



SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF REPRODUCTION Newsletter

Volume 24, Number 2

June 2007

From the President—

The beginning of the end and the end of the beginning

First, I want to thank the members of SSR for allowing me the honor to serve as President during this past year. It has provided a wonderful opportunity to work with a group of enthusiastic and dedicated individuals who make this Society run, including SSR Board members, officers, committee chairs, and especially those in the SSR Business Office. At the end of the upcoming Annual Meeting in San Antonio, I will pass the gavel to Doug Stocco. The year has gone by too quickly and I will be sorry to see it end, but the gavel will be in very good hands.

Why the title to this article? While each President serves a one-year term, she/he also serves a one-year term as President-Elect, making the 40th Annual Meeting of SSR the end of the beginning for President-Elect Doug Stocco. The President also serves a one-year term as Past President, making the San Antonio meeting the beginning of the end of my role as an officer of SSR. While President-Elect, I had the good fortune to be tutored for the upcoming duties by President Bill Thatcher. That tradition has been carried on back through Joy Pate, Mary Hunziker-Dunn, Landis Keyes, and a succession of 35 other fortunate individuals back to R. M. Melampy, the first President of SSR in 1967.

You should be finalizing your plans to attend the 40th Annual Meeting of the Society in San Antonio July 21–25. The opportunity to register at a reduced rate for the meeting ends June 8, so get a move on. The registration is online this year, a service frequently requested by members. However, this convenience comes at a cost, and it was necessary to raise the registration fee a modest amount to cover the added expense. If you are undecided about whether to attend this year's meeting, please read the article on page 4 of this issue of the newsletter by Marty Matzuk, chair of the Program Committee. An outstanding scientific program is planned, and you will be sorry if you miss it. The theme of the meeting—Cross-Species Genetic and Genomic Approaches to Studying Reproduction—encompasses the breadth of

interests of scientists in our Society. The plenary talks range from cloning economically significant food animals, to studies in laboratory animals focusing on mechanisms regulating reproduction, to research on reproductive dysfunction in patients.

If the scientific program is not enough to convince you to attend, you need to read the article on page 5 by John McCarrey, chair of the Local Arrangements Committee. City slickers and country folks alike will enjoy the special ambiance of San Antonio and the social activities planned for the meeting. You will get a taste, figuratively and literally, of Southwestern cattle ranch and Mexican-American cultures. The Opening Reception and the Barbecue and Dance will feature foods, beverages, and music associated with these cultures. There will also be a special event involving a trip to Knibbe Ranch to see a working Texas cattle ranch, enjoy a meal of Southwestern specialties, and listen to some great toe-tapping and dance music. This promises to be one of the SSR meetings that will be talked about for years to come. I will see you there! ■

—Mitch Eddy

SSR AWARDS FOR 2007

*Carl G. Hartman Award—***Dr. Bert O'Malley.**
*SSR Research Award (sponsored by the NV Organon)—***Dr. Richard Stouffer.**

*SSR Distinguished Service Award (sponsored by Serono Research Institute)—***Dr. Bruce Murphy.**

*SSR New Investigator Award (sponsored by the Virendra B. Mahesh New Investigator Fund)—***Dr. Derek McLean.**

The Hartman, Research, Distinguished Service, and New Investigator Awards will be presented during SSR's Annual Meeting in San Antonio.

A description of the awards is at <www.ssr.org/Awards.html>.

Society elects new officers, Directors



Asgi Fazleabas

Electronic voting went well, with 1,451 ballots sent out and just under 50% of the membership casting a vote. This was similar to last year's participation. Service to the Society comes in many forms,



Janice Bailey

members of the Society outside of one's immediate area of research.

The new Nominating Committee will meet at the SSR Annual Meeting in July and begin early this fall to solicit nominations for the next President-Elect and two Directors. The Annual Meeting in San Antonio will provide you with an opportunity to meet with your colleagues and to discuss nominating them for an office.

I want to thank the membership for voting and the 2006–07 Nominating Committee for all their help. Thanks also to Judith Jansen for helping us keep to the calendar

In the SSR 2007 election, **Asgi Fazleabas** was chosen as President-Elect, **Susan Quirk** was elected Secretary, and **Janice Bailey** and **Janice Evans** were selected as Directors. SSR is a talent-rich society, and all of the candidates involved in the process are to be congratulated.



Susan Quirk

and one is voting. Do take the time to participate in your Society—not only by voting but also by volunteering to serve on one of the numerous committees. It is a most satisfying experience to work with



Janice Evans

for handling numerous tasks, and to Fraser Gurd for managing the election site and processing the ballots.

Take time to congratulate the newly elected officers and Directors, and I hope everyone can make it to San Antonio! ■

—*Michael J. Fields, Chair
Nominating Committee*

From the BOR Editorial Office—

New Associate Editor for reviews

The Editors of *Biology of Reproduction* are pleased to announce that Dr. Richard L. Stouffer from Oregon Health & Science University has accepted the position of *BOR* Associate Editor for reviews. Dr. Stouffer has a broad knowledge of and appreciation for the diverse field of reproductive biology. He has served SSR in many key capacities, including President, and is very excited about this opportunity to enhance the journal. He is currently organizing an ad hoc committee to seek out the best areas and authors for minireviews, and will seek recommendations for potential authors from other Associate Editors, members of the Board of Reviewing Editors, and anyone else with suggestions to offer. Although Dr. Stouffer and his committee will solicit appropriate investigators for contributions, minireviews can also be submitted online without solicitation. We hope soon to have one minireview per issue and also envision the possibility of having a cluster of essays on a specific topic in a single issue, or in consecutive issues.

The Editors-in-Chief join Dr. Stouffer in encouraging contributions of minireviews to *BOR*. Such reviews are intended to bring together a succinct overview of known information, but, of most importance, to construct new models or hypotheses that lay the foundation for future innovative research. The reviews can also debate multiple sides of an issue. The articles should be written to be interesting and informative, not just for specialists but for general readers of *BOR*. For maximum impact and readability, these review essays should be approximately 4 printed pages in the journal (4,500–5,000 words), excluding references. The minireviews should include one or two figures giving insight into mechanisms of reproduction or presenting a model or hypothesis. All reviews, solicited or not, are subject to peer review. ■

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

New Members

Regular

Stephen Anderson
Jack B. Bishop
Andras Dinnyes
Tom Ducibella
Jae-Wook Jeong
Charu Kaushic
Natsuko Kawano
Hans Nauwynck
Josep Rutllant
Susan Taymans-McClure
Christi Walter
Jay W. Wright
Olga Zatsepina
Wenli Zhou

Associate

Asma Amleh
Pradeep K. Chaturvedi
Alex A. Janssen
Mary C. Shaw

Trainee

Elenice A. Moraes Amorim
Lincoln Silva Amorim
Kristine N. Ansenberger
Kannan Athilakshmi
Prajna Banerjee
Hakan A. Berg
Jiajia Bi
Sarah G. Black
Marissa A. Bowden
Petrice Brown
Kyle C. Caires
Neal L. Callahan
Chih-Ling Chang
Jay-Jui Chang
Liang-Yu Chen
Aparajita Chowdhury
Sanjib Chowdhury

Eva Cibulkova
Benjamin Coe
Mabel M. Cortes
Leanne M. Cotton
Lori K. Davis
Juan de Dios Hourcade
Simon-Pierre Demers
James Y. Deng
Heidi DiFrancesca
Angela L. Dirks
Gretchen Dole
Camila B. Dores
Gwen Dressing
Kylie R. Dunning
Mark A. Edson
Kristen E. Evaul
Darren E. Ferguson
Claudia B. Fernandes
Sarah D. Fields
Heather L. Franco
Maelanie M. Galima
Grant Gephardt
Amanda Glazar
Maren Godmann
Caleb M. Harris
Morgan Haugen
Maria Isabel Hernandez
Ochoa
Erin P. Hines
Catherine C. Ho
Andree Anne Houde
Jacqueline M. Hoyt
Yawen Hsu
Katherine E. Hurrelmeyer
Naoki Iwamori
Tokuko Iwamori
Maren B. Jones
Bongki Kim
James Kirkpatrick
Chiyo Kiyosu
Junichi Komiyama
Lyne Lafontaine
Pankaj Lamba

Tamsin R. M. Lannagan
Sophie LaSalle
Adriana L. Lee
Traci C. Leslie
Valentina Lodde
Nathan M. Long
Wei Ma
Jason E. Marano
Lilian R. Martins
Farzaneh Masoud
Dana A. Massuto
Bart Mateusen
Cely Melo
Shmulik Motola
Chiaki Murayama
Ankur K. Nagaraja
Roopa L. Nalam
Landry E. Nfonsam
Garima Nirwal
Jeanette A. Olejnik
Bree N. Pierce
Amado A. Quintar
Christine K. Ratajczak
Stephen Rekow
Yi Ren
Melissa A. Richardson
Lynn Roy
Masami Shibaya
Luciano A. Silva
Sadie Smith
Yukari Tasaki
Shaun Tauck
Dan Tong
Behzad M. Toosi
Daniel J. Trombly
Christopher W. Tubbs
Almudena Veiga Lopez
Isabel C. Velez
Angela Venegas
Ana Izabel S. B. Villaverde
Takuya Wakai
Jennifer B. Woods

Yanfei Yang
Zhi-Sheng Zhong

Change of status

To Emeritus:

Gary B. Anderson
Henning M. Beier
Robert M. Brenner
V. Daniel Castracane
John E. Chandler
Allen C. Enders
Charles J. Flickinger
Roy H. Hammerstedt
James M. Hammond
Michael T. Kane
Gary Killian
Stanley Meizel
Minoru Nakano
Albert D. Notation
John A. Proudman
A. Jagannadha Rao
R. Garth Sasser
Alexander Tsafiriri
Ryuzo Yanagimachi

To Regular:

Yong Cheng
Fuliang Du
Celine Guigon
Luiz Ernani Henkes
Steven King
Mahmoud M. Mansour
Fengyun Sun

To Associate:

Olga U. Bolden-Tiller
Becky L. Sartini

To Trainee:

Yanhong Hao
Jiude Mao
Tessie Paulose

Honor the 40th anniversary of SSR!

Since its founding in 1967, SSR has been committed to furthering the science of human and animal reproduction. Through collaboration and cutting-edge thinking, SSR members have pioneered an interdisciplinary approach to understanding the challenges of reproductive health.

In this special 40th anniversary year, we hope you will consider a gift to the SSR Endowment Fund.

Gifts to this fund are critical to our continued work as investigators. Endowment proceeds provide essential resources for bringing esteemed lecturers to our Annual Meetings, keeping our educational programming on the forefront of research and clinical practice, and facilitating travel for our junior colleagues and international peers.

Our goal is to raise one million dollars for the Endowment Fund, an amount equal to our annual operating budget. The Endowment, now at nearly \$550,000, has been derived entirely from the Society and its members.

You can contact the SSR Business Office with your credit card information (telephone 608-256-2777) or send a check or money order to the SSR Business Office at 1619 Monroe Street, Madison, WI 53711-2063. Gifts to the Endowment Fund are tax-deductible.

Contributions to the SSR Endowment Fund are an investment in the future of the very field we have each helped to advance. Make giving a habit! ■

—Janice Bailey, Chair
SSR Endowment Subcommittee

Highlights of scientific sessions at San Antonio

SR's 40th Annual Meeting will be held in San Antonio from July 21 through July 25. The theme of the meeting is Cross-Species Genetic and Genomic Approaches to Studying Reproduction. A diversity of topics will be covered and a wide range of species will be discussed in the plenary talks, minisymposia, platform presentations, and poster sessions.

The Keynote Address will be presented on July 22 by Dr. Haifan Lin of Yale University. Dr. Lin's presentation, "Stem cells, small RNAs, and self-renewal," will cover invertebrate and vertebrate model organisms. His talk will focus on his exciting developments in the area of germline stem cells and noncoding RNAs.

The President's Symposium on July 23 will focus on "Gene networks critical for reproduction," and will include Dr. Linda Giudice from the University of California, San Francisco, and Dr. Michael Griswold from Washington State University. Drs. Giudice and Griswold have taken advantage of Affymetrix GeneChip technology to define the expression profiles of normal and abnormal endometrium and testes, respectively. The title of Dr. Giudice's talk is "Molecular phenotyping of the cycling human endometrium and hormonally regulated genes important for implantation," and Dr. Griswold's is "Expression profiling of the control of germ cell maturation by Sertoli cells—From discovery to hypothesis."

This year's program will include two State-of-the-Art Lectures, as well as a Historical Perspectives Symposium on oocyte-somatic cell communication. Dr. Marco Conti (Stanford University) will present the first State-of-the-Art Lecture on July 23. His talk is entitled "Signal transduction and gamete function: A 2007 perspective." Dr. Conti's research program has taken advantage of ES cell/knockout mouse technology to study cyclase and phosphodiesterases in male and female gonads and germ cells. Dr. Mark Westhusin (Texas A&M University) will present the second State-of-the-Art Lecture on July 24. Dr. Westhusin has spent his career using assisted reproductive technologies and somatic cell nuclear transplantation to clone a variety of animal species. His talk, "Cloning of food animals and endangered species," will describe his studies in agricultural species (cattle, sheep, horses, and goats), pets (dogs and cats), and several wildlife species.

The Historical Perspectives Symposium will feature two speakers, Drs. John Eppig (The Jackson Laboratory) and Kenneth McNatty (Victoria University of

Wellington, New Zealand). Both investigators have focused their research careers on oocyte-somatic cell communication in mammals. Dr. Eppig has focused on the mouse as a model for understanding human reproductive physiology, whereas Dr. McNatty has identified signaling proteins and inheritance patterns in sheep. The title of Dr. Eppig's talk is "Oocyte control of mouse cumulus cell development and function," and Dr. McNatty's is "Journeys from inheritance patterns of ovulation rate in sheep to factors influencing oocyte-somatic cell communication in mammals." The Historical Perspectives Symposium will take place on July 25.

The Exchange Lectures on July 22 feature talks by Dr. John A. Collins, ASRM Distinguished Research Scientist, from Mahone Bay, Nova Scotia ("Taking events as they come: Meta-analysis in reproductive medicine"); Dr. Robert S. Robinson, SRF New Investigator Scientist, from the University of Nottingham, UK ("Angiogenesis and its physiological control in the ovary"); and Dr. Derek McLean, SSR New Investigator, from Washington State University ("Regulation of spermatogonial stem cell homeostasis and the stem cell niche in the testis").

As in previous years, the 15 minisymposia will focus on a variety of topics; 45 outstanding speakers have been chosen by the Program Committee and the members of the Society. Five concurrent minisymposia will be presented on each full day of the meeting (Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday).

More than 625 abstracts were submitted for this year's meeting. From this group, 180 were chosen for oral presentation in the 24 platform sessions that will take place on Sunday through Tuesday. Over 450 abstracts will be presented at the four poster sessions, which will take place each day Sunday through Wednesday. I thank the many members of SSR and especially the Program Committee for their hours of commitment in advance of this year's meeting!

For further information on the 2007 program highlights, go to <www.ssr.org/07ProgramHighlights.html>. For further information on the 2007 schedule of events, go to <www.ssr.org/07Schedule.html>. We look forward to your participation in this exciting meeting of our Society. ■

—*Martin M. Matzuk, Chair
Program Committee*

Don't miss a special evening in the Texas Hill Country!

I hope you are all planning to join us in San Antonio this summer for our big celebration of SSR's 40th anniversary! Our Annual Meeting will be held July 21–25 in the Marriott Rivercenter Hotel in downtown San Antonio along the famous San Antonio Riverwalk. The opening night reception will be held at the nearby Institute of Texan Cultures, which is “dedicated to enhancing the understanding of cultural history, science and technology and their influence upon the people of Texas.” We will enjoy a variety of



Mexican appetizers and margaritas as we greet old friends and meet new colleagues. The traditional barbecue and dance will be held at Sunset Station, a historic train station in downtown San Antonio that now provides a unique and beautiful backdrop for numerous special events each year. We will feast on real Texas barbecue and dance the night away to live music, and there may even be a few surprises that evening! These events, together with a trip to the world famous Alamo located within two blocks of the meeting hotel, and nightly strolls along the San Antonio Riverwalk with its numerous restaurants, shops, and

bars, all in an incomparable setting, will offer you a chance to truly enjoy the features of downtown San Antonio while attending this year's SSR meeting. If that is the limit of your experience while in Texas, you will surely have a great time, but you will be missing a significant part of the authentic Texas experience. For this reason, we have arranged a special event—The Rockin' M Experience at the Knibbe Ranch—for the evening of July 23.

The Knibbe Ranch is a six-generation family cattle ranch located in the famous Texas Hill Country, just north of San Antonio. A short bus ride will carry you away from the bustling surroundings of downtown San Antonio to the beautiful and peaceful scenery of the Hill Country. Our visit to the Knibbe Ranch will begin with hayride tours of the ranch led by owner Chuck Knibbe, who will regale us with descriptions of the ancient Indian archaeological site on the grounds of the ranch, along with the workings of a modern Texas cattle ranch. Then we will partake in chilled liquid delights and a mouth-watering Texas country dinner while enjoying the beautiful surroundings of the ranch, including rolling hills covered with live oak trees and a quaint creek running next to the air-conditioned main pavilion. As a final highlight of the evening, we will be treated to the sounds of Lucky Tubb and the Modern Day Troubadours. Lucky is the great nephew of the legendary Texas singer-songwriter Ernest Tubb, and he continues the unique tradition of Texas music that was begun by his great uncle.

The Rockin' M Experience at the Knibbe Ranch will be a unique opportunity for you to experience the casual side of Texas and partake in an evening of authentic Texas surroundings, food, music, and relaxation. It will be the perfect getaway for meeting attendees, their guests, and kids alike, and will provide you with another great opportunity to interact with your friends and colleagues. I encourage you all to partake in this authentic Texas experience! The opportunity to sign up for this event is included on your meeting registration form. Don't miss it!

See you in San Antonio this summer! ■

—John McCarrey, Chair
Local Arrangements Committee

Trainee activities at this year's Annual Meeting

As the Senior Trainee Representative, I would like to extend an invitation to all trainees to attend SSR's Annual Meeting in San Antonio. This year's program promises many exciting and influential events.

The **Trainee-Mentor Luncheon** at which trainees will have the opportunity to visit with the Society's eminent scientists as well as fellow trainees will be held on July 22. Leah Zorrilla is coordinating the event this year. As usual, trainees are able to select their mentor of choice on the meeting registration form. Any SSR regular/associate members interested in mentoring at this event are encouraged to contact Leah (lmrose@unity.ncsu.edu).

Looking for a job or assistantship/fellowship? Don't forget the **Placement Service**, which is organized by the trainees annually and will run the duration of the meeting. Rita Vassena, the Junior Trainee Representative, is currently soliciting trainee volunteers to staff the service. The Placement Service is designed to connect potential employers with candidates seeking employment or fellowships and assistantships. Candidates and potential employers can **register now** with the service by visiting the SSR Web site. On-site registration for the service will also be available. In conjunction with the Placement Service, a new activity, **Career Services in Reproduction**, will highlight various fellowship opportunities available in reproduction around the world and will operate during Placement Service hours! Look for the displays near the Placement Service.

After receiving an overwhelming number of nominations, I am happy to announce the recipient of the first **SSR Trainee Mentoring Award**, Dr. Janice Bahr. Dr. Bahr is a longtime member of SSR and has mentored a plethora of reproductive physiologists over the years and continues to do so today. Look for more on Dr. Bahr's accomplishments in the SSR Annual Meeting book and on the SSR Web site. The Trainee Affairs Committee looks forward to recognizing outstanding mentorship in the future!

The **Trainee Forum** will be held on July 23. The speaker for this event is Dr. Theresa Woodruff. Dr. Woodruff, an experienced investigator and longstanding member of SSR, will speak on "A Lab of Your Own." I am sure that her insights into establishing an independent research laboratory will have a positive impact on trainee members about to embark on their own careers.

To maximize the number of trainee participants at Annual Meeting activities, two avenues exist to help defray conference costs—travel awards and roommate referral. Applications for the **Larry Ewing Memorial Trainee Travel Awards** are available for trainees whose abstracts have been accepted and meet certain membership qualifications. The coordinator for the 2007 Ewing awards, which are based on financial need, is Xuan Zhang (xzhang2@kumc.edu). Trainees can visit the SSR Web site for details of these awards. **Roommate referral** service this year is being coordinated by Rita Vassena (rvassena@hotmail.com). This service will connect trainees (and others) with persons seeking roommates for the meeting. Be sure to look for details on the SSR Web site as well as on the Annual Meeting registration form.

Finally, keep a close eye on the trainee Web site, as the new Trainee Representative for 2007–09 will be announced soon!

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

Current status of "Open Access"

The question of whether, as a part of "Open Access," the submission of accepted manuscripts to PubMed will become mandatory is still open. According to current NIH policies, it is recommended (not mandated) that investigators who publish scientific articles supported by NIH grants submit their accepted manuscripts to PubMed. Such articles will be formatted by PubMed and released for general use at a time specified by the author, not to exceed 12 months after publication. Unfortunately, NIH has emphasized the need to maintain an archive of NIH-supported research in PubMed and thus will not use the original journal Web site for access to the article. Scientific literature that emphasizes only NIH-supported research is an incomplete archive, and, in the long run, publi-

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cation of an article at two separate sites will lead to confusion. The current policy of publication in PubMed within 12 months of original publication does not violate *Biology of Reproduction's* policy, which allows release of copyedited and formatted articles published from controlled access in 12 months. Nevertheless, accessing the article in PubMed and bypassing the journal site may have a long-term impact on *Biology of Reproduction*.

Under current NIH regulations, the compliance of authors in submitting manuscripts to PubMed is very limited. To increase compliance, both Congress and NIH are considering making the policy mandatory. During deliberations, reducing the period of delay in releasing the information for general use from 12 months to 6 months has been actively debated. In the latest budget hearings in Congress, NIH Director Dr. Elias Zerhouni defended the 12-month period of delay so as not to put pressure on scientific journals from nonprofit scientific societies. However, the policy

may ultimately change to 6 months as some British organizations have already made that change. Furthermore the 6-month limit was proposed in a bill introduced by Senators Joe Lieberman and John Cornyn in the last Congressional session. Senator Cornyn of Texas plans to reintroduce the bill this year.

The financial impact on *Biology of Reproduction* of these possible changes in rules of publication is difficult to judge. It is in that spirit that the Publications Committee brought before the membership some of the changes that may have to be made in the publication of *BOR* in the future. The Publications Committee is carefully observing the current developments of "Open Access" and will be in touch with the SSR membership if changes in the publication policy of *Biology of Reproduction* become necessary. ■

—Virendra B Mabesh, Co-Chair
Publications Committee

Report from the Membership Committee

In the last 4 months our overall membership has increased 20%, bringing the total to 2,127 members. Numbers for each category are as follows: Regular members 1,311 (11% increase); Trainee members 490 (57% increase); Associate members 196 (24% increase); and Emeritus members 130 (15% increase). We currently have 91 fewer members than we had last July, but I am confident that we will surpass last summer's membership numbers.

Our Membership Committee has made diligent efforts this year to retain current SSR members and to invite new members to enjoy the benefits and privileges of being an SSR member. Please remember that we need your help to recruit!

We have formed the 2007–08 Membership Committee with 62% of the current members continuing and with the addition of 10 new members. We owe a special thanks to the members who are leaving the committee, including Jaemog Soh, Mike Day, Andrzej Madej, Marta Tesone, Akio Miyamoto, John Alvarez, and Luis Renato Franca. Joining the committee as new members are Alfonsa Garcia Ayala, F. Xavier Donadeu, Jock Findlay, Ulrike Luderer, Enrique Luque, Kiyoski Okieda, Dick Saacke, Joao Ramolho Santos, A. Ulloa, and Wei Yasd. The Membership Committee is repre-

sentative of our international presence. Our intent is to put special emphasis on increasing the number of international members as well as on maintaining a strong membership among U.S. reproductive biologists.

Our goal is to have SSR members renew their memberships before the end of the calendar year; however, it is not too late to renew. If you are a director of a research group, please encourage all your members to join SSR. Also check on your colleagues. A personal message carries a lot of weight. Many thanks for your help.

We are eager to hear your ideas and suggestions for increasing membership in SSR. Please send your comments to me (jbahr@uiuc.edu) or any member of the Membership Committee.

I look forward to seeing you at the Society's Annual Meeting in San Antonio. Have an enjoyable summer! ■

—Janice Babr, Chair
Membership Committee

News from the Reproductive Sciences Branch, NICHD

NIH Announces the NIH Director's Bridge Awards

On March 14, NIH announced the availability of bridge awards through the NIH Director's Bridge Award (NDBA) Program. The award comes on the heels of NIH's thrust to support an increasing number of new investigators. The NDBA is designed to provide stop-gap funding for grantees who have submitted a competing renewal grant application that has just missed the nominal funding payline for the institute/center to which it is primarily assigned. Investigators submitting such applications may be nominated for the NDBA by the administering institute/center. At present, the competing renewal application must be for an R01 grant and must be either the initial submission of the competing renewal or the first revision of the renewal application (A1). Furthermore, the P.I. may not have more than \$200,000 in other research support (total costs) from all sources. The amount awarded will be for a single year, and can be for the study section recommended direct costs for the first year of the competing renewal application not to exceed \$500,000 in total costs. The award will be made using the R56 mechanism. Please note, applicants may not apply for an R56 award and cannot nominate themselves.

For further information, please refer to Notice OD-07-056 (<http://grants2.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-07-056.html>).

Ongoing Funding Opportunity Announcements

The following are newly issued Program Announcements (PAs) that seek to convey the interest of the RSB in supporting research in a particular area. Remember that there are no set-aside funds to support the applications submitted in response to a particular PA, although such applications are given priority in making funding decisions. The PAs are:

Fragile X Pre-mutation and Ovarian Function

[PA-07-219 for R01 (<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-07-219.html>); PA-07-220 for R03 (<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-07-220.html>)

This PA seeks applications that propose basic, clinical, or translational research on the effects of the Fragile X pre-mutation on ovarian function, with a focus on

premature ovarian failure or early menopause, in women and/or animal models.

Applications submitted in response to these PAs use the regular receipt dates for electronic submission of unsolicited R03 or R01 applications.

Female Health and Egg Quality

[PA-07-350 for R01 only (<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-07-350.html>)]

This PA seeks applications that propose to conduct basic and/or clinical research on the short- and long-term epigenetic and genetic impact of adverse female health situations such as poor nutrition, diabetes, polycystic ovary syndrome, endometriosis, aging, and alcohol consumption, as well as assisted reproductive technologies (ART), upon the quality of human eggs and preimplantation embryos prior to and around the time of fertilization.

There is a one-time electronic application submission date of October 19, 2007. ■

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

CoRE plans for San Antonio

The Committee on Reproduction and the Environment (CoRE) has been very active in the past year. We were successful in having one of our symposia selected for the 2007 SSR Annual Meeting (**Minisymposium 1: Cross-Species and Long-Term Consequences of Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals**). There will be a meeting of CoRE during the Annual Meeting, and we invite interested SSR members to attend our symposium and our committee meeting in San Antonio. ■

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

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