

SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF REPRODUCTION

Newsletter

Volume 27, Number 1

February 2010

From the President—

Looking ahead and beyond

Time goes by too fast when you are having fun, and this certainly applies to me as I enter the last 6 months of my presidency. Thus, I feel a need to look ahead and beyond to ensure that the road traveled by the Society remains bump-free and scenic.

As you will see from the report provided by Leslie Heckert and Ruth Keri, Program Committee co-chairs, planning of the scientific program for the 43rd Annual Meeting of SSR is nearly complete. I am excited about the plenary talks and minisymposia as these integrate nicely with the overall theme of the meeting, *The Intersection Between Genetics, Genomics, and Reproductive Biology*. Indeed, the entire program is presented in the report offered by Leslie and Ruth.

I am especially pleased that we are using the Historical Perspectives Symposium as a tribute to Anita H. Payne, a reproductive endocrinologist and charter member of SSR who died 15 February 2009. Anita served SSR loyally in many capacities over her career, including Director (1982–85), Secretary (1986–89), and as President-Elect, President, and Past President (1989–92). Anita also received the Carl G. Hartman Award in 1998 for her outstanding contributions to reproductive biology, her generous and dedicated service to SSR, and her exceptional role as adviser and mentor to students and faculty associates. In 2004, SSR presented Anita with the Distinguished Service Award in recognition of her lifetime of unselfish service and leadership in advancing the discipline of reproductive biology. I know that I speak for many in noting that Anita's mentorship and care about the well-being of her colleagues, be they students or faculty, leave a legacy that models the way for all of us. These and other

noteworthy features of Anita's career will be highlighted in the Historical Perspectives Symposium, which Sally Camper has graciously agreed to chair. Dale "Buck" Hales and Phyllis Wise, former trainees of Anita, will focus on her career, accomplishments, and mentorship; Marco Conti, Anita's colleague and great friend, will describe his research and Anita's influence on his scientific direction.

This symposium coincides nicely with our formal announcement of the Anita Payne Endowment Fund, established with the generosity of a gift of \$100,000 from Anita's two children, Gregory Payne and Teresa Payne-Lyons. Beginning with the 2011 Annual Meeting, this endowment will fund the Anita Payne New Perspectives on Reproductive Biology Lecture featuring a talk by a promising junior investigator. It will also provide funding to support SSR Trainees' attendance at leading-edge courses on reproductive biology such as, but not limited to, Frontiers in Reproduction and appropriate Cold Spring Harbor courses. Donations from friends, colleagues, and former students can further enhance this fund, thereby investing in the future of the science and of SSR in providing tangible encouragement and recognition for new investigators.

Another noteworthy and new addition to the 43rd Annual Meeting of SSR is an outreach event targeted to high school students from inner-city Milwaukee. This event—*Imagine: The Science of Reproduction and You*—is the brainchild of Joanie Jorgensen (University of Wisconsin–Madison) and will be held on the Marquette University campus on Thursday, July 29, with the generous sponsorship of The Burroughs Wellcome Fund. The day will be filled with hands-on laboratory experiences and career advice panels for the inner-city

high school participants. This is where we need your help! Joanie and Trainee Representative Juanmahel Davila have issued a call for trainee volunteers to lead laboratory sessions, participate in panel discussions, serve as a "Trainee Buddy," and provide miscellaneous logistic support. Please feel free to contact Juanmahel (davilo@illinois.edu) for more information. I'm sure that Juanmahel will welcome volunteers as well as suggestions of trainee participants from mentors.

Another new feature of the 43rd Annual Meeting is a public outreach event led by Humphrey Yao, former chair and now member of the Public Affairs Committee. The goal of this event is to facilitate public engagement of SSR with the local community during the Annual Meeting and is described in the PAC report in this Newsletter. An important feature of the public outreach event is that it will be carefully coordinated with the "Imagine" event described above. It is anticipated that selected students from "Imagine" will be invited to participate and share their experience at the public outreach event.

Beyond the Annual Meeting lie several challenges that need our attention. Perhaps first and foremost is the recognition that in December the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), established by Congress in 1976, launched a public forum to discuss options for improving public access to results of federally funded research (blog.ostp.gov/2009/12/09/ostp-to-launch-public-forum-on-how-best-to-make-federally-funded-research-available-for-free/). This is part of the Obama Administration's Open Government Directive (www.whitehouse.gov/omb/assets/memoranda_2010/m10-06.pdf) that requires federal agencies to take immediate and specific steps to make their operations open and fully transparent to the public. While the concept of transparency is laudable, this does raise concern that more changes to the current Open Access policy could be hastily imposed and, if so, potentially threaten the peer review process and weaken the rigor of scientific publications made available to the public. Thus, I have asked the Publications Committee, chaired by Virendra Mahesh and Mitch Eddy, to follow this development closely and join ranks with FASEB and our other sister societies in requesting that OSTP move cautiously and carefully in considering the future course of Open Access.

SSR also needs to continue working with FASEB in monitoring the effort of NIH, under the new direction of Dr. Francis Collins, to find a better balance between funding of basic and translational research. Improving the human condition requires that support of neither

basic nor translational research comes at the expense of the other. FASEB will soon release a position statement, and I have asked the Public Affairs Committee and our FASEB representatives to study the FASEB document carefully and to bring their recommendations to the SSR Board of Directors for further consideration.

Recruitment and retention of members is a concern common to many scientific societies, including SSR. There is no question that societies need to develop new approaches that emphasize the importance to trainees and potential new members the value added that occurs through membership and participation in scientific societies. One suggestion is to develop a "toolbox" for trainees that will help guide their participation in SSR activities and underscore the value of continuing their membership as their careers progress. In a similar vein, FASEB is developing a new framework called the individual development plan, or IDP (described at sciencecareers.sciencemag.org/career_development/previous_issues/articles/1960/a_career_development_plan_for_postdocs/), which provides investigators with a framework for effective mentorship of postdoctoral fellows. As SSR is now a supporting member of the National Postdoctoral Association, the time is ripe for us to consider how we can expand to the "toolbox" concept to foster professional development of our trainees at all stages of their scientific careers.

Finally, but certainly not least, due to the outstanding efforts of Bob Burghardt and his committee, SSR now has its third strategic plan that builds from those reported in 1997 and 2004. The new strategic plan will be placed on the SSR Web site soon. In addition, we are in the process of distilling the document into a more concise format that will help each of the committees address the challenges and recommendations provided by the strategic plan. In addition, Richard Schultz has agreed to chair an ad hoc Strategic Plan Oversight Committee charged with assessing the progress and outcome of the initiatives identified in the plan. This type of follow-up ensures that the strategic plan will be dynamic, transforming ideas to action as well as ensuring that SSR remains the undisputed leader in the field of reproductive biology.

While challenging, the road ahead looks promising and should be a fun ride. So, this is my story and I'm sticking to it! ■

—John Nilson

Program for 2010 Annual Meeting nears completion

Great news! We have made excellent progress in planning an exciting scientific program for SSR's 2010 Annual Meeting July 30–August 3 in Milwaukee. All the plenary talks and minisymposia are set (summarized below), and we are making plans for abstract reviews and the poster and platform sessions.

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM *The Intersection Between Genetics, Genomics, and Reproductive Biology*

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

John D. Gearhart, Ph.D. (University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA)
The Intersection Between Stem Cell Biology and Reproduction.

PRESIDENT'S SYMPOSIUM: **Genomics, Genetics, and Reproductive Biology**

Chair: **John H. Nilson, Ph.D.** (Washington State University, Pullman, WA)

Speakers

Huntington Willard, Ph.D. (Duke University, Durham, NC)
'Omics and Reproduction.

David H. Ledbetter, Ph.D. (Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, GA)
Advances in Genomic and Genetic Technology That Enhance Detection of Fetal Abnormalities.

Robert E. Braun, Ph.D. (The Jackson Laboratory, Bar Harbor, ME)
Stem Cells and Germ Cell Differentiation.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES SYMPOSIUM: **A Tribute to Anita Payne**

Chair: **Sally A. Camper, Ph.D.** (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI)

Speakers

Dale "Buck" Hales, Ph.D. (Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL)
Title to be announced.

Phyllis M. Wise, Ph.D. (University of Washington, Seattle, WA)
Anita Payne: Scientist, Teacher, Mentor, Advisor, Friend, and So Much More.

Marco Conti, M.D. (University of California, San Francisco, CA)
Title to be announced.

STATE-OF-THE-ART LECTURES

Co-Chairs: **Leslie L. Heckert, Ph.D.** (University of Kansas Medical Center, Kansas City, KS);
Ruth Ann Keri, Ph.D. (Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio)

Speakers

Myles Brown, M.D. (Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA)
Title to be announced.

Ruth H. Lehmann, M.D. (Skirball Institute of Biomolecular Medicine, New York, NY)
Lipid Control of Germ Cell Migration.

James (Jay) C. Cross, Ph.D. (University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta, Canada)
Developmental Potential and Plasticity of Stem Cells in the Placenta.

MINISYMPOSIA

I. Genomic and Nongenomic Actions of Steroids in the HPG Axis

(Supported by the Mahesh Neuroendocrine Program Fund)

Chair: **Jon E. Levine, Ph.D.** (Northwestern University, Evanston, IL)

Speakers

Jon E. Levine, Ph.D. (Northwestern University, Evanston, IL)
Fertility and Fatness: Roles of Nonclassical ER α Signaling in Brain.

Iain J. Clarke, Ph.D. (Monash University, Clayton, Victoria, Australia)
The Nexus Between Metabolic and Reproductive Circuits in the Hypothalamus.

Suzanne Moenter, Ph.D. (University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA)
The Minuses and Pluses of Estradiol Feedback to GnRH Neurons.

II. Signaling Pathways Controlling Follicular Development

Chair: **Diane M. Duffy, Ph.D.** (Eastern Virginia Medical School, Norfolk, VA)

Speakers

Diego H. Castrillon, M.D., Ph.D. (University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, TX)
PI3K Signaling via Foxo3 in Primordial Follicle Activation.

Melissa E. Pepling, Ph.D. (Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY)
Estragen Signaling and Regulation of Primordial Follicle Formation.

Alan Schneyer, Ph.D. (Pioneer Valley Life Science Institute, Springfield, MA)
Defects in Follicle Development and Fertility in FST288-only Mice.

III. Sex-Specific Differences in Gene Regulation

Chair: **Joan S. Jorgensen, D.V.M., Ph.D.** (University of Wisconsin–Madison, Madison, WI)

Speakers

Diane M. Robins, Ph.D. (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI)
Sex-Specific Regulation by the Rs1 KRAB Zinc Finger Proteins Impacts Reproduction, Metabolism, and Evolution.

Ariane Paoloni-Giacobino, Ph.D. (University of Geneva, Geneva, Switzerland)
Title to be announced.

Alexander S. Kauffman, Ph.D. (University of California, La Jolla, CA)
Sex Differences and Kiss1 Neurons: Mechanisms and Functions.

IV. Germ Cell Microenvironment

Chair: **Kathleen Molyneaux, Ph.D.** (Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH)

Speakers

Kathleen Molyneaux, Ph.D. (Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH)
BMPs and the Embryonic Microenvironment of PGCs.

Shosei Yoshida, M.D., Ph.D. (National Institute for Basic Biology, Okazaki, Japan)
Seminiferous Tubule Microenvironment in the Mouse Testis.

Teresa Woodruff, Ph.D. (Northwestern University, Chicago, IL)
The Germ Cell Microenvironment of the Ovary.

V. Evolution and Development of the Placenta

Chair: **Fuller W. Bazer, Ph.D.** (Texas A&M University, College Station, TX)

Speakers

Derek E. Wildman, Ph.D. (Wayne State University, Detroit, MI)
Deciphering the Evolution of Placentation by Integrating Comparative Genomic and Anatomical Approaches.

Michael J. Soares, Ph.D. (University of Kansas Medical Center, Kansas City, KS)
The Prolactin Family: Evolution, Placentation, and Insights about Function.

John D. Aplin, Ph.D. (University of Manchester, Manchester, England)
Placental Evolution and the Glycocode.

VI. Genomics of Domesticated Species

Chair: **Douglas F. Antczak, V.M.D., Ph.D.** (Cornell University, Ithaca, NY)

Speakers

Douglas F. Antczak, V.M.D., Ph.D. (Cornell University, Ithaca, NY)
Title to be announced.

Thomas E. Spencer, Ph.D. (Texas A&M University, College Station, TX)
Endogenous Retroviruses: From Infectious Elements to Essential Genes.

Xiuchun (Cindy) Tian, Ph.D. (University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT)
Title to be announced.

VII. Hormone-Responsive Malignancies (Sponsored by the Society for Gynecological Investigation)

Chair: **Robert N. Taylor, M.D., Ph.D.** (Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, GA)

Speakers

Kunle Odunsi, M.D., Ph.D. (Roswell Park Cancer Institute, Buffalo, NY)
The Race Between Ovarian Cancer and Immunity: How Hormones and Inhibitory Molecules Set the Pace.

Kimberly Leslie, M.D. (University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA)
Endometrial Cancer: A Hormone-Responsive Malignancy.

Serdar Bulun, M.D. (Northwestern University, Chicago, IL)
Aromatase and Breast Cancer: From Bench to Bedside.

VIII. Cell Adhesion Dynamics in Reproduction

Chair: **Gustavo Blanco, M.D., Ph.D.** (University of Kansas Medical Center, Kansas City, KS)

Speakers

C. Yan Cheng, Ph.D. (The Population Council, New York, NY)

Cell Adhesion Junctions in the Testis: Are They a Target for Contraception?

Rex A. Hess, Ph.D. (University of Illinois, Urbana, IL)

Claudin 5, Germ Cells, and the Blood-Testis Barrier.

A.M.M. van Pelt, Ph.D. (University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, The Netherlands)

Title to be announced.

IX. Implantation and the Maternal-Fetal Interface

Chair: **Brent Bany, Ph.D.** (Southern Illinois University of Medicine, Carbondale, IL)

Speakers

Kathleen Caron, Ph.D. (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC)

Adrenomedullin Dosage at the Maternal-Fetal Interface: A Tale of Two Sides.

Thaddeus Golos, Ph.D. (University of Wisconsin–Madison, Madison, WI)

Placental MHC and the Maternal-Fetal Immune Dialog in Primates.

Sandra Blois, Ph.D. (Charité – University of Medicine Berlin, Berlin, Germany)

Dendritic Cells in Implantation: New Players During Angiogenesis Process.

X. Mitochondria and Mitochondrial DNA in Oocytes, Embryos, and Disease

Chair: **Richard J. Tasca, Ph.D.** (NIH, NICHD, Rockville, MD)

Speakers

Weiwei Fan, Ph.D. (Salk Institute for Biological Studies, La Jolla, CA)

Mitochondrial DNA Mutations in Reproductive Medicine.

Timothy Wai, Ph.D. (University of Cologne, Cologne, Germany)

Germline Transmission of Mitochondrial DNA in the Mouse.

Shoukhrat M. Mitalipov, Ph.D. (Oregon National Primate Research Center, Beaverton, OR)

Nonhuman Primate Model for Mitochondrial Gene Therapies.

XI. Energy Balance and Fertility

Chair: **Carol F. Elias, Ph.D.** (University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, TX)

Speakers

Judith Y. Altarejos, Ph.D. (Salk Institute, La Jolla, CA)

Novel Role of the CREB Coactivator CRTCL1 in Appetite and Reproductive Control.

Manuel Tena-Sempere, M.D. (University of Cordoba, Cordoba, Spain)

Metabolic Regulation of Reproduction: Roles of the Hypothalamic Kiss1 System.

Carol F. Elias, Ph.D. (University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, TX)

Hypothalamic Sites of Leptin Action on Reproductive Neuroendocrine Axis.

XII. HIF1 and Hypoxia-Regulated Gene Expression in Reproduction

Chair: **Mary Hunzicker-Dunn, Ph.D.** (Washington State University, Pullman, WA)

Speakers

Robert D. Koos, Ph.D. (University of Maryland School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD)

HIF1: Essential Mediator of Estrogen Action in the Endometrium.

Elke Winterhager, Ph.D. (Universitätsklinikum Essen, Essen, Germany)

Hypoxic Regulation of Different Placental Molecules as an Adaptive Response to the Environment.

Mary Hunzicker-Dunn, Ph.D. (Washington State University, Pullman, WA)

Role of HIF1 in Follicular Maturation.

XIII. Embryonic Stem Cells & Induced Embryonic Stem Cells from Domesticated Species

Chair: **Jorge A. Piedrahita, Ph.D.** (North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC)

Speakers

Paul Verma, Ph.D. (Monash Institute of Medical Research, Clayton, Victoria, Australia)

Developments in Generating Pluripotent Cell Lines from Cattle.

Margaret Hough, Ph.D. (University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada)

Derivation of Canine Embryonic Stem Cell Lines.

R. Michael Roberts, Ph.D. (University of Missouri–Columbia, Columbia, Missouri)

FGF2- and LIF-Dependent Pluripotent Stem Cells from the Pig.

XIV. A Common Steroidogenic Primordia in Gonadal and Adrenal Morphogenesis

Chair: **T. Rajendra Kumar, Ph.D.** (University of Kansas Medical Center, Kansas City, KS)

Speakers

Gary Hammer, M.D., Ph.D. (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI)

Adrenocortical Stem and Progenitor Cells: Implications for Adrenal Diseases.

Ken-ichirou Morohashi, Ph.D. (Kyushu University, Fukuoka, Japan)

Development of Fetal Steroidogenic Cells.

Humphrey H.-C. Yao, Ph.D. (University of Illinois, Urbana, IL)

Diverse Roles of the Hedgehog Signaling in the Establishment of Steroidogenic Cell Lineages in Fetal Adrenal Glands and Gonads.

XV. Effects of Environmental Contaminants on Female Fertility and Ovarian Function

Chair: **Kwan Hee Kim, Ph.D.** (Washington State University, Pullman, WA)

Speakers

Jodi Anne Flaws, Ph.D. (University of Illinois, Urbana, IL)

Effect of Methoxychlor on the Mammalian Ovary.

Retha Newbold, Ph.D. (NIEHS/NIH, Research Triangle Park, NC)

Effects of Environmental Estrogens on Subsequent Fertility and Ovarian Function.

Brian K. Petroff, Ph.D. (University of Kansas Medical Center, Kansas City, KS)

Chronic Effects of Dioxins on the Female Reproductive System in Rats.

In addition, 24 platform sessions (six talks per session) and three poster sessions will be organized based on submitted abstracts (due March 15).

More information on Milwaukee and the Midwest Airlines Center can be found at the following links: www.visitmilwaukee.org/ and www.midwestairlinescenter.com/events/2010/7/30

We look forward to seeing everyone in Milwaukee, at what promises to be an outstanding and enjoyable meeting. ■

—Leslie Heckert & Ruth Keri, Co-Chairs
2010 Program Committee

E-mail: lheckert@kumc.edu or rak5@po.cwru.edu

Trainee updates on nominations, travel awards, and Annual Meeting events

It is that time of year again when Trainee members of SSR are preparing for the upcoming Annual Meeting. We would like to alert you to a few important events that are coming up in the next few months.

We are currently collecting nominations for the 2010–12 SSR Trainee Representative. Keep an eye out for voting announcements! We encourage each of you to vote for your next Trainee Representative.

I am sure that everyone is busy putting together abstracts for our Annual Meeting. Remember to pay your dues by the abstract submission deadline so that you are eligible for support from the Larry Ewing Memorial Trainee Travel Fund. Aileen Keating will be managing the LEMTTF awards for this year's Annual Meeting. Trainees are eligible for the LEMTTF if they are current Trainee members of SSR (dues paid) at the time of the deadline for submission of abstracts (March 15), and have an abstract accepted for presentation at the Annual Meeting.

When you register for the meeting, don't forget to sign up for the Trainee-Mentor Luncheon. This luncheon is a great opportunity for Trainees to interact with Regular members of SSR and discuss research, funding, starting a laboratory, and balancing responsibilities.

The Trainee Forum at the Annual Meeting offers an excellent chance for both Trainees and Regular members to find out more about the career training and other opportunities available to Trainees. For this year's Trainee Forum, representatives from the National Postdoctoral Association (NPA) will be providing an introduction to the NPA and how becoming involved in the NPA can benefit SSR Trainees. We anticipate that Trainees and Regular members alike will learn a great deal about the programs and resources offered by the NPA. To find out more about the NPA and its goals, visit their Web site at www.nationalpostdoc.org/home.

Trainee volunteers are a critical part of making the Annual Meeting run smoothly. Dan

Poole has kindly agreed to return as chair of the Trainee Volunteer Subcommittee for the 2010 meeting, joined by Sadie Murdie as co-chair. They are looking for motivated trainees to step forward to serve their Society. Please contact Dan (dhp10@psu.edu) if you are interested in volunteering during the 2010 Annual Meeting. There are many fun opportunities for involvement to suit each individual, and you can get a free volunteer t-shirt!

In addition to the need for trainee volunteers at the Annual Meeting itself, this year provides a special chance for interested trainees to give back to our wonderful scientific Society. An exciting outreach program, held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting, has been planned for July 29 on the Marquette University campus (please see the next Newsletter item). This is an ambitious undertaking that is sure to be tremendous fun for both the trainee volunteers and the high school students who participate. We need the support of SSR trainees to make this happen! If you are interested in helping out, please contact Juanmahel Davila, Outreach Event Trainee Volunteer Coordinator, at davilo@illinois.edu.

If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, please don't hesitate to contact us at any time. We are here to serve your interests, so let your voices be heard. ■

—*Chrissy J. Cochran & Denise Archambeault*
SSR Trainee Representatives

Call for Trainee volunteers!!

Dear Trainees,

This summer, in conjunction with its 43rd Annual Meeting in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, SSR is planning an exciting outreach event targeting high school students from inner-city Milwaukee. The event—*Imagine: The Science of Reproduction and You*—will be held on the Marquette University campus on Thursday, July 29, and is being generously sponsored by The Burroughs Wellcome Fund. The day will be filled with hands-on laboratory experiences and career-advice panels. This is where we need your help! We are searching for trainee volunteers who can take part in this first-ever event! To be specific, we need trainee volunteers to:

- Lead laboratory sessions that may include harvesting DNA from wheat germ, running DNA agarose gels, examining comparative anatomy preparations of reproductive tracts, exploring microscopic samples of stem cells, sperm, oocytes, and more!
- Participate in a 30-minute discussion panel to describe your pathway to advanced study in the biological sciences. The panel will consist of five trainees from various disciplines who will speak for 2–3 minutes, and then field questions from the audience.
- Become a “Trainee Buddy.” Trainee Buddies will work with a partner to host 5–6 high school students at any SSR poster session determined by the group during the “Lunch with your Trainee Buddy” at the Outreach Day event.
- Provide logistical support for set-up/take-down, provide directions to rooms, and help serve snacks and lunch.

Please note that your participation in this event will require you to be in Milwaukee by Wednesday, July 28. In addition, to be in

compliance with risk management requirements of Marquette University, each volunteer will be asked to take a brief online training/quiz regarding dealing with minors on the Marquette campus and fill out a disclosure form dealing with minors. These documents will be distributed to those who express an interest in volunteering.

If you are interested, please contact:

Juanmahel Davila
University of Illinois
davilo@illinois.edu

Feel free to volunteer for any or all of these tasks! Let's make this a day these high school kids will never forget and help them to imagine themselves a part of our wonderful world of science exploration! ■

—John H. Nilson, President, SSR
—Juanmahel Davila, Outreach Event Trainee
Volunteer Coordinator
—Winston Thompson, Chair, Minority Affairs
Committee, Outreach Event Volunteer Coordinator
—Joan S. Jorgensen, Chair, Outreach Event

Update from the Public Affairs Committee

Introducing SSR to the community—A new public outreach event to be held at the 43rd Annual Meeting of SSR in Milwaukee.

The Public Outreach Subcommittee of the Public Affairs Committee has received permission from the President and the Board of Directors to implement a new public outreach event at SSR's Annual Meeting in Milwaukee this year. The primary goal of this event is to facilitate public engagement of SSR with the local community during the Annual Meeting. This event will provide opportunities for SSR to introduce itself to the public, to promote public awareness of the significance of the reproductive science that we conduct, and to highlight SSR's contribution to the local community via an educational outreach program.

A presentation featuring remarks from the SSR President, an NIH representative, the chair of Public Outreach Subcommittee, and a local community leader will open the program.

The educational outreach event will allow local high school students to participate in a one-day science workshop. This educational outreach program will be organized by Dr. Joan Jorgensen and the Education Outreach Subcommittee.

At the end of these presentations, a Q&A session will be open to the press and attendees. Following the event, the press and local representatives will be invited to attend the opening ceremony of the SSR Annual Meeting and mingle with SSR members.

We welcome format suggestions from the membership. Please e-mail your comments to Humphrey Yao (hhyao@illinois.edu).

Questionnaire to poll SSR members on their opinions about the Annual Meeting.

This year the previous Future Meeting Sites ad hoc committee was disbanded and the charge of that committee was rolled into the charge of the standing Public Affairs Committee. In large part, organization and planning for the sites of Annual Meetings are now handled primarily by the SSR Business Office, especially by Gwen Abramson and Judy Jansen, and this has removed a significant burden from the membership.

However, to ensure that the opinion of the SSR membership is heard regarding preferences for types of sites for our Annual Meetings, the Public Affairs Committee will be distributing a questionnaire to the membership seeking input in this regard. This questionnaire is currently being assembled and will be submitted to the SSR Board of Directors for approval before being distributed to the membership later this spring. To ensure a valid assessment of the membership's preferences, we ask that all of you take a few minutes to complete and return this questionnaire once it arrives. The common goal of all who contribute to the planning and organization of the Annual Meeting is to serve the membership, so your input is critical to this process. Thank you! ■

*—John McCarrey, Chair
SSR Public Affairs Committee*

Rollin', rollin', rollin' . . .

Notes from the Editors-in-Chief of *Biology of Reproduction*

We have been busy since beginning our mandate as Editors in July last year. As noted in early messages, the transition went smoothly, with very few glitches. We have handled more than 300 new manuscripts that have been submitted in the last 6 months. These submissions demonstrate that *BOR* is truly an international journal, as approximately two-thirds came from outside the United States. The turnaround time from submission to first decision, 26.8 days, has declined modestly from the previous 3-year average. We attribute our success to date to the enthusiastic and hardworking team of Associate Editors who respond rapidly to the assignments and to the dedicated staff at the Editorial Office who expedite the manuscripts through the review process. An important aspect of the process is the peer review, and we have been fortunate to receive, for the most part, high-quality evaluations from the reviewing community, including dedicated and timely reports from the members of the Board of Reviewing Editors.

We have introduced some new features to the journal. Commentaries have begun to appear highlighting accepted manuscripts that we, the reviewers, and the Associate Editors judge to be of elevated importance. The first can be found in the January 2010 issue where Sarah Kimmins provided comments on Ghanayem et al. (*Diet-induced obesity in male mice is associated with reduced fertility and potentiation of acrylamide-induced reproductive toxicity*. **Biol Reprod** 2009; 82: 96-104). Further commentaries are in press for the February and March issues. These highlights are intended to draw attention of the readership to high-quality manuscripts and place their impact in the context of the field, as they are published in *BOR*. We will print one to three each month, as warranted by the content of each issue.

We are continuing with the tradition of publishing minireviews in the journal. Some were in the pipeline prior to the editorial transition, and these are appearing in current and future issues. We have further commissioned a number of new reviews, most solicited by our gang of Associate

Editors. We have proposed to publish at least two reviews per issue, and we are on track to meet this goal, beginning with the March 2010 issue. The electronic table of contents of future issues will include a brief pop-up biography of the corresponding author, complete with a thumbnail picture. If you have ideas for reviews, please submit them to us. Your work will keep the journal on the cutting edge of the discipline.

Papers and other information in the journal over the last 6 months comprised 1,232 pages. While this is remarkably similar to the 1,236 pages printed in the same period in 2008, it is significantly more than similar periods in 2006 and 2007. We have no limit on the number of manuscripts to accept, and we have not established, nor do we intend to establish, any quota for the proportion of submitted manuscripts we will accept. The cardinal considerations in acceptance of a manuscript for publication are whether it presents sound science and whether it makes a significant advance in our understanding of some phenomenon or aspect of reproductive biology. Our goal is for *BOR* to be the journal that consistently publishes the best research in reproduction, and we welcome a wide range of papers. Indeed, to date we have accepted manuscripts ranging from human to invertebrate reproductive biology, and we intend to continue this policy. The SSR membership can contribute significantly to the achievement of our goal by submitting their best work for publication in *BOR*. It is remarkable that, in spite of the price differential in page charges, a substantial percentage of our manuscripts come from authors who are not members of the Society. So, you can help to maintain and continue to elevate the quality of *Biology of Reproduction*. Send us your best manuscripts. You can also help by providing feedback and suggestions on any aspect of the journal, including the content and the editorial process. It is your journal, and we look forward to your participation. ■

—Bernard Robaire & Bruce Murphy

Value-added features on the *Biology of Reproduction* Web site

Have you seen the updated *Biology of Reproduction* Web site (www.biolreprod.org/)? Not only does it display a fresh new look along with an image of the cover for the current issue of *BOR*, it has some excellent user-friendly features. A single click of your mouse will take you to *BOR Papers-in-Press*, the Current Issue, or Future Table of Contents. You also can quickly and efficiently Browse for *BOR* Articles by Issue, Category, Most Read or Most Cited, and search *BOR* for Editorials, Minireviews, or Meeting Abstracts. The column along the right side of the page contains links to Submit A Manuscript Online, Information for Authors, Information about *BOR*, and Subscriptions. Stay tuned for News and Updates from SSR and Permissions, currently under construction.

At the bottom of the column are links to **RSS Feeds** and to **Sign Up for Alerts**. What are these? RSS stands for "Really Simple Syndication" which is described on Wikipedia as "a family of web feed formats used to publish frequently updated works." There are individual **RSS Feeds** for the Current Issue of *BOR* (titles and abstracts), *BOR Papers-in-Press* (titles

and abstracts), Most Read and Most Cited articles, and articles by Subject Category. Quoting from the header on the page for the Current Issue RSS Feed, "when you subscribe to a feed, it is added to the Common Feed List. Updated information from the feed is automatically downloaded to your computer and can be viewed in Internet Explorer and other programs." There also are links to pages where you can "Learn More about Feeds" and "Subscribe to this Feed." On the **Sign Up for Alerts** page, you enter your SSR User Name and Password and your e-mail address to receive an electronic table of contents (eTOC in Geek-speak), and you will receive the Table of Contents by e-mail each time a new issue of *BOR* is published online. We encourage you to give these *BOR* Web site features a try and to consider using them regularly. ■

—Virendra Mahesh & Mitch Eddy, Co-Chairs
Publications Committee

Carrying the baton into the next decade

Happy New Year to all of you—and good riddance to the volatile Year of the Ox! What a year for the financial markets!

On March 9, 2009, the S&P 500 (the Standard and Poor's volume weighted index of the 500 largest traded stocks in the U.S.) closed at 676.53, its lowest closing point since September 12, 1996 (yes, 13 years ago!), and down 57% from its high of 1565.15 on October 9, 2007. However, by year's end, the S&P 500 had made up a lot of ground and closed at 1115.10. Despite these huge gyrations, the S&P 500 ended the year up 24%. I am sure that you have also seen a rise in your retirement accounts year over year.

During our summer Board of Directors meeting, the decision was made to delegate active management of the SSR investment portfolio to Ann Marie Etergino and her investment team at RBC (Royal Bank of Canada) Wealth Management, the eighth largest full-service investment firm in the U.S. The Etergino Group focuses on investment management to nonprofit organizations including FASEB. Ann Marie was recognized by *Barron's* magazine as one of the Top 100 Women Financial Advisors in the United States. In the fall, our investment funds were transferred from our broker, SmithBarney, to the Etergino Group. Working with Ann Marie, we balanced and diversified the SSR portfolio, thereby limiting future downside risk to our investments.

So how did the SSR investment portfolio perform in 2009 with all of the market gyrations and upheaval and our transfer to active management? As of December 31, 2009, our total investment portfolio was \$2,491,956, an increase of 27.3% from the December 31, 2008 balance of the portfolio (\$1,957,368). Thus, this brings us within ~20% of the December 31, 2007 peak for the portfolio (\$3,128,174) during Bruce Murphy's tenure. Much of the gain for 2009 should be attributed to Bruce's calm management of our investments during the rocky days of March 2009, allowing the portfolio to come back from its oversold conditions.

With Judy Jansen at the helm and Bruce's fiscal guidance, we again balanced the books in 2009 and ended in the black. As Treasurer, I am grateful to have both Judy and Bruce as mentors. I also thank the members of the Society who have continued to be generous in these hard times; the donations of the members (not yet reflected in the current portfolio numbers) will continue to allow SSR to build the endowments long-term. I am looking forward to serving SSR in 2010 and seeing all of you at our exciting Annual Meeting in Milwaukee. With such great members, I am confident that our Society will roar financially and intellectually in 2010, the Year of the Tiger! ■

—Martin Matzuk

From the FASEB Office of Public Affairs—

FASEB focuses on federal funding and animal research issues in the new year

As we begin the new decade, FASEB is already working on a number of legislative issues and new initiatives for the upcoming year.

Federal funding: On January 28, FASEB President Mark O. Lively, Ph.D., presided over the unveiling of FASEB's annual report, *Federal Funding for Biomedical and Related Life Sciences Research, FY2011*. Developed through consultation with FASEB's 23 member societies and scientific experts, this report makes the case for sustainable funding for five federal science agencies: NIH; NSF; DOE's Office of Science; VA's medical research program; and USDA's Agriculture and Food Research Initiative. The annual report, which serves as the basis for FASEB's research funding advocacy efforts for the next fiscal year, will be distributed to federal lawmakers, health-research officials in the administration, and the research community. It is also available online at: www.faseb.org/Policy-and-Government-Affairs/Publications.aspx. The following is a summary of FASEB's recommendations for FY2011:

National Institutes of Health (NIH): \$37 billion

National Science Foundations (NSF): \$7.68 billion

Department of Energy (DOE), Office of Science: \$5.24 billion

Department of Veterans Affairs (VA): \$1 billion, including \$700 million for research and \$300 million for infrastructure

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agriculture and Food Research Initiative: \$500 million

Animal research issues: The Great Ape Protection Act (GAPA) remains FASEB's legislative priority for the new session of Congress. This bill seeks to end the use of chimpanzees in biomedical and zoological research and has rapidly gained co-sponsors in the House. While no companion bill has been introduced in the Senate, the legislation has received strong backing from groups such as the Humane Society of

the United States. FASEB and other groups in the research community are greatly concerned about the effects passage of this bill would have on ongoing research on diseases such as hepatitis, as well as veterinary research designed to benefit great apes themselves, and have sent letters to all members of the House in opposition to GAPA. We would encourage scientists to contact their representatives on this issue as well; if you would like to take action, please visit www.faseb.org/Policy-and-Government-Affairs.aspx. FASEB has also released, in conjunction with the Society for Neuroscience and the National Association for Biomedical Research, *Responding to FOIA Requests: Facts and Resources*. This document provides information to scientists and institutions on minimizing the risk of requests for information under FOIA or state open records laws being misused by animal research activists seeking to harm researchers or laboratories. The document can be found at our Web site: www.faseb.org/Policy-and-Government-Affairs/Science-Policy-Issues/Animals-in-Research-and-Education.aspx

New advocacy and educational products: In a continuing effort to educate policymakers and the public on the importance of biomedical research to medical advances, FASEB has published a new edition in our *Breakthroughs in Bioscience* series, titled "Magic Bullets and Monoclonals: An Antibody Tale," which details the basic science breakthroughs leading to today's cutting-edge monoclonal antibody therapies. FASEB has also launched a companion series, called *Horizons in Bioscience*. This is a series of one-page, illustrated articles featuring science which is on the brink of clinical application. The first edition in the series is on oncofertility and features SSR member Dr. Theresa Woodruff. To view these publications or request copies, please visit: www2.faseb.org/Policy-and-Government-Affairs/Publications.aspx. ■

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

Emeritus Committee activities

SSR's 43rd Annual Meeting will be held July 30–August 3 in Milwaukee. As in previous years, the Emeritus Committee will sponsor an Emeritus/Senior Breakfast.

This year's program will honor Jack Gorski, who, during his lifetime, made numerous contributions to the field of reproductive biology and training, especially as regards the discovery and characterization of the estrogen receptor. Fred Stormshak, who was a close friend of Jack's, will make the presentation.

Other persons nominated by the Emeritus Committee to receive this honor were Harold Behrman, Anita Payne, and Robert Ryan.

The Emeritus Committee continues to invite Emeritus members to submit summaries of their activities in retirement, but replies to these requests have been few. Those of you who wish to participate in this program please send your summaries by e-mail to John Resko <reskojm@verizon.net>.

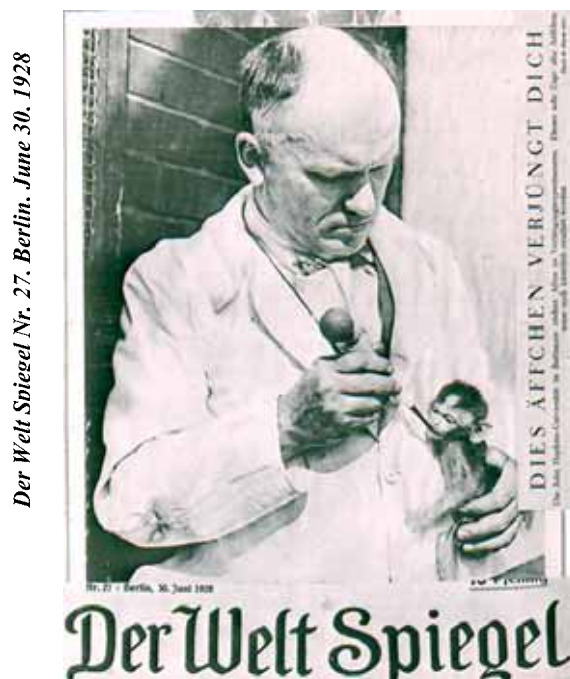
In this report we present interesting recollections by Harold Hafs of a visit by Carl Hartman to Michigan State University when Hartman was 83 years old and Hafs a junior assistant professor.

A conversation with Carl Hartman, by Harold Hafs

In 1965, Carl Hartman—then 83 years old—presented a seminar in the Physiology Department. His topic, Primate Reproduction, dominated his research for most of the previous 30 years. But in an informal gathering later that day, I came to understand the great breadth of his expertise as he articulated his studies on the opossum and described his interactions with other pioneers in the reproduction sciences such as Allen, Corner, Evans, Hisaw, Long, Loeb, Papanicolaou, and Stockard.

The following day Ken Kirton and I were scheduled to fly from Lansing for a symposium at Vanderbilt University. Finding Hartman making arrangements for the same flight, luckily, we arranged three seats with Hartman captive in the middle. Hartman's quiet demeanor immediately made both Ken and me comfortable. Probed for more details of his

opossum research, enthusiastically he elaborated on discussions from the previous afternoon, relating with amazing details his laboratory observations. Over four decades after the fact, he became visibly excited as he relived his discoveries. Obviously amused by our inquiry about how he obtained the opossums for his research, Hartman described



how he trapped his experimental subjects and explained that he himself provided for their care. When we asked about one of his publications, he seemed annoyed when he was unable to remember the citation. Recalling the citation later during the meeting, he sought me out to complete the record.

Hartman's publications on the opossum are examples of the best descriptive biology. He must have understood that he was uniformly and widely respected for his pioneering research. Nevertheless, his unassuming demeanor made Ken and me feel like old friends. ■

—John Resko, Chair
Emeritus Committee

New members

Regular

Kayla J. Bayless
David E. Mold
Mahipal Singh
Dagmar Wilhelm
Ping Ye

Associate

Farooq Kazi
Robert Saad

Trainee

M. D. Almamun
Kirsten S. Eckstrum
Maya Finkelstein

Yael Galdety
Eldin Jasarevic
Sulochana
 Krishnakumar
Kelly E. Pollock
Hong Qian
Katherine M. Robbins
Habib Allah Shojaei
 Saadi
Paizlee T. Sieli
Fangjie Tang
Jessica A. Tourangeau
Huyen Van Doan
Julie Watts
Xin Wu
Fei Zhao

Change of status

To Regular:

Donna Baird
Kathrin Dunlap
Kevin Eggan
Kembra L. Howdeshell
Pengpeng Ma
Osman Valli Patel
M. Carey Satterfield
Aritro Sen
Finn-Arne Weltzien
Brian D. Whitaker

To Associate:

Anat Bahat
Theodore R. Chauvin
Chrissy J. Cochran
Thomas Jensen
Masanori Narahara

Report from the Membership Committee

Renewal of membership is lagging. Below are the data showing our current overall membership at the beginning of the 2010 calendar year. As you can see, a number of our members in all categories have not yet renewed their memberships. This trend is the same regardless of geographic region. If you are a part of this group and intend to renew your membership but have not taken action, please make a resolution to do it today.

Another reminder. Because of the holidays, the end of the calendar year is usually a busy time for everyone; this is especially true for those of us in academia, who also deal with final grades and winter commencement during this period. However, with the start of a new year (and possibly a new semester or quarter), now is the time to renew your membership if you have not yet done so. The renewal process is quick and easy; it can be done online in just a few minutes. Additionally, Regular members can now renew their membership for up to 3 years at the 2010 membership rate (contact the SSR Business Office for a customized membership renewal form). Also Regular and Associate members residing in developing countries (consult the list of developing countries on the SSR Web site) are entitled to a 50% discount on membership dues.

Recruiting new trainee members. Everyone in our Society should promote trainee membership and actively recruit students and postdoctoral fellows to join SSR. Because SSR is a student-friendly scientific society, the advantages of membership to trainees are numerous and have been clearly delineated in an earlier Newsletter. One of the major events of SSR is

the Annual Meeting; this event provides trainees with the opportunity to develop their organizational and communication skills and is a wonderful venue to present data, to exchange ideas, and to begin developing a network of colleagues, an important part of a career in science. Mentors should encourage their trainees to join SSR and to participate in the Society's activities.

Transitioning from Trainee membership to Regular membership. All former Trainee members who have fulfilled the requirements for Regular membership should carefully consider making the transition. Transitioning to Regular membership and keeping your membership current is important to maintain and nurture the social and scientific contacts that were developed as a Trainee member of SSR.

Dr. Bahr's leadership. I have served as a member of the SSR Membership Committee for a number of years. During that time, Janice Bahr has been the chair. I want to thank her for her time, energy, and commitment to the growth of the membership of our Society during her tenure.

Viewpoints requested. The evolution and growth of our Society is a function of all members. Please send your comments to me on how we can expand our membership. ■

—Joe Cloud, Chair
Membership Committee
E-mail: jcloud@uidaho.edu

Type	Current Members	New Members	Renewed Members	Not Renewed
Regular	1,058	3	1,055	426
Associate	122	1	121	117
Emeritus	132	0	132	27
Trainee	168	15	153	630
TOTAL	1,480	19	1,461	1,200

Endowment Subcommittee report

The generosity of the membership toward its Society is one of the most impressive demonstrations of how much you value SSR. In 2009 the endowment fund increased by \$140,754.

The largest single gift was the establishment of the Anita Payne Endowment Fund on behalf of her son and daughter (Gregory Payne and Teresa Payne-Lyons) for \$100,000. The fund has two purposes. First, it supports a plenary lecture at the Annual Meeting by a new investigator who is breaking new ground in her/his research. Second, it provides a Trainee member of the Society support to participate in Frontiers in Reproduction or similar training course. The fund continues the SSR tradition of assisting new investigators. The Society's emphasis on its next generation of scientists is probably one of

the main reasons that the SSR membership continues to support the Society so strongly.

The membership also contributed another \$40,754 to its various endowments. This is a commitment of which we should be proud. We ask that this generosity be continued.

A major challenge we have as a society is to work on other ways to increase our endowments to ensure strength in the future. The Endowment Subcommittee is crafting two proposals to increase these funds through venues other than membership donations. As these mechanisms gain approval from the Board of Directors, we will inform you how you can use them to help increase the Society's endowments.

We thank you for your continued support. ■

—*W. Steven Ward, Chair
Endowment Subcommittee
SSR Development Committee*
E-mail: wward@hawaii.edu

Donors to SSR

The Society gratefully acknowledges these contributors to the Endowment Fund, the Legacy Fund, the New Investigator Fund, and the Larry Ewing Memorial Trainee Travel Fund during 2009.

Diamond: >= \$10,000

Virendra B. Mahesh

Gold: \$2,500-\$4,999

Richard L. Stouffer

Silver: \$1,000-\$2,499

Fuller W. Bazer
Mitch Eddy
Patricia A. Hunt
Richard M. Schultz
Ryuzo Yanagimachi
Koji Yoshinaga

Bronze: \$250-\$999

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R. Michael Roberts
Thomas E. Spencer
Douglas M. Stocco
Bayard T. Storey
Fredrick Stormshak
Carmen J. Williams

Contributor: \$1-\$249

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Janice M. Bahr
Janice L. Bailey
David M. Baldwin
Andrzej Bartke
Frank F. Bartol
James G. Berardinelli
Trish Berger
Heather . Billings
Robert Belloch
Olga U. Bolden-Tiller
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News from the Reproductive Sciences Branch, NICHD

Alan Guttmacher named Acting Director of NICHD. Dr. Alan Guttmacher became the new Acting Director of the *Eunice Kennedy Shriver NICHD* on December 1, replacing Dr. Susan Shurin. As many of you know, Dr. Shurin, Deputy Director of the NHLBI, replaced the long-time Director of the NICHD, Dr. Duane Alexander on October 1. Dr. Shurin returned to NHLBI to become Acting Director following the departure of its Director, Dr. Elizabeth Nabel, who took the position of President of Brigham and Women's/Faulkner Hospitals in Boston.

Dr. Guttmacher is former Acting Director of the National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI) and its Deputy Director. Dr. Guttmacher is a pediatrician and medical geneticist. We look forward to Dr. Guttmacher's leadership during this transition period. A search committee for the new NICHD Director has been formed.

Stimulus funds a boon to reproductive sciences community. FY 2009 saw an unprecedented infusion of funds into the research community thanks to funds provided through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. Unofficial estimates of the amount of funds provided to investigators through the Reproductive Sciences Branch totaled approximately \$60 million dollars over 2 years! This included funds for peer-reviewed unsolicited grant applications whose percentile rankings fell beyond the payline (e.g., 2-year R01, R03, R21 grants), administrative supplements to existing grants for research and summer internships, and grants solicited through Request for Applications such as the Challenge and Grand Opportunity grant programs. I would like to take this opportunity to applaud the RSB staff for the superb job they did in handling the additional workload, and ensuring that the ARRA funds are

servicing a cross section of important research needs in reproductive health.

Peer review changes in full swing. By the time you read this, the finishing touches on several years of changes in the NIH Peer Review system will be in place. As reported in the October issue of the Newsletter, changes in the format and page lengths of applications will begin with the January 25, 2010 receipt dates. Also, new PHS 398 forms have been approved for use with the 2010 applications. Please visit the Enhancing Peer Review link on the NIH Web site (enhancing-peer-review.nih.gov/index.html) for updated information on the changes.

Thirteen new human embryonic stem cell lines approved by NIH. In response to President Obama's Executive Order of March 9, 2009, NIH established a rigorous system for review of human embryonic stem cell lines (hESC) under the NIH Guidelines for Human Stem Cell Research published July 7, 2009. Old NIH-approved lines and newly established lines are eligible for review. On December 2, 2009, Dr. Francis Collins, NIH Director, announced that NIH has approved the first 13 new hESC lines. There are over 350 additional lines currently either pending review or that have begun the submission process, and a number of these are disease-specific lines such as muscular dystrophy, Huntington's Disease, and cystic fibrosis. Please see stemcells.nih.gov/index.asp and the NIH press release at www.nih.gov/news/health/dec2009/od-02.htm. ■

—*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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