire SSR owes a great deal of thanks to those individuals—largely our distinguished Emeriti—for their vision and generosity. Their support will help ensure the growth and development of *Biology of Reproduction* for future generations of researchers. Thanks to such donations, the Legacy Fund now stands at about \$45,000.

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 cost of maintaining the *BOR* archive on the Web site is about \$20,000 annually.

The Society's Development Committee is now asking all users of *BOR* to donate to the Legacy Fund. Our goal is to raise \$400,000.

To make your donation, simply send credit card information, a check, or a money order to the SSR Business Office. Remember that the SSR is a 501(c)(3) corporation. Contact the Executive Director (ssr@ssr.org) for a copy of the IRS document that confirms the tax deductibility of your gift to the Society. Make giving a habit! ■

—Janice Bailey, Chair
SSR Endowment Subcommittee

SSR needs your service!

Congratulations to the membership for nominating a large pool of outstanding individuals for the office of President-Elect, Secretary, and two Directors. These highly qualified nominees have been evaluated by the Nominating Committee, and our recommendations have been submitted to the Board of Directors. Once we have the Board's approval following its midwinter meeting, we will announce the slate of candidates for the 2007 election.

Service is the bedrock of a successful society. Service to SSR can come through your discussions with colleagues about their nomination next fall for one of the elected positions. Better yet, you should give thought to serving as an officer or director. It will be a rewarding experience serving amongst an outstanding team and will leave you well grounded for other leadership roles whether in SSR or other outreaches of your life. Not to be overlooked are those who have been nominated in the past but not elected to serve. In such a talent-rich society as ours, it can take several attempts before success is achieved. This situation is a close parallel to seeking grants in which the first submission is not funded. So please consider having your name resubmitted to serve our Society. The Annual Meeting in San Antonio is a good time to discuss your continued service to the Society and possibly taking on new challenges. By all means vote in the upcoming election of officers for the 2007–08 leadership team. ■

—Michael J. Fields, Chair
Nominating Committee

News from the Reproductive Sciences Branch, NICHD

NICHD appoints new branch chiefs. I am pleased to inform you that I have been appointed Chief of the Reproductive Sciences Branch (RSB), replacing Dr. Phyllis Leppert who served admirably in this capacity for 6 years. My appointment became official during the summer. The RSB is the single largest funding source within the federal government for research, research training, and research career development activities in the reproductive sciences and provides oversight of more than 500 grant awards that total nearly \$150 million! I feel privileged to work with outstanding individuals in the branch who I know are dedicated to providing you with the necessary advice and guidance to maximize your chances of success in obtaining grant support.

In addition to my appointment in RSB, the institute named Dr. Trent MacKay as Chief of the Contraception and Reproductive Health Branch, our sister branch within the Center for Population Research (CPR). Trent and I look forward to working together on a number of projects and initiatives.

Electronic submission update. The first deadline for electronic submission of the Investigator-Initiated Research Project Grant, or R01, has passed (<grants1.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-07-020.html>). As with the R03 Small Grant Award and R21 Exploratory/Developmental Grant Award before it, you will need to apply for an R01 award through a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) available on Grants.gov. Also, there are now limits on appendix materials submitted with all applications (paper and electronic submissions) effective January 3, 2007 (<grants1.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-07-018.html>). The notice contains guidance regarding submission of manuscripts, graphic images, patents, and other important documents. Finally, beginning with research grant applications submitted for the February 2007 receipt dates, NIH will allow applicants and their institutions to identify more than one Principal Investigator (<grants1.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-07-017.html>). Please remember that the decision to apply for the traditional single PI or the new multiple PI option should be driven by the scientific goals of the project. Indeed, if multiple projects are required, then the traditional program project grant may be better suited to achieve those goals (P01 electronic submission planned for fall 2007). Our staff is eager to assist you in this important decision-making process.

The following links and contact information should be helpful when you are seeking answers to questions about electronic submission:

Grants.gov: For questions about FORMS and SUBMISSION PROBLEMS

- ◆ www.grants.gov/Customersupport
- ◆ Grants.gov Customer Service
E-mail: support@grants.gov
Phone: 1-800-518-4726

eRA Commons: For questions about SEEING APPLICATION, ERRORS/WARNINGS, COMMONS REGISTRATION

- ◆ Support Page: era.nih.gov/commons/index.cfm
- ◆ eRA Commons Help Desk
Web support: ithelpdesk.nih.gov/eRA/
Phone: 1-866-504-9552 OR 301-402-7469

For questions about the forms or NIH's TRANSITION PLANS:

- ◆ NIH Grants Information
E-mail: grantsinfo@nih.gov
Phone: 301-435-0714

Office of Portfolio Analysis and Strategic Initiatives. The Office of Portfolio Analysis and Strategic Initiatives (OPASI) has been established within the Office of the Director, NIH. OPASI was formally launched in fall 2005 to identify scientific investment opportunities that cross-cut the various NIH institutes and centers (ICs). Part of OPASI is a continuation of the Roadmap initiative and is contained under the Division of Strategic Coordination. The other two divisions in OPASI include the Division of Resource Development and Analysis and the Division of Evaluation and Systematic Assessments. The Division of Resource Development and Analysis will use existing resources (databases, analytic tools, and methodologies), as well as develop new ones, to support portfolio analyses and priority setting for the various NIH scientific programs with the ultimate goal of ensuring that NIH addresses important areas of emerging scientific opportunities and public health challenges. The Division of Evaluation and Systematic Assessments will plan, conduct, coordinate, and support evaluation of IC-specific programs, as well as trans-NIH initiatives that were developed for Roadmap or will be developed under the new Division of Strategic Coordination.

Each IC will contribute a percentage of its budget to what will be called the "Common Fund for Shared Needs." This will become OPASI's operating budget. By fiscal year 2008, 1.7 percent of NIH's total budget will go to this Common Fund.

I urge you to provide your input, and encourage input from others, in response to future requests for ideas by OPASI. Given the difficult funding situation for investigator-initiated applications at this time, I would also encourage you and your institutional colleagues to seek appropriate OPASI funding opportunities. ■

—*Louis V. DePaolo, Chief
Reproductive Sciences Branch
Center for Population Research
NICHD, NIH, DHHS
E-mail: ld38p@nih.gov*

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