

SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF REPRODUCTION

Newsletter

Volume 26, Number 2

June 2009

From the President—

All good things must end

This will be my last update in the newsletter as President. It has truly been an enjoyable year and one in which I hope we have made progress in strengthening our Society and establishing future goals.

The program for our Annual Meeting in Pittsburgh has been finalized and it is shaping up to be a superb meeting, both from a scientific and social standpoint. I want to thank our Program Chair Pat Hunt and the members of her committee for being bold and innovative with the program but at the same time maintaining the traditions that are so closely associated with our Annual Meetings. Both the venue and the program are superb and I certainly hope that all of you and your trainees are planning to attend.

The formulation of the third strategic plan that sets goals for our Society for the next 5 years has been completed. I owe Bob Burghardt and the members of all the committees he assembled a huge debt of gratitude for their perseverance, dedication and insight. The plans they have formulated will endure so that SSR will remain a strong and vibrant voice in advancing the reproductive sciences both nationally and internationally. The vision they have outlined will make certain that SSR will continue to be the premier society in our discipline.

Another one of my goals as President was to expand our outreach and interactions with other

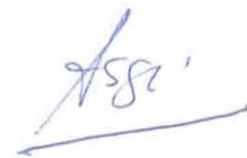
societies that share a common goal. We continue to have strong interactions with the American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM). An exchange lecture series at each other's annual meetings presented by their Distinguished Scientist awardee and our Research Award winner respectively have been extremely well received. Next year we plan to initiate an exchange minisymposium with the Society for Gynecologic Investigation (SGI). President-Elect John Nilson and incoming Program Chair Ruth Keri are coordinating this effort. In addition we anticipate that the 2nd World Congress on Reproductive Biology, being planned for 2011 in Australia, will also be held in conjunction with the 4th International Summit of the SGI. We hope that these exchanges and interactions will further facilitate cooperation among societies that have a common goal in advancing the cause of reproductive science both from a scientific and advocacy standpoint.

In summary, SSR is marching on boldly into the future. Your Board of Directors has been very enthusiastic about many of the proposed changes that you will hear much more about in the coming year and that are designed to streamline the way SSR functions. I sincerely hope that all of you will continue being active members of the Society and encourage your trainees to become involved with SSR. It is

without a doubt the best society in the world for trainees, who are the future of our field. I owe a great debt of gratitude to the members of the Board and the chairs of each of the committees for their wisdom, advice, and guidance during the past year. A special thanks to Doug Stocco, Bruce Murphy, Marco Conti, and Bob Koos, whose terms of service on the Board will end this summer, for all their hard work and dedication on behalf of SSR. Finally it goes without saying that our Society is most fortunate to have Judy Jansen as our Executive Director. She and her team have been invaluable to me in my year as President and I owe them all a great deal of

thanks. To all of you—thank you for giving me the honor of serving as your President, and I continue to look forward to being an integral part of the Society even after my term ends.

See you all in Pittsburgh!!! ■



—Asgi Fazleabas

Results of SSR election

The Nominating Committee is pleased to report the results of the Society's 2009 elections. Some 47% of members voted. The Society is fortunate to have outstanding leaders who are willing to serve in these offices. We congratulate those elected, and express our gratitude and admiration to all who were candidates and to all who were considered for candidacy by the committee.

President-Elect

Sally Perreault Darney

Treasurer

Martin Matzuk

Directors

Thomas Curry

Patricia Hunt

—Members of Nominating Committee:

Jodi Flaws

Michel Fortier

John Gadsby

Mary Ann Handel

Tod Hansen

Mary Hunzicker-Dunn

Landis Keyes (Chair)

Tom Spencer

Douglas Stocco (Board Liaison)

Bill Thatcher

Barbara Vanderhyden

From the departing editors of *Biology of Reproduction*

As we prepare to pass the baton on to the next Editors-in-Chief of *Biology of Reproduction*, we reflect on what an honor it has been to be entrusted with the guardianship of our Society's journal for the past 5 years. Our measure of success is you—the readers and the authors—who have responded to what we publish with lively commentary and who send us your excellent work. It has been our privilege to publish it. We could not have done this job without, and indeed owe our success to, our tireless, thoughtful, and talented Associate Editors, our dedicated Board of Reviewing Editors, and all of you who advised us about the very best papers to

publish in *Biology of Reproduction*. Finally, this journal would simply not be, at all, without the able and professional work of the managing editorial staff in Madison (untold amounts of chocolate and brats have been exchanged over the past 5 years, contributing in an immeasurable way to the flavor of the journal!). We have learned, we have been challenged, we have been enriched by our experience. We are proud to pass *Biology of Reproduction* into the capable hands of the next Editors-in-Chief, Bernard Robaire and Bruce Murphy. ■

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

From the incoming BOR editors—

A tough act to follow

It is not without trepidation that we approach the beginning of our responsibilities as the new Editor-in-Chief team for *Biology of Reproduction*. Our soon-to-be predecessors, Mary Ann Handel and John Eppig, will complete their editorial mandate June 30. Under their stewardship, the scientific quality and prestige of the journal has increased greatly. Retrospective metrics, such as the impact factor, have steadily increased during their editorship, and it is certain that the journal will continue to benefit from their efforts. They deserve the gratitude of the Society and of the community of reproductive biologists. Their act will be difficult to follow.

As editors, we intend to continue many of their policies, with the goal of publishing the best manuscripts, those that demonstrate novelty and advance our field. We will maintain the structure of associate editors that John and Mary Ann developed, and have nominated an entirely new slate of highly qualified scientists to serve in this capacity. The reviews and editorial sections that they established will continue, as will many of their policies on peer review.

Nonetheless, we will make numerous changes, particularly in the solicited content, where we will introduce commentaries and perspectives. We also

foresee additions to the journal Web site, and we plan to add to the electronic content of BOR and to raise the cyber-profile of the journal by a number of means.

We expect that there will be formidable challenges confronting us during our editorial mandate. The publication process is rapidly evolving, and the transition to an entirely electronic journal seems inevitable. Open access, loss of library subscriptions, and the effects of a decade of underfunding of science threaten the economic base of the journal. In spite of these difficulties, we are confident that *Biology of Reproduction* will continue to thrive. To do so, the journal will need to maintain a high standard of publication, to attract the best manuscripts from the membership and from the reproductive biology community in general, and to evolve with the changing publication landscape. We need you to submit your best work, and we need your input to help us shape *Biology of Reproduction* for the second decade of the 21st century. ■

—Bruce Murphy
Bernard Robaire
Incoming Editors-in-Chief

Plan now to attend SSR's 42nd Annual Meeting!

The stage is set for a terrific meeting July 18–22 in Pittsburgh (check out the program at www.ssr.org/09Schedule.shtml). We received 632 abstracts and, because only 144 could be fit into the platform sessions, you will find plenty of outstanding new science in both the platform and poster presentations. If you have not yet made arrangements to attend the meeting, here are three things to consider:

- ◆ Online registration will remain open until June 26, but don't wait—register today!
- ◆ The special meeting rate for hotel reservations disappears on June 16, so book your room NOW. The Westin is already full, but plenty of rooms at the conference rate are still available at both the Omni and the Doubletree.

- ◆ It's a buyer's market and there are some great deals on flights IF you make your reservations in a timely fashion.

As you finalize your arrangements, remember that this year the meeting will start with a bang, with the Keynote Lecture by Dr. David Barker on Sunday afternoon, followed by the awards ceremony and an opening reception that will feature “A Taste of Pittsburgh.” The final morning of the meeting is also action-packed, so make your arrangements and plan to stay for the duration.

If you have any questions about the Pittsburgh venue, please contact Tony Plant, chair of the Local Arrangements Committee, at plant1@pitt.edu, or his assistant, Carol Byrd, at byrdcrrp@pitt.edu.

See you in Pittsburgh! ■

—Pat Hunt, Chair
Program Committee

Sustaining science funding and reducing regulatory burden

Following successful advocacy efforts that resulted in significant science funding for NIH and NSF in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), FASEB has turned its attention to two major priorities: sustaining the funding into FY 2010 and beyond; and working to reduce regulatory burden on research scientists. In April, FASEB celebrated the launch of Research Means Hope (www.researchmeanshope.com), a campaign of advertisements and new media aimed at increasing public and Congressional support for biomedical research. FASEB has also begun a new social media network, with sites on Twitter (twitter.com/FASEBopa) and Facebook, allowing SSR and other FASEB member society scientists to keep up to date on the latest biomedical research policy news and opportunities to take action. To that end, FASEB has also updated our state-by-state powerpoint presentations on NIH, which can be used by researchers when talking to local community groups or advocating to members of Congress (http://opa.faseb.org/pages/Publications/NIH_PPT.htm). In addition to these grassroots tools, FASEB leadership and staff are continuing to meet with policymakers to discuss research funding for federal science agencies, as well as distribution of funds under ARRA. FASEB is advocating for a 7 percent increase for NIH in FY 2010, as well as a 7.9% increase for NSF, and \$300 million for the Agriculture and Food Initiative at USDA. FASEB President Richard Marchase issued a strong statement in response to the President Obama's FY 2010 budget, saying that the budget "raises serious concerns about the sustainability of the biomedical research enterprise" and urging the Administration to plan ahead for FY 2011, when funding from ARRA expires, to prevent a harmful boom and bust cycle. Marchase was also invited to appear before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on

Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies to testify in support of NSF, which he did in concert with the presidents of the American Chemical Society, American Physics Society, and American Mathematical Society.

Meanwhile, FASEB has been working on a number of regulatory policy issues with the potential to impact scientists, releasing comments on biosecurity, stem cells, peer review, and training. Regulatory burden has become of increasing concern to the research community, and FASEB recently contacted the Office of Management and Budget, urging them to work to reduce the administrative burden that regulations place on scientists. The scientific community scored a regulatory victory this spring when a proposal that would have banned radioactive CsCl irradiators, valuable tools for transgenic animals and other medical research, was withdrawn, as recommended by FASEB. FASEB is also actively engaged on a number of animal research issues, including providing input on the National Academies' update of the *Guide on the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*, opposing legislation to prohibit the use of chimpanzees in biomedical research, and protecting researchers from animal rights extremists who wish to cause them harm. The Science Policy Committee, to which Joanne Fortune is SSR's representative, is in the process of developing positions on conflicts of interest in the extramural research committee (in response to a regulatory proposal from NIH), visa issues for international scientists, and clinical research issues. For more information on FASEB's science policy, advocacy, and public affairs activities, please visit our website: <http://opa.faseb.org> ■

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

Passing the baton

The 2009 SSR election is finally over, and the membership has spoken. The next Treasurer will be Marty Matzuk, with a mandate from 2009 to 2012. We owe gratitude to both the electee, and to his honorable opponent, Mike Smith, for agreeing to let his name stand for this post. I am certain that both could have effectively maintained the coffers of SSR. Marty has a long history of service to the Society, including chairing the Program Committee. He brings financial expertise to the post of Treasurer, and has a good understanding of our investment policy and strategies. He will be a good Treasurer.

The SSR strategic planning process of 2008 highlighted the clear and present financial challenges that face the Society over the next 3 years. The most significant, in my view, will be the development and implementation of the business model for *Biology of Reproduction* as an entirely electronic journal. Building the wealth of the Society via the investment portfolio, both to allow its development and as a cushion against future setbacks, is another important challenge.

I am certain that Marty will be able to meet these challenges.

How are things going now? The equity markets took a dive in early March of this year, but have rallied during April and to the time of this writing in May. Our portfolio has increased in value by 3.8% since the beginning of 2009, while the Standard & Poor's 500 Index is unchanged from January 1 of this year. While this is not spectacular news, given that we suffered a 37% decline in 2008, it is an encouraging trend. We hope that it continues.

I wish the best of luck to my successor as Treasurer, Marty Matzuk. I am certain he will shepherd the Society well and maintain our fiscal stability. I thank Judy Jansen and the SSR staff for their constant support during my tenure as Treasurer, and the many SSR Board members who guided the difficult decisions that we made during that time. I am grateful to membership of SSR for the honor of serving as Treasurer for three consecutive terms. ■

—Bruce Murphy

Emeritus Committee activities

This year at SSR's Annual Meeting, the Emeritus Committee will sponsor an Emeritus/Senior Breakfast, which is scheduled for Monday, July 20 in the Omni William Penn Hotel in Pittsburgh. The price of the breakfast will be \$30 per person. Spouses and students are welcome.

This year's program will honor Larry Ewing, a Past President of the Society for whom the Student Travel Awards were named. Barry Zirkin, a former colleague of Larry's, will make the presentation. The four previous honorees at this breakfast were: Andrew Nalbandov, Robert Melampy, Cornelia Channing, and Gil Greenwald.

The Emeritus Committee invites and encourages Emeritus/Senior members of the Society to attend this breakfast. In the past, attendance has been great fun because the speakers revealed a human side of the honorees known only by those who were close and only briefly covered their science, which was available to all in the published literature. In addition, the breakfast has been exceptional. One hundred fifty letters of invitation were sent to Emeritus/Senior members in the United States, Canada, and eight other foreign countries.

A trial initiative, in which members of the Emeritus Committee made contact with selected members of the Society requesting that they describe their activities during retirement, has been completed. The e-mails of those who responded (presented below) are interesting and informative.

From Keith Betteridge to Bill Day

Retirement? That's an interesting concept but difficult to put into practice when one's MVSc supervisor and mentor from almost 50 years ago is on one's back! Jim Raeside refuses to slow down himself and so we have a joint research grant and keep pretty active in our studies of early pregnancy in horses, concentrating on the signaling between the conceptus and the mare during the first month. Each summer we hire three summer students to help with the

collection of conceptuses and endometrial biopsy samples which, with other colleagues, we analyze in numerous ways throughout the year. Lots of fun and it keeps us out of the rocking chairs and bingo palaces.

From Ben Brackett to John Resko

For 40 years (1962–2002) I spent my waking hours thinking about various aspects of Reproductive Biology as I focused on developing in vitro fertilization and related biochemical and genetic advances. During the past seven years I have enjoyed being an emeritus professor and grandpa. In contrast to popular belief retirement is a very busy time. After my last official day at work I informed my wife Ann that I was now retired. She informed me that she was too! Then I realized that I had taken so much for granted throughout my extraordinary career. Before retirement I got up in the morning, dressed, ate breakfast and drove to work, but now I get up and I'm already at my workplace. Now, I enjoy real-life experiences such as participating in grocery shopping, house and yard maintenance, scheduling and dealing with various workmen, doctor and dental appointments, etc. Whew! Some days I'm too busy to take an afternoon nap! I have especially enjoyed spending time with my family. Ann and I will celebrate our 50th anniversary this summer. We enjoy frequent visits with our three children and their spouses and our seven grandchildren who live in PA, CA, and nearby Atlanta. Thus, we enjoy playing on Ventura Beach and at Palm Springs (even our youngest grandson laughs at me when I play golf!), or hiking in the hills with the Californians, in Valley Forge and at Kiawah Island, SC with the Pennsylvanians, and at Wrightsville Beach, NC and Disney World as well as at home with the Atlantans. Once in a while everyone comes to visit us and the population of Brackettville swells to 15! Although the grandchildren now have complicated schedules they were able to bring their parents along last summer to celebrate their great-grandmother's (my mother's) 100th birthday. I have enjoyed taking art (drawing and painting) courses, attending occasional lectures, short courses in practical matters, (e.g. computers, defensive driving, etc.), swimming, genealogy (Ancestor Peter Browne came over on the Mayflower!), and history. My paintings (acrylics on

canvas) primarily depicting grandchildren, houses and landscapes in PA, CA and GA adorn walls of homes throughout the family. We also seriously follow our sports teams – esp. GA Bulldog football, GA Gym Dogs, Atlanta Braves (and the Phillies), and Duke basketball. I always enjoy corresponding with former students and colleagues. It's fun to follow news of advances in the broad realm of Reproductive Biology. This year I'm completing my 70th voyage around the sun on planet Earth. As each trip seems progressively faster I must soon turn attention to writing my memoirs!

From Gary Jackson to John Resko

Since retiring from the University of Illinois in 2002, I have retained an office at the Veterinary College and occasionally go there to search the literature and prepare or revise one or two lectures on the topic of "Brain Sex." The lectures originally were given in a "Discovery" course which reviews basic aspects of human reproduction and is offered to first-year students at the university. The course, organized by David Sherwood, is team-taught by members of the reproductive biology training program. It proved so successful that an additional course was offered last year to non-major upperclass students. It also was popular. This fall the teaching team will premiere a short course for adults titled Human Reproduction and Society at the Osher Life Time Learning Institute at the U of I. I also have been kept busy with nonprofessional activities. I self-published a memoir titled *Going After The Cows* describing growing up on a small farm in Missouri. I read *Science* and many good books, garden, travel, photograph the great outdoors, and volunteer for my church and civic groups.

From Anna Steinberger to Neena Schwartz

How wonderful to get your message!! I was happy to read about your exotic travels (Emil and I visited some of these fabulous places!) and interesting activities in the professional societies. Your commitment to recording the Endocrine Society's history is a very important activity. New members need to know what has preceded their tenure as members of the Society. Although I have not been very active in SSR for many years, it is always nice to learn about its individual members. I am looking forward to your Newsletter. Incidentally, I have donated last year some moneys to the SSR Mentoring Program, as mentoring junior colleagues has always

been my big passion.

Since Emil passed away last October 12, I am trying to make an adjustment to my new life style. It is not easy after nearly 58 years of happy marriage plus six more years of friendship before. However, life does go on.... I feel blessed by having two devoted daughters, a very supportive extended family and many friends who keep me going. So I have been going to dinners, concert, lectures, museums, etc.

I have been kept extremely busy by many legalities needing attention in probating Emil's will (a lot of paperwork!), as well as by the Holocaust museum Houston where I serve on the Board of Directors as Vice-Chair for Education, and a docent for museum tours. My main goal now is to complete Emil's third book, *The Golden Age and its Implosion*, dealing with medical education, health care delivery, and influence of insurance companies, etc., etc. I hope to have it finished by the end of this year or early next year. Several of his medical associates will help in this task.

As you may know, Emil has published two books based on his experiences before, during and after WWII, and managed to write a part of the third one. He won the CODY award for literature shortly before he passed away. We also traveled to Fiji and Tonga last August for the king's coronation; we met the king some 14 years ago when he was still a crown prince, it was quite an interesting adventure!

The books, as well as ~30 "musings" which he wrote for a local newspaper, can be viewed on his Web site:

<http://esteinberger1.home.comcast.net/~esteinberger1>

As you can tell, I have plenty to keep me occupied and, so far, I am enjoying pretty good health.

From Allen Enders to Fred Stormshak

I suspect you will find that quite a few of your emeritus members still have some activity in the reproduction area.

I have an office and small lab, and have been working quite a bit with comparative placentation with colleagues from Denmark and Manchester UK. I am consultant on a couple of people's grants but do not write grants myself. In addition I have been digitizing parts of my slide collections, hoping to put the material together in a way that it can be available for other people to use. I no longer teach but usually present some material at international meetings about once a year.

A sampling of some recent publications may give a better idea of what I am doing:

Enders AC, Blankenship TN, Conley AJ, Jones CJP. Structure of the midterm placenta of the spotted hyena, *Crocuta crocuta*, with emphasis on the diverse hemophagous regions. *Cells Tissues Organs* 2006; 183:141-155.

Enders AC, Blankenship TN, Goodman SM, Soarimalala V, Carter AM. Placental diversity in Malagasy tenrecs: placentation in shrew tenrecs (*Microgale* spp.), the mole-like rice tenrec (*Oryzoryctes hova*) and the web-footed tenrec (*Limmogale mergulus*). *Placenta* 2007; 28:748-759.

Enders AC. Implantation in the macaque: expansion of the implantation site during the first week of implantation. *Placenta* 2007; 28:794-802.

Enders AC. Placentation in armadillos, with emphasis on development of the placenta in polyembryonic species. In: *Biology of the Xenarthra*. Loughry WJ, Vizcaino SF, eds 2008.

Enders AC. Implantation of the blastocyst. II. Implantation in primates. 2008 In: *The Endometrium*: Eds. Aplin JD, Fazleabas AT, Glasser SR, Giudice LC.

Carter AM, Goodman SM, Enders AC. Female reproductive tract and placentation in sucker-footed bats (Chiroptera: Myzopodidae) endemic to Madagascar. *Placenta* 2008; 29: 484-491.

Enders AC. Reasons for diversity of placental structure. *Placenta* 2008;(in press).

Downs KM, Inman KE, Jin D, Enders AC. The allantoic core domain (ACD): new insights into development of the murine allantois and its relation to the primitive streak. *Devel Dynam* 2009; (in press).

Finally, *In Memoriam*: **Anita H. Payne**, Ph.D. (d. February 15, 2009; SSR Past President), **Gabriel Bialy**, Ph.D. (d. March 4, 2009; charter member), **Charles A. Barraclough**, Ph.D. (d. April 19, 2009; Hartman Award). ■

—John Resko, Chair
Emeritus Committee

Committee members include Bill Day, Phillip Dziuk, Stanley Glasser, Neena Schwartz, Harold Spies, and Fred Stormshak.

SSR trainee report

Summer is upon us again and with summer comes the buzz of our Annual Meeting. As you prepare for the science and socials, I urge you to consider the types of interactions and relationships that not only make the research possible but that foster lifelong friendships and inspire new ideas. We pride ourselves in SSR on our trainee-mentor interactions. It is these interactions that are so important to foster relationships with young scientists and to instill the appreciation of SSR as our “home society.” In this spirit, I charge each regular member with introducing themselves to three trainee members, and for each trainee, in turn, to introduce themselves to three additional mentors. It is my hope that these interactions will foster discussions not only of science, but of ambitions, dreams, and backgrounds.

Applications for the **Larry Ewing Memorial Trainee Travel Fund** were due by May 31. Please visit our Web site for details.

The **Trainee Mentor Luncheon**, organized by Denise Archembeault, is a great time for trainees to get to know regular members of our Society in a casual setting over lunch. The luncheon will take place on Sunday, July 19. Don't forget to sign up during registration.

The celebration of the **SSR Mentor Award** and the **Trainee Forum** will take place on Tuesday, July 21. Given the current economic situation, SSR trainees are expanding their job searches more than ever. The 2009 Trainee Forum has been designed to explore career opportunities and to help trainees understand how to position themselves for success in their

chosen career paths. The panel structure of the forum will allow for a great deal of interaction and discussion. All trainee *and* regular members of SSR are highly encouraged to attend and participate! Thanks to Ramsey McIntire for helping to come up with a fitting topic this year. Support your peers during the **presentation of Trainee Research Awards** on Wednesday, July 22 at noon. These awards recognize excellence in research among our trainees.

Want to get involved? Please contact Dan Poole (dhp10@psu.edu) or Brandon Lingenfelter (brandonlingenfelter@gmail.com) about the **Trainee Volunteer Committee**. Volunteering at the Annual Meeting is a fun way to be involved and get to know people. Also, the volunteer t-shirts designed by Kristin Happ Molitoris are very fun!

Thank you to all of our trainees who are working so hard to make these activities a success! Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns. If you are unable to attend the meeting and would like to get to know other members of our Society please send me an e-mail (Rebecca.bott@sdstate.edu) and I will put you in touch with a senior trainee member.

In closing we would like to thank all of our outstanding candidates for stepping up to serve their Society for the SSR Trainee election. Congratulations to **Denise Archembeault** who was elected by her peers. We look forward to her leadership as the SSR 2009–11 Trainee Representative. ■

—*Rebecca Bott and Chrisy Cochran*
SSR Trainee Representatives

News from the Membership Committee

Membership in SSR is based on the calendar year and should be renewed before the end of each year. However, because some SSR members do not renew at that time but renew later in the following year, they may be confused about the length of their membership or when they should renew their membership. Therefore, the Membership Committee is urging all SSR members to renew on an annual basis when the SSR Business Office sends out the request to renew SSR membership, usually the end of October.

Membership is strong but is 119 members less than last year at this time. Membership numbers always increase slightly as non-SSR members realize the benefits of being a member, particularly when it is time to register for the SSR Annual Meeting. As you may recall, the Annual Meeting last year was the end of May, which meant that non-SSR members attending the Annual Meeting had already registered by this time a year ago. *Current membership numbers are: Regular 1219, Associate 172, Emeritus 142, and Trainee 474.* Compared to membership numbers on May 1, 2008, Regular is down 120, Associate is down 3, Emeritus is up 20, and Trainee is up 25. Total membership for May 1, 2008 was 2085 and for May 7, 2009 was 2007. We are anticipating that as the Membership Committee sends a friendly reminder to nonrenewed SSR members, many of these will renew. Many times our colleagues have forgotten to renew their membership.

You can help the Membership Committee by checking with your colleagues, trainees in your lab, and/or your lab mates that they have renewed their SSR membership. In case someone asks you why he/she should be a member of SSR, here are a few good reasons:

1. Membership in SSR enables it to offer Annual Meetings at which the latest

research in reproductive biology is presented.

2. SSR Annual Meetings are an outstanding forum for trainees and established scientists to present their data.
3. SSR Annual Meetings provide opportunities to meet leaders in the field and to network with scientists.
4. SSR members receive notices about job opportunities, other scientific meetings, and new policies affecting reproductive biology research.
5. Registration fees for the SSR Annual Meeting are significantly reduced for members.
6. SSR trainees can apply for travel grants to attend the Annual Meeting.
7. *Biology of Reproduction* is available online at a reduced rate.
8. Pages charges for publication in *Biology of Reproduction* are reduced. The first color figure is free for members.

Membership dues for SSR members in developing countries are reduced 50%. The list of developing countries is established by the World Bank. If you have a colleague who is a reproductive biologist in a developing country, inform him/her of the reduced membership rate. A wonderful act of kindness which would be greatly appreciated by your colleague in a developing country would be to pay his/her membership dues.

If you have any questions about membership in SSR or suggestions to increase membership, please contact Janice Bahr, chair of the Membership Committee. Have a pleasant summer. See you in Pittsburgh! ■

—Janice Bahr, Chair
Membership Committee
E-mail: jbahr@illinois.edu

New members

Regular

Andy V. Babwah
Julien Bobe
Lindsey A. Burnett
Robert O. Gilbert
Mahmoud Huleihel
Rafael Jimenez
Jingling Jin
Sailaja Koduri
Maria Lalioti
Michael A. Lampson
Luisa Mateus
Qinggang Meng
Omar P. Pignataro
Dejian Ren
Min Xu

Associate

Bachir Abi Salloum
Kate Anthony
Libertado C. Cruz
Jason Hunt
Katherine M. Jordan
David C. Kersey
Louis C. Nuti
Fernando Pierucci-Alves
Jie Zhu

Trainee

Mahsa Abrishami
Yalda Afshar
Elizabeth A. Aguirre
Bruna R.C. Alves
Emily R. Alvino
Mehmet O. Atli
Hadas Bar-Joseph
Yaakov H. Bentov
Pablo Bermejo-Alvarez
Dieldrich S. Bermudez
Kalyne Bertolin
Ashley B. Breton
Adina Brett
Edyta Brzezicka
Anna D. Burkart
Margot P. Burns
Liliana Carbajal
Ronaldo L.A. Cerri
Christopher Charles
Jenifer Cruickshank
Rajesh Kumar Dadhich
Amrita Das
Nina Davidova
Paul P. de Waal
Stacey L. Dehlinger

Alysia C. DePasquale
Honglu Diao
Alice R. Duncan
Francesca E. Duncan
Sudipta Dutta
Judith Elbaz
Eduardo G. Fioratti
Jennifer J. Forcina
Federica Franciosi
Brittany A. Fromme
Anna M. Fuller
Antonio M.G.T. Galvao
Lindsey A. George
Michael C. Golding
Genevieve S. Griffiths
Adrian Guzman Sanchez
Siabhon M. Harris
Stephanie M. Hastings
Daniel Henao
Takehiro Himaki
Rebecca J. Hobbs
Kelly A. Hogan
Takuo Hojo
Lesya Holets
Chen-Che Jeff Huang
Karen R. Ingram
Federico Jensen
Zhongliang Jiang
Carolina Rodriguez
Jimenez
Shiyong Jin
Sheikh O. Jobe
Graham D. Johnson
Allison M. Jones
Niraj R. Joshi
Saroch Kaewmanee
Robin A. Katchko
Yoku Kato
Amy V. Kaucher
Ikkou Kawashima
Kehkooi Kee
Dongwon Kim
Katie L. Klooster
Faezeh Koohestani
Richard J. Kordus
Narayanan Krishnaswamy
Cassie A. Kryzak
Mila C. Kundu
Zamin Ladha
Sarah A. Lalone
Jonathan D. Leavenworth
Chanhoo Lee
Hyo J. Lee
Martin B. Lee

Leslie A. Lekatz
Mattan Levi
Shengqiang Li
Po-Ching Lin
Sabrina C. Lin
Chang Liu
Jing Liu
Gwendolyn W. Louis
Ningxia Lu
Yan Ma
Manjula P.S. Magamage
Melissa D. Mahan
Julie E. Mankey
Brenna A. Market-Velker
Ensa M. Mathews
Mary A. Meaker
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Liren Zhang
Xiaoming Zhang
Khaled Zohni

Change of status

To Regular:

Pauline Aad
Monika G. Baldrige
Rajesha Duggavathi

Richard N. Freiman
Aydin Guzeloglu
Wendy Ingman
Felipe Martinez-Pastor
Gordon K. Murdoch
Cristian O'Flaherty

Lori Raetzman
Koumei Shirasuna
Cheng Wang

To Associate:

Hyo-Won Ahn

Megan McCarthy
Joy McIntosh
Oscar Peralta
Hugh Taylor

SSR endowments: Good and bad news

The Endowment Subcommittee has good news and bad news for the SSR membership. The bad news is that the endowment funds are in a particularly difficult situation as the decline of the stock market in 2008 severely affected their value.

The good news is that overall donations to all the endowments in 2008 were over \$50,000. Specifically, 78 new donations from SSR members were made totaling \$17,909.72 to the general Endowment and another 31 contributions totaling \$16,769.57 to the Legacy Fund. Our sincere appreciation to all donors!! The SSR Endowment Subcommittee is challenging all members to continue to support the SSR Endowment and make a contribution.

What is the SSR Endowment Fund?

The SSR Endowment was established in 1995 to sustain the long-term financial security of the Society and to sustain and enhance the Annual Meeting activities. Currently, it provides travel fellowships for trainees and foreign scientists, endowed lectures, and education programs.

Our goal is to raise one million dollars, which is approximately half our annual operating budget. The Endowment Fund now stands at over \$360,000 and has been derived entirely from tSSR and its members.

What is the Legacy Fund?

The Legacy Fund supports, maintains, and enhances the electronic format of *Biology of Reproduction*. 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 when *Biology of Reproduction* will no longer be self-sustaining—thus the need for the Legacy Fund.

Our goal is to raise \$400,000 for the Legacy Fund to ensure that *Biology of Reproduction* continues to serve reproductive biologists in the most innovative and effective manner possible. It costs about \$20,000 annually to maintain the *Biology of Reproduction* Web site.

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 \$50,000.

Why should SSR members contribute to the endowments?

For over four decades, SSR has been committed to furthering the science of human and animal reproduction through its Annual Meeting, an outstanding journal, and contributions to trainee development and cutting-edge research. Therefore, we are inviting all SSR members to work with SSR and make a donation to either the Endowment Fund or the Legacy Fund. Simply send a check to the SSR Business Office or contact them directly.

Make giving a habit!

—Janice Bailey (janice.bailey@fsaa.ulaval.ca)
and SK Dey (sk.dey@cchmc.org), Co-Chairs
Endowment Subcommittee
SSR Development Committee

News from the Reproductive Sciences Branch, NICHD

Staff Additions to the RSB

I am pleased to announce that Dr. Stuart Moss has joined our staff as Director of the Male Reproductive Health Program. As many of you know, Stu was the Scientific Review Officer for the Cellular, Molecular and Integrative Reproduction (CMIR) study section in the Center for Scientific Review prior to joining the branch. Stu came to NIH from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine where he was Research Associate Professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. His NIH-supported laboratory centered on various aspects of spermatogenesis and sperm function with particular emphasis on the mechanisms involved in flagellar formation and cell signaling pathways responsible for sperm motility. We are excited to have Stu join our branch and look forward to his leadership in this very important program.

In the ERA of ARRA

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) was signed into law by President Obama with the purpose of stimulating the American economy through job preservation and creation, infrastructure investment, energy efficiency and science, and other means. The NIH received \$10 billion dollars, the bulk of which (\$8.2 billion) is being used to support extramural scientific research. The funds need to be obligated by NIH (not spent by investigators) by the end of FY 2010. Most of the funds will be used by NIH institutes and centers to:

- (1) provide 2-year support for grants that have undergone peer review, but were above the payline (including R01, R21, and R03 grants);
- (2) provide supplemental funding to already awarded grants; and
- (3) support new funding opportunities such as the Challenge and Grand Opportunity Grants.

ARRA funds will be tracked separately from regular NIH-appropriated funds and will require recipients of the funds to provide quarterly reports to NIH. The most updated information on ARRA funding opportunities can be found at www.nih.gov/recovery/.

RSB Funding Opportunity Announcements

Below are listed the current RSB funding opportunity announcements with the appropriate links and end

dates for program announcements and receipt dates for requests for applications in parentheses:

Fragile X Pre-mutation and Ovarian Function (March 2010)

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>)

Interdisciplinary Research on Implantation (R01) (July 2010)

PA-07-445

(<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-07-445.html>)

Americas Fellowship in Reproductive Sciences (F05) (December 2009)

PA-07-453

(<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-07-453.html>)

Role of Adipose Tissue as an Endocrine Organ in Reproduction and Infertility (January 2011)

PA-08-059 for R01

(<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-08-059.html>)

PA-08-060 for R21

(<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-08-060.html>)

Leiomyomata Uteri: Basic Science, Translational and Clinical Research (R01) (May 2010)

PAR-08-102

(<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-08-102.html>)

***Adverse Outcomes of Assisted
Reproductive Technologies*** (May 2011)

PA-08-103 for P01

(<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-08-103.html>)

PA-08-104 for R01

(<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-08-104.html>)

***Women's Reproductive Health Research
(WRHR) Career Development Program
(K12)*** (July 28, 2009)

RFA-HD-09-026

(<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-HD-09-026.html>)

***Noninvasive Assays of Human Oocytes and
Preimplantation Embryos (STTR [R41])***

(November 10, 2009)

RFA-HD-09-09-024

(<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-HD-09-024.html>)

***Noninvasive Assays of Human Oocytes and
Preimplantation Embryos (SBIR [R43])***

(November 10, 2009)

RFA-HD-09-025

(<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-HD-09-025.html>)

—*Louis V. DePaolo, Ph.D.*
Chief, Reproductive Sciences Branch
Center for Population Research
Eunice Kennedy Shriver
National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

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