



SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF REPRODUCTION

# Newsletter

---

Volume 25, Number 3

October 2008

---

*From the President—*

## Since we said Aloha!!!!

Four months have gone by since our fabulous Annual Meeting in Hawaii where we renewed old friendships and made new ones, immersed ourselves in cutting-edge science (some of which was featured in *Nature*), and enjoyed the camaraderie that makes us all feel we are part of a large extended family!

It is hard to believe that summer is gone and it is time for our Fall Newsletter already. I want to thank all of you who give of yourselves unselfishly to make sure that SSR continues to be the very best. The spirit of service by those of you who so readily agreed to serve on committees was truly overwhelming when I asked for your help; it is this spirit that makes our Society so successful. I would like to welcome Andrea Cupp as the incoming editor of the Newsletter and also thank Humphrey Yao for all his efforts as the previous editor. Andrea, I am sure, will continue to provide an informative and entertaining Newsletter that will keep you all abreast of the state of SSR on a regular basis.

The first "offshore" meeting in our Society's history was an outstanding success. The venue and the science were spectacular, and we thank the program chair, John McCarrey, for doing such a wonderful job in highlighting the theme *Reproductive Biology—Basic Discoveries That Impact Our Lives*. Dr. Ryuzo Yanagimachi (Yana), one of our most distinguished members, was honored at the meeting on the occasion of his 80th birthday. Meetings such as ours would never be successful without financial

support. Our NICHD/NIH grant to support our meetings was successfully renewed for an additional 3 years, and we are grateful for this continuing support. A generous 4-year grant from the USDA CREES NRI provides important program support and travel fellowships to outstanding research presented by trainees whose work furthers the goals of the USDA. The Burroughs Wellcome Fund provides essential funding for activities of the Minority Affairs Committee, and the Lalor Foundation provides support for our young investigators to present their very best work at SSR. Through donations to the Larry Ewing Memorial Trainee Travel Fund, SSR members provide travel assistance to trainees. We are also indebted to the Mahesh New Investigator Endowment Fund, the R.H. Foote Lectureship Fund, EMD-Serono, and the March of Dimes for their support. These contributions, together with the efforts of the Development Committee (chaired by Dave Schomberg and ably supported by Janice Bailey and S.K. Dey, who chair the Endowment Subcommittee, as well as Kyle Selcer, who chairs the Annual Meetings/Industrial Relations subcommittee) to obtain additional support, made it possible for us to turn a profit from the Hawaii meeting (see Bruce Murphy's Treasurer's report in this issue).

The first World Congress on Reproductive Biology preceded the SSR meeting, and Joy Pate and her committee made enormous efforts to ensure the

success of that meeting, too. There was certainly much trepidation about a congress of this nature, but its success can be gauged by the fact that two continents are now proposing to host the next meeting in 2011, which we hope will be even bigger and involve the participation of other societies besides the inaugural ones, which were SSR, the Australian Society for Reproductive Biology, the Society for Reproduction and Fertility (UK), and the Japanese Society for Animal Reproduction.

Our next meeting will be held July 18–22, 2009, in Pittsburgh. Pat Hunt and her committee are hard at work formulating an outstanding scientific program on the theme of *Science for the Public Good*. Please see Pat's contribution in this Newsletter for details of the exciting program that is being planned. Pittsburgh will be the beginning of a new era of holding our next three meetings at convention centers. The 2009 meeting promises to be another exciting scientific gathering in a historical American city that has been reborn. I assure you that this will be a fantastic venue at the confluence of the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers, and I urge all of you to attend the meeting in Pittsburgh.

*Biology of Reproduction* is the premier journal in the field, and it continues to be a major strength of SSR. Editors-in-Chief John Eppig and Mary Ann Handel deserve our heartfelt thanks for their untiring efforts and innovations. They will hand the reins to new Editors-in-Chief Bernard Robaire and Bruce Murphy in July 2009. Bernard and Bruce have recruited a highly talented group of Associate Editors who will continue to sustain the high quality of science published in *BOR*. We all owe a huge debt of gratitude to John and Mary Ann for their diligence in increasing the visibility and the impact factor of *BOR* and welcome Bernard and Bruce, who will, I am certain, take *BOR* to even greater heights.

As of April 7, 2008, all authors whose research is funded by NIH and other agencies are required to submit an electronic copy of the final peer-reviewed manuscript to PubMed Central upon acceptance, to be made publicly available no later than 12 months after the official date of publication. In keeping with this mandate, *BOR*, on behalf of the authors, will begin to submit agency-funded papers to PubMed Central in October. SSR signed the agreement with

PubMed on June 16, 2008. PubMed Central is in the process of approving the mechanism by which HighWire Press will submit the articles to the PubMed Central database.

During my term as President, I would like to accomplish three major objectives—formulating our third Strategic Plan, with the assistance of a committee being chaired by Bob Burghardt; developing closer interactions with societies such as the Society for Gynecological Investigation and the American Society for Reproductive Medicine, both of which share our common goal of advancing the field of reproductive science; and creating a Corporate Advisory Board to provide counsel and sponsorship that will be important to sustain the financial strength of SSR. During the coming months I will keep you informed of the progress in each of these three areas. Another major objective is being undertaken by the committee comprising our Past Presidents under the leadership of Mike Griswold. This committee is preparing a white paper on the future of reproductive biology in this increasingly competitive world of science. I hope this document will prove to be immensely valuable to our trainees as they begin to think about their future careers.

Finally, I want to thank the outgoing members of the Board of Directors for all their efforts on behalf of SSR. Mitch Eddy, Barbara Vanderhyden, and Mary Zelinski have completed their terms in office. However, in the true spirit of SSR, they will all continue to serve on various committees and provide insight. I also want to welcome John Nilson as President-Elect and Jock Findlay and Teresa Woodruff as the new Directors. Chrissy Schilling Cochran will be the new Trainee Representative on the Board, replacing Rita Vassena. The dynamic nature of SSR is best exemplified by the members who continue to give of themselves. You have already received a request for nominations for President-Elect, Treasurer, and two Directors from Landis Keyes, chair of the Nominating Committee. I urge you to give this request serious thought and please nominate individuals who will carefully and thoughtfully guide SSR into an even brighter future. ■

—Asji Fazleabas

## A call to serve from SSR's President-Elect

The spirit of volunteerism that permeates SSR distinguishes our Society from all other scientific societies. We have an incredibly responsive and responsible membership willing to work hard on behalf of the Society. As I look forward to beginning my term as President after the 2009 Annual Meeting in July, I would like to encourage those of you who have yet to have had the opportunity to serve on a committee to consider serving. For those who are completing a term on a current committee, consider serving again on a different committee. How? I have listed committees to the right. Please identify those that interest you and send me an email (jhn@wsu.edu). This will allow establishment of a queue of willing volunteers that we can draw from as committee openings emerge. In addition, please let me know if you have ideas about special task forces or areas that we need to address to advance the interest of SSR and deepen our advocacy of reproductive science. I look forward to hearing from and working with you as together we serve SSR. ■

—John Nilson

### SSR Committees and Subcommittees:

- Awards
- Bylaws
- Clinical Outreach
- Development
  - Annual Meetings/Industrial Relations
  - Endowment
- Emeritus
- Finance
- Future Meeting Sites
- Local Arrangements
- Membership
- Minority Affairs
- Nominating
- Program
- Public Affairs
- Publications
  - Research Ethics
  - Animal Ethics
- Reproduction and the Environment
- Trainee Affairs

## Local arrangements for SSR's 2009 Annual Meeting

The 2009 Local Arrangements Committee looks forward to welcoming colleagues to Pittsburgh for the 2009 Annual Meeting of SSR. The LAC held its first meeting on July 23, 2008, to discuss its overall mission. Since then, the LAC has investigated potential sites for the barbeque and dance, and a subcommittee has been given the task of identifying suitable bands for the dance. The LAC has already initiated fund-raising activities for the Annual Meeting and intends to step up this endeavor later in the year. If anybody has questions about Pittsburgh,

please do not hesitate to contact us: Tony Plant (chair), Rick Challiet, Jennifer Condon-Jeyasuria, Chuck Easley, Brian Hermann, Kyle Orwig, Suria Pancharatnam, Nuria Pastor-Soler, Bart Phillips, Suresh Ramaswamy, Yoel Sadovsky, Jerry Schatten, Corina Wack, Will Walker, Selma Witchel, Michelle Wood, and Tony Zeleznik, ■

—Tony Plant, Chair  
2009 Local Arrangements Committee  
E-mail: plant1@pitt.edu

## Update on animal rights extremist activity

A long-running animal rights campaign against researchers in the University of California system escalated recently with the firebombing of two faculty members' houses in Santa Cruz. "Unfortunately, this is only the latest in a rising wave of violence aimed at scientists who conduct life-saving biomedical research using animal models," said FASEB President Richard Marchase. "The public outrage being displayed in Santa Cruz should be echoed nationwide."

Firebombs have been used by animal rights extremists in the past, including the attempted bombing of a UCLA scientist's home in June 2006 and two undetonated devices placed under researchers' cars in June 2007. "It is one thing to exercise one's First Amendment rights for a cause one believes in," Marchase stated. "But threatening the lives of researchers and their families, including the young children who were forced to flee their burning home in Santa Cruz, is not a form of protest. These are reprehensible, criminal acts." Other incidents have included numerous "home visits" (loud, harassing protests staged on the researcher's front lawn), the flooding of a scientist's home, bomb threats leading to evacuation of research facilities, and a physical assault against a researcher's spouse. UC Berkeley alone has reported more than two dozen faculty, scientists, and staff who have been harassed at home or their office in the past year. Similar campaigns are ongoing in Utah and Oregon.

Unfortunately, it seems as if no scientist is safe from becoming a target. Although many of the past campaigns have focused primarily on researchers working with mammals, like primates or cats, one of the UC Santa Cruz firebomb victims worked with fruit flies and the other with mice. Jerry Vlasak, a spokesperson for the underground animal rights extremists' organizations responded to the UC Santa Cruz bombings, stating, "The inconvenience and the suffering of any children or any family members pales in comparison to the suffering and oppression that goes on in these animal laboratories." This is a typical quote from Vlasak, who has also advocated the killing of scientists to save the lives of lab animals.

According to the National Association for Biomedical Research, animal rights extremism activity has increased in recent years, not only in number of incidents, but also in the violence of the activities.

FASEB has been outspoken in opposing animal rights extremism for many years and was part of a successful lobbying effort to pass the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act (AETA) to grant law enforcement additional tools to prosecute crimes against animal research facilities and scientists. A major victory was achieved in 2006 with the conviction of a number of activists associated with the extremist group, Stop Huntington Animal Cruelty USA (SHAC-USA) in New Jersey. With the leaders of that organization serving prison sentences, there seems to have been a decrease in terrorist activity associated with animal rights on the East Coast. State legislatures are also becoming engaged in protecting scientists. The California legislature has passed a bill to grant law enforcement new tools to find and prosecute animal rights extremists, and local councils in Utah have passed laws to protect private information about researchers from being released.

The UC Santa Cruz firebombings have certainly garnered more national attention to this issue than previous incidents. Marchase praised the mainstream animal rights protection organization, the Humane Society of the United States, for contributing to a reward to find the activists involved in the firebombs. "It is our sincere hope that all stakeholders with an interest in human and animal health can speak with one voice in censuring those who would advocate arson, personal violence, and vandalism as a means to an end," he said.

A number of resources are available to help researchers who become the targets of animal rights activists. For more information, please contact Carrie Wolinetz at the FASEB Office of Public Affairs at (301) 634-7650 or [cwolinetz@faseb.org](mailto:cwolinetz@faseb.org). You may also wish to take a look at the *Guideline for Crisis Management* assembled by the Society for Neuroscience at: [www.sfn.org/skins/main/pdf/gpa/Crisis\\_Management.pdf](http://www.sfn.org/skins/main/pdf/gpa/Crisis_Management.pdf)

—Carrie D. Wolinetz, Ph.D.  
FASEB Office of Public Affairs

## The good, the bad, but not the ugly

We are three-fourths through a year that has seen substantial declines in the international stock markets, led by the self-induced immolation of financial and banking enterprises. SSR's investment portfolio, invested primarily in US equities, has not been spared the pain, its net worth having declined with the markets. We have traditionally benchmarked against the Standard & Poor's 500 Index (S&P), which has fallen 14.7% since the beginning of the year. The SSR portfolio has suffered a significant, if slightly lower decline of 13.4%. Cyclicity is a fact of existence of the equities markets and, so far, this decline is less profound than that tech-wreck of 2000–02. SSR's investments benefited from the long bull market that began in early 2003. It is not possible to predict the market for next year (or any year, for that matter), but it is hoped that the financial crisis will soon be solved and that the political changes in the US will bring the bear market to a close this year.

On the brighter side, evaluation of the SSR operating budgets to date indicates that we are cruising to a balanced budget for 2008. To remind the reader, there was considerable anxiety on my part, and on the part of the Board of Directors about the expenses and bottom line of the Annual Meeting in Hawaii. We envisioned the perfect storm, Annual Meeting proceeds had been declining for the last three years, the facility costs at Kona were greater than they had been for any previous meeting, and the costs of travel to Hawaii for US participants were not unsubstantial (road-tripping vans of graduate

students were not an option). We feared that we would hold a party and no one would attend. Our gloomy projection was for an expense over revenue for a loss of about \$160K. SSR was committed to sponsoring the World Congress on Reproductive Biology (WCRB), which could have engendered further losses. My pessimism was ill-founded. The WCRB was well attended and very nearly paid for itself. The SSR meeting was subscribed to the maximum that the facilities could bear. The science was great, the weather was wonderful, and the manta rays entertained us every night. More than that, the bottom line, after meeting our commitment to the WCRB, will show an excess in revenue over expenditure of more than \$110K, in line with revenues from previous successful Annual Meetings. Congratulations go to the tough negotiators at the SSR Business Office who kept the costs to a minimum, and particularly to our meeting coordinator, Gwen Abramson, and, of course, to Judy Jansen.

I am in the third year of my third mandate as Treasurer of SSR. In July 2009, Bernard Robaire and I will take up the challenge of editing *Biology of Reproduction*; thus, there will be a new Treasurer beginning next year. We need good nominees for President, Treasurer, and Directors of the Society. When the call comes, please take a few minutes and nominate your most competent colleagues for these positions. ■

—Bruce Murphy

From the BOR Editors-in-Chief—

## PubMed Central archiving and *BOR* editorials

Beginning in October, *BOR* will collect funding data in order to submit articles directly to the PubMed Central archive on behalf of authors receiving funding that requires such open-access deposit. These deposits, by negotiation with the NIH and other funding agencies, will be done with the stipulation that the articles be released to the public 12 months after their final publication in *Biology of Reproduction*. This service will reduce the burden on authors. Also soon, *BOR* will initiate an Authors' Choice option for immediate Open Access. Watch the journal Web site

([www.biolreprod.org/](http://www.biolreprod.org/)) for further details on these two initiatives!

As many of you may have noticed, we are now running periodical editorials in *BOR* on a variety of topics of interest to the community of reproductive biologists. Any readers who have relevant issues to pursue in this venue are invited to contact us about writing an editorial ([biorepro@jax.org](mailto:biorepro@jax.org)). ■

—Mary Ann Handel and John Eppig

## More details on open access

As a service to authors of articles published in *Biology of Reproduction*, the journal signed an agreement with PubMed Central (PMC) so that articles resulting from support by NIH could be deposited directly by the journal to PMC after acceptance to meet the requirements set up by NIH. Beginning in October, funding data will be collected for all manuscripts submitted to *Biology of Reproduction* in order to facilitate automatic deposit of articles directly to the PMC archive on behalf of authors whose funding requires such open-access deposit

Although all articles accepted in *Biology of Reproduction* have public access in the form of Papers-in-Press, the formatted and copyedited version remains under access control for a period of one year. *Biology of Reproduction* is also now offering a choice to the authors for making their article "open access" even in the formatted and

copyedited form as soon as it is published. It is anticipated that the journal will use an *Open Access* icon in the table of contents and the term *Authors' Choice open access option* in all descriptive verbiage. Authors who select the *Authors' Choice open access option* must indicate this option during submission; upon acceptance, the authors must pay a charge of \$1,800 plus regular publication fees (which will be invoiced after final publication) or \$3,000 inclusive. The *Authors' Choice open access* fee must be paid immediately after acceptance. As the name of this feature clearly indicates, making use of the Authors' Choice option is strictly the decision of the author and there is no obligation to do so. ■

—Virendra B. Mahesh, Chair  
Publications Committee

## Report from the Minority Affairs Committee

The Minority Affairs Symposium, "Securing Our Place on the Map: Reprogramming the GPS in an Evolving Scientific Landscape," was presented at the Annual Meeting in Hawaii by Patricia Martin-DeLeon, Ph.D., University of Delaware. We thank her for the excellent presentation (available in PowerPoint at [www.ssr.org/MACPastActivities.shtml](http://www.ssr.org/MACPastActivities.shtml)). The topic for next year will be "Exit from the Pipeline."

Attendance at the Minority Affairs Symposium has been variable over the years. During its meeting in Hawaii, the Minority Affairs Committee discussed approaches to encourage better attendance, such as scheduling the symposium during the day. In the evening, the symposium is competing with social events. In addition, a Minority Affairs luncheon could be held prior to the symposium. While funding for

the minority symposium speaker and guests has been provided by a grant from Burroughs Wellcome, we are suggesting that tickets for a luncheon be available for purchase during meeting registration. The travel grant for students provided by Burroughs Wellcome has suffered from a limited number of applications, likely due to its announcement being buried within other e-mails. We encourage that this announcement be sent alone. The Minority Affairs Committee could also send an announcement to appropriate SSR members and send invitations directly to minority universities. ■

—John Parrish, Chair  
Minority Affairs Committee

## A challenge to research centers!!

The SSR Endowment Subcommittee is challenging all research centers in reproductive biology to make a contribution to the Legacy Fund.

**What is the Legacy Fund?** The Legacy Fund supports, maintains, and enhances the electronic format of *Biology of Reproduction*

**Why is the Legacy Fund necessary to the SSR?** Online access has dramatically accelerated the rate at which we can disseminate information and have access to new research. *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 steadily declining; this trend is expected to continue and even accelerate. A point will be reached at which time *Biology of Reproduction* will no longer be self-sustaining—thus the need for the Legacy Fund.

SSR established the Legacy Fund in 2004 to convert all back issues of *Biology of Reproduction* to digital format in 2005 and pledged to maintain and enhance this archive. Thanks to the Legacy Fund, full-text journal articles are available FREE at the *Biology of Reproduction* Web site ([www.biolreprod.org](http://www.biolreprod.org)).

**What is our target for the Legacy Fund?** Our goal is to raise \$400,000 for the Legacy Fund to ensure that *Biology of Reproduction* will continue to serve reproductive

biologists in the most innovative and effective manner possible. It costs about \$50,000 annually to maintain the *Biology of Reproduction* Web site.

**Where are we so far?** Thanks to the generosity of SSR members in the form of cash donations, gifts of stock, and estate contributions, the Legacy Fund now stands at close to \$105,000.

**Why should research centers contribute to the Legacy Fund?** Research centers need continued online access to the pre-eminent journal in the field. For over four decades, SSR has been committed to furthering the science of human and animal reproduction. A major part of this commitment continues to be the publishing of an outstanding journal and its contributions to trainee development and cutting-edge research. *Therefore, we are inviting all research centers to work with the SSR and make a donation to the Legacy Fund.* Simply send a check to the SSR Business Office or contact them directly.

*Make giving a habit!* ■

—Janice Bailey and S.K. Dey, Co-Chairs  
Endowment Subcommittee  
SSR Development Committee

## **Emeritus Committee activities**

The Emeritus Committee is beginning to think about activities for those members of the Society who are retired or are thinking about retirement. We wish to thank Fred Stormshak, who chaired this committee for the last 3 years. His leadership was greatly appreciated. Fred will stay on as a member of the committee.

One of the principal activities of our committee will be to sponsor the **Emeritus Breakfast** at the Annual Meeting. The committee would like to broaden the attendance at the breakfast to include not only those who are retired but also all Regular and Associate members and Trainees who are interested in the origins of the Society as represented in the person who will be honored at the breakfast. The reason for this broader view of those who are invited to the Emeritus Breakfast is to enhance the educational value of the presentation at the breakfast to include the younger set, especially students, who may wish to attend. In 2009 we will honor Larry Ewing and have asked Barry Zirkin to make the presentation.

Our committee will also work on several other initiatives. First, we would like to contact senior members of our Society (n=131) who were valued

colleagues and once regularly attended the Annual Meetings. What are they doing in retirement? Perhaps, we can collate some of their responses and present it to the entire Society via the Newsletter. Second, each year some of our members die. Each year in the Newsletter we will inform the membership of their passing.

The Emeritus Committee is pleased to learn that two Historical Perspective Lectures will be presented at the 2009 Annual Meeting in Pittsburgh. Fuller Bazer (Texas A& M) and John McLachlan (Tulane) will place the general topics of Implantation and Environmental Estrogens, respectively, in a historical perspective.

Finally, the members of the Emeritus Committee are Billy Day, Fred Stormshak, Harold Spies, Neena Schwartz, Philip Dziuk, Stanley Glasser, and John Resko (chair). Any or all of us would like to hear from you as to the activities that we are or should be pursuing. ■

—John Resko, Chair  
Emeritus Committee

E-mail: reskojm@verizon.net

## **How PAC serves the SSR membership**

The two main functions of the Public Affairs Committee (PAC) are to inform the membership about current government science policies and to publish the SSR Newsletter. The information on government policies is provided by the SSR representatives (Virendra Mahesh and Mike Skinner) to the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) and the FASEB liaison to SSR (Carrie Wolinetz). Information relevant to the SSR membership will be disseminated via SSR mass email or Newsletter. The SSR Newsletter editor, who is a member of the PAC, is responsible for publishing three issues per year. Andrea Cupp, University of Nebraska, has been appointed as the next Newsletter editor in place of Humphrey Yao.

Members of the PAC, including Andrea Cupp, Patricia Morris, Humphrey Yao, and Mary Zelinski, are currently working with the Strategic Planning Committee chaired by Bob Burghardt to provide recommendations on several key issues that will impact the future direction of SSR. For example, how can we better advocate the value of reproductive biology? How do we increase the visibility of SSR and its members as the leaders and resources? We encourage the membership to consider these issues and provide your input to us. ■

—Humphrey Hung-Chang Yao, Chair  
Public Affairs Committee

E-mail: hhyao@illinois.edu

# Latest news from the Membership Committee

**The 2008-2009 Membership Committee** has 27 members with an international representation. One of the goals of the Membership Committee is to increase our international membership while keeping the United States membership (64% of the total members) strong. To accomplish this goal, we have divided the world into regions so that one committee member represents each region. You will note that there are still some regions of the world not listed in the following table. If you know of reproductive biologists in the regions not listed who would enjoy membership in SSR, please contact me and I will forward that information to one of our committee members.

## Composition of the Membership Committee and Geographic Assignments

Regional Leader	Region	Country
<b>United States</b>		
Joe Cloud	1	WA, OR, ID, MT
Ulrike Luderer	2	CA, NV, AK, HI
Sanjoy Das	3	UT, AZ, CO, WY, NM
Heiko Jansen	4	ND, SD, NE, KS, IA
Brent Bany	5	MN, MO, IL, IN, WI, MI
Nancy Ing	6	AR, LA, OK, TX
Anna Grazul-Bilska	7	KY, OH, TN, WV, VA
Mala Mahendroo	8	NC, SC, GA, FL, AL, MS
Troy Ott	9	PA, MD, DE, DC, NY
Paul Tsang	10	ME, NH, VT, RI, CT
Zoltan Machaty	11	MA, NJ
<b>Canada</b>		
Maria Viveiros	1	British Columbia, Manitoba
Jacques Tremblay	2	Quebec, Nova Scotia, Ontario
Arthur Tien-cheng Chang	3	Alberta, Saskatchewan
<b>British Isles, Europe, Israel and India</b>		
Alfonsa Garcia Ayala	1	Poland, Switzerland, Spain
Ziatko Kniewald	2	Hungary, Croatia, Greece
Joao Ramolho Santos	3	Portugal, Italy, Austria
Denise Escalier	4	Netherlands, Belgium, France, Germany
F. Xavier Donadeu	5	Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark
Mark Crowe	6	British Isles
Rina Median	7	Israel
Pradeep Chatuverdi	8	India
<b>Asia (Far East) &amp; Australia and New Zealand</b>		
Jock Findlay	1	Japan
Chemyong (Jay) Ko	2	Korea

Arthur Tien-cheng Chang	3	Hong Kong
Janice Bahr	4	China
Jenny Juengel	5	Australia and New Zealand
Paulus Wang	6	Taiwan
		<b>South America and Mexico</b>
Juan Corea-Perez	1	Brazil and Venezuela
Enrique Luque	2	Argentina, Chile, Mexico

**Number of SSR members:** My last report on membership indicated that our membership for the previous year was relatively stable. The number of regular members was the same as the previous year, whereas there was a decrease of 42 Trainees, 27 Associate members, and 7 Emeriti members. Our challenge is to increase membership in all categories this year.

**To accomplish this challenge, you are asked to do three things:**

- 1. Renew your membership immediately when you get the electronic reminder.** Renewing immediately will save time and money on the part of our Business Office and you will not receive additional reminders.
- 2. Mentors/advisors of graduate students and postdoctoral fellows need to educate their trainees about the value of belonging to a scientific society.** Membership in SSR has many values for trainees and will help them launch their scientific career (see article in the Newsletter on "Are Scientific Societies Serving the Needs of Trainees?")
- 3. As a member of SSR, recruit one person to become a member of the Society.** Are the trainees in your lab or your fellow trainees SSR members? What about new faculty members at your institution? Invite them to become a regular member of SSR. Clinicians and technicians who are interested in reproductive biology but may not meet the publication requirement to be a regular member should be invited to become associate members of SSR.

**The SSR Board of Directors has approved reduced membership dues for certain developing countries.** The exchange rate for the dollar can make membership in some developing countries very expensive. To aid in our recruitment of reproductive biologists from developing countries, the SSR Board is reducing the cost of membership by 50%. The Membership Committee had initiated this request some time ago. The countries that are recognized by the World Bank as developing countries and have been selected for the reduced membership dues are the following:

- |                      |                            |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| American Samoa       | Iran, Islamic Republic     | Morocco              |
| Argentina            | Iraq                       | Oman                 |
| Brazil               | Jordan                     | Poland               |
| Chile                | Korea, Democratic Republic | Russian Federation   |
| China                | Lebanon                    | Syrian Arab Republic |
| Egypt, Arab Republic | Libya                      | Thailand             |
| Hungary              | Malaysia                   | Turkey               |
| Indonesia            | Mexico                     | Venezuela            |

**Invitations to become members of SSR are sent to first and senior authors of papers in *BOR*.** A large number of first and senior authors of papers in *BOR* are not members of SSR. Certainly the fact that they are publishing in *BOR* indicates that they are top-quality reproductive biologists. The SSR Business Office is offering these authors one of the benefits of membership in SSR, that of reduced pages charges. However, the acceptance rate has been relatively low. During June–December 2007, 31% (17/54) and 17.5% (14/80) of US and non-US scientists, respectively, became members of (or renewed membership in) SSR. Thus far in 2008, 18.5% (10/54) and 11% (15/131) US and non-US scientists, respectively, have become members or renewed their membership. If you happen to be an author on a publication in which the other authors are not members, be proactive and invite your colleagues to join SSR.

The Membership Committee welcomes your comments and suggestions. Please contact Janice Bahr. ■

—Janice Bahr, Chair  
Membership Committee  
E-mail: [jbahr@illinois.edu](mailto:jbahr@illinois.edu)

---

## ***New members***

---

### **Regular**

Matthew Anderson  
Hungwen Chen  
F. Kent Hamra  
Yibing Han  
Christopher R.  
  McCartney  
Pamela A. Moalli  
Akihiko Watanabe

### **Trainee**

Dibyendu Dutta  
Dori J. Miller  
Matthew C. Poling  
Arik W. Smith  
Elizabeth Talley  
Rui Kan  
Kieun Park

### **Emeritus**

Marc Freeman  
Harold D. Hafs  
David L. Hess  
Nathalie Josso  
Gordon Niswender  
M. Ram Sairam  
Terry T. Turner

### **Change of status**

*To Regular:*  
Michelle Rhoads  
Terry Hassold

*To Associate:*  
Maria G. Martinez-  
Hernandez

---

## ***Science for the Public Good – Pittsburgh 2009***

SSR's 42nd Annual Meeting will be held in Pittsburgh July 18–22. As mentioned in the last newsletter, we have assembled an outstanding group of plenary speakers. The Keynote Address on the fetal basis of adult disease by David Barker will set the stage. The President's Symposium will be in keeping with the theme of the meeting—*Science for the Public Good*—and focus on advocacy as it relates to research funding (Mary Wolley), the use of animals in research (Tom Holder), and environmental effects on human reproductive health (Pete Myers). The impact of basic reproductive biology research on clinical medicine will be the theme of the State-of-the-Art lectures, with talks on epigenetics and cancer by Shuk-Mei Ho, microRNAs as a therapeutic approach by Marcus Stoffel, and the impact of obesity on fetal development and adult disease by Kjersti Aagaard-Tillery. We are particularly

pleased that Fuller Bazer and John McLachlan have agreed to give Historical Perspective Lectures that will highlight the impact on medicine, agriculture, and industry of basic research in our field.

This year's online system for submitting suggestions for minisymposia has been a resounding success. The Program Committee is faced with a big stack of terrific suggestions. They are currently test-driving a new online ranking system that will help us work through all of your great suggestions to create a balanced program with a strong set of minisymposia.

There is still plenty of room on the program for great science, so start thinking about abstracts: The deadline for submission this year is **March 15.** ■

—Pat Hunt, Chair  
2009 Program Committee  
E-mail: pathunt@wsu.edu

## **Seeking nominations for 2009 SSR election**

Exercise your right to nominate candidates for SSR Offices and Directors. For the coming year, the Society will elect a President-Elect, Treasurer, and two Directors. You need only to submit the name of the individual, his/her professional affiliation, and a *brief* statement of support. The SSR Business Office will provide the record of Society service to the Nominating Committee. We request that you contact the individual you wish to nominate.

Nominating Committee member include Jodi Flaws, Michel Fortier, John Gadsby, Mary Ann Handel, Tod Hansen, Mary Hunzicker-Dunn,

Thomas Spencer, William Thatcher, and Barbara Vanderhyden. Members of the Nominating Committee are not eligible for nomination.

Please send your nomination and statement of support to: Landis Keyes by **November 3, 2008.** ■

—Landis Keyes, Chair  
Nominating Committee  
E-mail: [plkey@umich.edu](mailto:plkey@umich.edu)

## It's time to nominate excellent members for SSR awards

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.

Five 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 Reproductive Biology 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.

The **SSR Trainee Mentoring Award** recognizes an active, regular member of the Society who as a mentor has had a significant impact on Trainees within the SSR.

Guidelines for nominating candidates for awards are published in the September issue of BOR 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, 2008, at the address below.

Awards Committee members include Robert A. Cushman (Chair), Charlie Chaffin, Andrea Cupp, Phillip Fields, Michelle Garcia, Geula Gibori, Kwan Hee Kim, Carolyn Komar, Jeffery May, P. Prabhakara Reddi, Cheryl Rosenfeld, Xiangzhong (Jerry) Yang, and Robert Koos (Board liaison).

Please assist the Awards Committee in carrying out this important function of the Society by sending nominations to me at the address below. Supporting documents may be sent by fax or mail, but the preferred method is by e-mail to facilitate review by the entire Awards Committee. ■

—Robert A. Cushman, Chair  
SSR Awards Committee

USDA/ARS/USMARC, Reproduction Research Unit

P.O. Box 166

Clay Center, NE 68933

Tel: 402-762-4186

Fax: 402-762-4382

E-mail: [bob.cushman@ars.usda.gov](mailto:bob.cushman@ars.usda.gov)

## Nominations open for Trainee Representative

Nominations are being accepted for the 2009–11 SSR Trainee Representative to the Board of Directors. The deadline for submitting an application is **November 3**. The candidate who is elected by the Trainee membership from the selected nominees will serve a two-year term beginning with the 2009 Annual Meeting. Nominations should be sent to

Chrissy J. Cochran Schilling ([cschilli@jhsph.edu](mailto:cschilli@jhsph.edu)). For more information, contact Chrissy or Rebecca Bott at [rebecca.bott@colostate.edu](mailto:rebecca.bott@colostate.edu). For full instructions on submitting a nomination, visit [www.ssr.org/Documents/2008-09-26TraineeRepNomination.pdf](http://www.ssr.org/Documents/2008-09-26TraineeRepNomination.pdf)

# Minutes of the SSR's 2008 Business Meeting

The annual Business Meeting of the Society for the Study of Reproduction was called to order by President Douglas Stocco at 1:52 p.m, May 30, 2008. Approximately 62 members were in attendance.

Dr. Stocco asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the 2007 Business Meeting, as distributed at the 2008 Business Meeting. No additions or corrections were noted.

*Dr. Janice Bahr moved approval of the minutes of the 2007 Business Meeting; Dr. Fuller Bazer seconded. The motion passed by voice vote.*

**Program Committee:** Dr. John McCarrey asked the membership for feedback on the meeting. He said that the Annual Meeting in Hawaii was in many ways a unique venue that incurred higher cost but that appeared to be a success; there was no decrease in attendance by members or trainees. He explained that there were some slight modifications of scheduling due to the decreased length of the meeting and suggested that three of these changes could be considered for implementation at future SSR Annual Meetings: 1. schedule exchange lectures concurrently; 2. schedule six rather than eight platform speakers per platform session; 3. arrange for different poster topics to be distributed over all days of the meeting. Dr. McCarrey said that he was thrilled to be involved in honoring Dr. Ryuzo Yanagimachi as part of the program in Hawaii. He thanked the SSR Business Office and commented that working with President Stocco had been wonderful. Dr. Stocco presented a plaque to Dr. McCarrey acknowledging his terrific effort on the Program Committee and organization of an excellent program.

**Local Arrangements Committee:** Dr. Stocco reported for the Local Arrangements Committee chair, Dr. Steve Ward. Dr. Stocco explained that the function of the committee has changed over the years as meetings have moved from university campuses to convention centers. He praised Dr. Ward for carrying out the specific duties now requested of the Local Arrangements Committee. He asked the SSR membership to remember the "old days" when graduate students helped to run all aspects of the meeting. He then thanked the Trainee Affairs

Committee Volunteers for their work at the Annual Meeting and added that the Society will continue to rely on their efforts in the future. Dr. Stocco said that the SSR can be more flexible in identifying sites for the Annual Meeting than in the past because it is not necessary to choose a location in which a large number of reproductive biologists are based.

**Treasurer's Report:** Dr. Bruce Murphy presented the Treasurer's report. He explained that the SSR budget is about 1.9 million dollars and that over the last eight years the budget has been approximately balanced. The final status of the current fiscal year is not yet known. He explained that having the Annual Meeting in Hawaii was an experiment that appears to have worked. There had been some concern that the meeting would incur significant losses, forcing the charge of higher registration fees, and that inclusion of meals in the registration cost was a necessity of the venue. Dr. Murphy explained that attendance at the 2007 Annual Meeting in San Antonio exceeded attendance at the 2006 Annual Meeting in Omaha and was within the range of usual meeting attendance.

Dr. Murphy explained that the Society faces challenges ahead, including the dynamic world of publishing. He explained that the SSR Board has reconsidered a proposed plan to move *Biology of Reproduction* to electronic only by 2010, with the print version available on demand at an extra cost. The Board now intends to develop a fiscal plan before implementing changes and to first observe the effects on other journals making the transition to electronic-only publishing. Dr. Murphy explained that issues such as page and color charges that currently contribute to covering the cost of publishing *Biology of Reproduction* need to be considered.

Dr. Murphy explained that the investment strategy has been to maintain a balanced budget and build the financial health of the Society. He said that the Society should strive to maintain twice its annual budget in investments. He described the various accounts and indicated that the Society has about 3 million dollars total in these accounts. He said that the Society's goal to achieve a portfolio of 4 million dollars would not be accomplished in the next year.

He commented that the next Treasurer of SSR will need to keep an eye on this. Dr. Stocco praised Dr. Murphy for the marvelous job he has done over the years as Treasurer.

**Editors-in-Chief:** Dr. John Eppig presented the report for himself and Dr. Mary Ann Handel, Editors-in-Chief of *Biology of Reproduction*. Dr. Eppig said that they were grateful to the Associate Editors for doing an excellent job and to the Business Office for its support. He explained that under the first year of the new system that he and Dr. Handel established, the acceptance rate was 35% and that it has gradually increased to the current rate of 45%. He said that he believes that better manuscripts are now being submitted to *Biology of Reproduction* and encouraged the membership to submit their best work to the journal. He explained that a new Editors-in-Chief team has been selected, Dr. Bernard Robaire and Dr. Bruce Murphy, and that they would assume responsibility in July 2009. He said that he and Dr. Handel are currently working with the incoming Editors-in-Chief to ensure a smooth transition and that a joint meeting of the current and incoming Board of Associate Editors was held at an editorial retreat prior to the 2008 Annual Meeting.

**Publications:** Dr. Virendra Mahesh presented the report of the Publications Committee. He said that the committee had two important tasks this year. One was to recruit a slate of candidates for Editors-in-Chief of *Biology of Reproduction* for selection by the SSR Board, and this was accomplished. Another was to keep abreast of all changes in open access and the NIH policy for mandatory submission of articles to PubMed by authors publishing on research supported by NIH. In order to assist authors in complying with the NIH requirement, the SSR Board has approved the submission of articles to PubMed Central by the Editorial Office of *Biology of Reproduction* on behalf of authors.

**Membership:** Dr. Janice Bahr reported that the number of SSR members has remained relatively constant. She stressed the importance of maintaining the number of Regular members of SSR. She explained that since trainees represent the future of the Society, it is important for mentors to advise trainees about the value of membership in a scientific society and to transfer their enthusiasm to them. She commented that the highest attendance of trainees at an Annual Meeting occurred when it was held in Quebec City. She said that non-SSR members who

attended the 2008 Annual Meeting will be offered complimentary membership for the remainder of this year. She reported that there will be a decrease in membership dues applied to individuals from developing countries effective in 2009. She said that the committee strives to work internationally and that half of the members on the committee are from outside the United States. In addition she was happy to report that there are a large number of international members of SSR (38%).

**Bylaws:** Dr. Stocco presented the report of the Bylaws Committee. He reported that the Board intends to initiate a process to make the Finance Committee a standing committee of SSR. He explained that this change is to address that fact that financial issues for the Society have become increasingly complex.

**Awards:** Dr. Robert Cushman, chair of the Awards Committee, reported that the procedure for awards went well this year. The process in 2008 was similar to the previous year; there was a similar number of Trainee abstracts for review for awards and the same number of individuals were nominated for awards. There was an increase in the number of nominees for the Trainee Mentoring Award. He explained that the committee wishes to obtain 5 to 7 nominations for awards in each category. December 1, 2008, is the upcoming deadline for award nominations.

**Nominating Committee:** Dr. Mary Zelinski reported that Dr. Terry Nett, chair of the Nominations Committee, was provided with nominations of outstanding candidates for open positions. Newly elected individuals are Dr. John Nilson, President-Elect; Dr. Jock Findlay, Director; and Dr. Teresa Woodruff, Director. Just under 50% of the membership participated in voting. She encouraged the membership to remind their colleagues to vote. She also explained that the procedure for nominating individuals is simple. Dr. Stocco added that Dr. Murphy would be stepping down as Treasurer after a long term in office and requested nominations for the next Treasurer. He explained that Dr. Landis Keys would serve as chair of the Nominating committee and that members should pass suggestions to him. He said that Dr. Murphy will be hard to replace as Treasurer.

**Trainee Affairs:** Dr. Rita Vassena, chair of the Trainee Affairs Committee, reported that the Trainee-Mentor Luncheon at the 2008 Annual Meeting was

attended by 70 Trainees. The placement service posted 30 positions. The Larry Ewing Memorial Trainee Travel Fund provided \$270 to each eligible Trainee who applied for funding. Dr. Vassena explained that because of the expense of the Annual Meeting in Hawaii, some mentors decided to send their trainees while missing the meeting themselves; the committee would like to send a letter of appreciation to these mentors and requests that trainees forward the names of these individuals. Drs. John Eppig and Mary Ann Handel, Editors-in-Chief of *Biology of Reproduction*, spoke at the Trainee Forum; the title of their presentation was "Submission and Reviewing: Flip Sides of the Publishing Coin." Dr. Vassena explained that her term as chair of the Trainee Affairs Committee is at an end and that Chrissy Schilling Cochran is the new incoming Trainee Representative. Dr. Kathrin Dunlap organized the Trainee Volunteers for the 2008 Annual Meeting; the 81 volunteers were from 5 continents and 41 different institutions and contributed more than 400 hours of work at the meeting. Dr. Vassena thanked these Trainees for their efforts on behalf of the Society.

**Old Business:** Dr. Stocco recognized officers retiring from the Board of Directors and Executive Committee and presented each of them with a plaque. He thanked Dr. Mitch Eddy for his help during the year as Past President and for his encyclopedic memory. He also expressed his gratitude to retiring Directors, Drs. Barbara Vanderhyden and Mary Zelinski, and Trainee Representative, Dr. Rita Vassena. He thanked members of the Society for attending the Business Meeting. He commented that the Board had been concerned about the potential effects of the increased cost of the 2008 Annual Meeting in Hawaii. He said that he regretted the possibility that lack of funds may have prevented individuals from attending. He reported that the statistics for the Annual Meeting appear similar to meetings in previous years in terms of numbers of trainees attending and that there may have been increased attendance by nonmember trainees. Dr. Stocco expressed thanks to the staff of the SSR Business Office, to Executive Assistant, Ms. Gwen Abramson, who serves as coordinator of the Annual Meetings, and to the staff at the Sheraton Keauhou Bay Resort & Spa Convention Center. Dr. Stocco thanked Chair John McCarrey and his Program Committee for their fantastic job. He thanked the

Trainee Volunteers and commented that they set the tone for the role trainees will play in the future. He thanked Drs. Eppig and Handel, Editors-in-Chief of *Biology of Reproduction*, and said that they are a great source of pride for the Society. Dr. Stocco thanked members of SSR committees for their labor of love to the Society. Dr. Stocco concluded by saying that it was a pleasure to serve as President of SSR, that the Annual Meeting continues to improve each year, and that the Society will continue to be successful. Dr. Stocco then passed the gavel to install the incoming President, Dr. Asgerally Fazleabas. Dr. Fazleabas said that working with Dr. Stocco in the last year had been a great learning experience for him and he thanked Dr. Stocco for his service to the Society.

**New Business:** Dr. Fazleabas welcomed new members of the Board of Directors, Drs. Teresa Woodruff and Jock Findlay, and new Trainee Representative Chrissy Schilling Cochran. He invited Dr. Patricia Hunt, chair of the Program Committee for the 2009 Annual Meeting to be held in Pittsburgh, to present highlights of the meeting.

Dr. Hunt announced that the theme of the 2009 Annual Meeting is *Science for the Public Good* and provided a summary of planned topics. She reported that half of the plenary sessions had been thought through and that they had received great ideas for minisymposia. She added that the Program Committee will solicit suggestions for minisymposia speakers and topics from the membership by e-mail.

Dr. Kyle Orwig presented a report of the Local Arrangements Committee for the 2009 Annual Meeting on behalf of Local Arrangements Committee chair, Dr. Tony Plant. Dr. Orwig explained that the meeting site in Pittsburgh is an accessible 6-hour drive from nine different states. The David L. Lawrence Convention Center in which the meeting will be held is on the Allegheny River and is one of the first "green" convention centers. Three hotels have been engaged for the meeting so far, one attached to the convention center. Pittsburgh is famous for world-class restaurants and museums and will be an excellent site for the meeting.

Dr. Philip Dziuk moved to adjourn the Business Meeting. Dr. Robert Koos seconded. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m. ■

—Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Quirk, Secretary

# Trainees increasing their involvement in SSR

The Trainee members of our Society are stepping up to the plate and serving SSR in many ways, despite their busy schedules. First, I would like to thank Rita Vassena, past Trainee Representative, for her leadership during her term. Rita created an opportunity in career development for trainee members through a partnership with FASEB. Stepping into leadership as the junior Trainee Representative is Chrissy Schilling Cochran. Chrissy will be continuing the career development opportunities and would like your thoughts on how to improve this program ([cschilli@jhsph.edu](mailto:cschilli@jhsph.edu)).

Our Annual Meeting in Hawaii brought to light the eagerness of our members at all levels to support trainee programs and the voice of the trainee community. Kathrin Dunlap organized and chaired a volunteer subcommittee which gave more than 80 Trainees from around the world an opportunity to serve our Society. The efforts of these volunteers were crucial for the success of the meeting. Daniel Poole and Brandon Ligenfelter will be co-chairing the volunteer subcommittee at the 2009 meeting. Please contact Daniel ([dhp10@psu.edu](mailto:dhp10@psu.edu)) if you are interested in becoming involved.

During the Trainee Affairs Committee meeting, several Trainees voiced their opinions on additional topics of importance. Everyone agreed that our Trainees would be better served by an updated Web site. Daniel Poole has stepped forward to initiate this process. The Trainee Web page ([www.ssr.org/comm/trainee/index.shtml](http://www.ssr.org/comm/trainee/index.shtml)) is your link to information. We urge you to send us your thoughts on what you would like to see included in the new Web page. Another topic that was discussed was pursuing voting rights for the senior Trainee member on each SSR committee. We certainly would need approval of the Board of Directors and the Society to accomplish this task. Chris Pearl is leading this movement and would appreciate your thoughts ([cpearl@wust1.edu](mailto:cpearl@wust1.edu)).

The SSR Mentoring Award was brought to life two years ago through the work and dedication of our Trainees. We have already recognized the outstanding mentorship of Dr. Janice Bahr and Dr. Michael Smith. Please look for the call for nominations and support your favorite mentors by nominating them for the 2009 Mentor Award. This year Jackie Atkins

will be serving as the Trainee liaison for the Mentoring Award to the Awards Committee. Please contact Jackie ([atkinsj@missouri.edu](mailto:atkinsj@missouri.edu)) if you have any questions.

As you can see, our Trainee members are hard at work creating new ideas and projects to improve our experience within the Society. As Trainees, our successes are due in part to the tremendous support from our Society. Members of the SSR Business Office, Board of Directors, our mentors Humphrey Yao and Mary Zelinski, and members at large have all been invaluable in their guidance and support. In addition to the wonderful support of SSR members, we are well supported financially. Last year over \$70,000 was donated to SSR to support the Trainees. Trainee travel was supported by the Larry Ewing Memorial Trainee Travel Fund, which included funding from NICHD, March of Dimes, T-shirt sales, and donations from the membership. Additional sources of travel funding included the Lalor Foundation and the USDA CSREES NRI. Trainee programs including the Trainee-Mentor Luncheon and the Trainee Forum were supported by the Robert H. Foote Lectureship Fund. We have also received nearly \$3,000 to support the SSR Mentoring Award Fund that was initiated last year. All of our supporters are greatly appreciated.

Looking ahead, we are already hard at work planning for the 2009 Annual Meeting. This year we want to further enhance Trainee involvement. I would especially like to hear your recommendations for topics in the Trainee Forum. This forum is our opportunity to talk with leaders in industry and academia, and you can help by offering ideas for a topic this year. For those of you with a creative side, please step forward to help design our T-shirt. We want to make a great design that SSR members will be excited to wear. I would like to thank all of our Trainee members for their diligent efforts and invite everyone to become further involved. Stay posted for our upcoming events, including elections for our next Trainee Representative. We welcome your involvement in all SSR activities. ■

—Rebecca C. Bott  
Trainee Affairs Committee  
E-mail: [rebecca.bott@colostate.edu](mailto:rebecca.bott@colostate.edu)

# NIH will start new tracking initiative

Without reliable data on all the staff associated with NIH research projects, it is difficult to assess the balance between the number of students and postdocs and the number of fully trained, faculty-level scientific positions in this country.

The NIH maintains a comprehensive data collection on Principal Investigators (PIs) associated with funded research projects and on students and postdocs supported by the Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) programs. This information permits the NIH to conduct comprehensive career outcome studies on NRSA recipients and analyses on PIs and New Investigators ([http://grants.nih.gov/grants/new\\_investigators/resources.htm](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/new_investigators/resources.htm)).

In contrast, little information is collected on other project staff associated with NIH-funded research grants. The NIH Reform Act of 2006 (P.L. 109-482) requires the NIH to collect identifying and demographic information and report on postdocs who serve as research assistants or associates on research grants. The data will allow an analysis of career outcomes similar to those conducted for NRSA recipients.

Such information can be used to make informed decisions about the appropriate size of NIH training programs, and will permit a better match between the type of training provided and expected career outcomes. All in all, the information will offer a richer understanding of the training necessary and disciplinary composition of the research workforce.

The advent of electronic research administration makes such enhanced data collections possible. Over the next year the NIH plans to require postdocs to register in the eRA

Commons (<https://commons.era.nih.gov/commons/>) which will serve as a repository of personal, career and bibliometric information that can be associated with NIH support.

The NIH will modify the Senior/Key Personnel Report to include all personnel associated with the project for a month or more. Although many grantees provide information on all project-related personnel, the revised form will clarify, simplify, and improve this data collection, and, coupled with the Commons accounts for postdocs, create a reliable linkage of postdocs to research projects.

The more complete data collection will enhance our understanding of the enterprise and allow the NIH to better accommodate the evolving needs of the research community. Additional details will be forthcoming and an opportunity to comment on NIH plans will be provided. ■

—Jennifer A. Hobin, Ph.D.  
Senior Science Policy Analyst  
FASEB Office of Public Affairs

---

Published three times each year (February, June, and October) by the Society for the Study of Reproduction, Inc. **Business Office:** 1619 Monroe Street, Madison, WI 53711-2063. **Executive Director:** Judith Jansen. **Editor:** Andrea Cupp. **Managing Editor:** John Wolf.