



SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF REPRODUCTION

Newsletter

Volume 27, Number 3

October 2010

From the President—

SSR is your Society—“Read all about it!”

The fall 2010 SSR Newsletter is chock full of information from our committee chairs and editors. As you go about your active professional and family lives, these folks—along with the Board of Directors, Judy Jansen, and her staff—are working behind the scenes on the many components of SSR that keep our Society vibrant. There is a whole lot of innovation going on in SSR. Read all about it!

Once a year we step away from our busy lives to attend the Annual Meeting, a time to commune, relax, and refill our inspiration cups. Next year you will enjoy a particularly mind-expanding theme, *Reproduction and the World's Future*. Come and learn how reproductive sciences research, in its many dimensions and manifestations, is influencing, benefiting, and sustaining humankind. I know many of you will also contribute to our innovative science outreach events with local schools and the public. I look forward to seeing you all there and to making our meeting more accessible to our international colleagues who may not be able to be there in person. Technology and social networking can shrink the world for us all.

Once a month you have a chance to share your research and read about that of your colleagues in *Biology of Reproduction*. The Publications Committee and the editors are bringing new possibilities to life by making publishing easier, “affordable,” and more effective, and by adding features that synthesize information and enlarge upon our rich history and traditions. All this for a click of the mouse!

Here is a link to the recent President’s State of the Society message in case you have not had a chance to read it: <www.ssr.org/10StateOfSociety.shtml>. It provides additional information about the resources needed to sustain our Society, the most important of which is YOU. We count on you to contribute your time, your talents, and your enduring support.

As the year progresses, look for regular updates on SSR events, the Annual Meeting, and committee activities at www.ssr.org. As our trainees set the pace for innovative communications, we are exploring social networking options for enhancing interactions among our members and sharing information. Of near-term importance, fall is the time to renew your membership, vote on changes to the Bylaws, and nominate your colleagues for SSR awards and for leadership positions on the Board of Directors. Most important, gather your data for the abstract deadline, February 15, 2011.

I’ll end with special thanks to our Newsletter Editor Andrea Cupp and all those who have contributed these lively and informative articles.

And remember: *The Vision of the Society for the Study of Reproduction is to be the international leader in promoting the integration of basic, applied and translational reproductive biology research and interdisciplinary communication; and be the society of choice for membership by reproductive biologists around the world.*

—SSR Strategic Plan 2009
(www.ssr.org/Documents/2010-02-26StratPlan09.pdf).

—Sally Perreault Darney

Participate in SSR by becoming involved in a committee

SSR is a thriving, dynamic society because of the many members who contributed to its creation, and the many more who have helped to ensure its growth and ability to serve the needs of our membership. SSR committees have a widely diverse range of responsibilities, and there is undoubtedly a committee to suit everyone's interests. If you want to have input into the content of future meetings, why not consider joining the Program Committee? Are you an international member who wants to help other international members feel welcome to SSR? Join the Membership Committee! Do you want to help ensure that the Society is financially secure for years to come? Join the Development

Committee! A full listing of committees and their mandates can be found on the SSR Web site (www.ssr.org). I encourage those of you who have not yet served on a committee to take this opportunity to volunteer now to join a committee in 2011. If you have just completed a term on a committee, why not try a different one? Please let me know which committees interest you at bvanderhyden@ohri.ca. I look forward to working with you and welcome your feedback.

Thanks! ■

—Barb Vanderhyden
President-Elect

Program Committee reports on plans for 2011 Annual Meeting

The Program Committee is busy planning SSR's 44th Annual Meeting, which will be at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland from July 31 to August 4, 2011. The theme of the upcoming meeting will be *Reproduction and the World's Future*. The President's Symposium will focus on this theme. For example, Dr. Laneta Dorflinger from Family Health International will present broad perspectives on novel approaches to contraception, global trends and success stories for delivery of family planning services, socio-economic challenges, and research needs. President Sally Perreault Darney is in the process of selecting two additional speakers for this symposium.

In addition, the Program Committee has selected two outstanding plenary speakers whose talks are expressive of the meeting's theme. Dr. Marissa Bartolomei, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, will present a State-of-the-Art Lecture titled "Epigenetic Regulation of Genomic Imprinting." Dr. Amander Clark, University of California, Los Angeles, will present the first Anita Payne New Perspectives on Reproductive Biology

Lecture titled "The Next Frontier for Pluripotent Stem Cell Research in Reproductive Biology."

The Program Committee is also working on developing 15 minisymposia on a broad range of topics across reproductive sciences with the aim of presenting both innovative science and translational opportunities. We thank SSR members for submitting more than 90 suggestions. We have merged and compiled these suggestions for final scoring and selection by the Program Committee. We plan to select exciting topics and outstanding speakers to provide a balanced and comprehensive view of reproductive biology.

Finally, we are excited about the upcoming meeting and believe that the program will contain exceptional presentations of great interest to the Society. We hope that you will attend the 2011 meeting. Portland is a beautiful city! The deadline for abstract submission is February 15, 2011. ■

—Jodi Flaws, Chair
2011 Program Committee
E-mail: jflaws@illinois.edu

Minutes of SSR's 2010 Business Meeting

The annual Business Meeting of the Society for the Study of Reproduction was called to order by President John Nilson at 11:46 a.m., August 3, 2010. Approximately 175 members were in attendance.

Dr. Nilson asked if there were any additions or corrections to the Minutes of the 2009 Business Meeting, as distributed at the 2010 Business Meeting. No additions or corrections were requested.

Dr. John McCarrey moved to approve the Minutes of the 2009 Business Meeting. Dr. Susan Suarez seconded. The motion passed by voice vote.

Dr. Nilson recognized the following individuals and presented them with plaques on behalf of the Society:

Dr. Joan Jorgensen, from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, created and organized an SSR Science Outreach Day for middle and high school students, parents, and affiliated educators in Milwaukee that occurred at Marquette University just prior to the 2010 Annual Meeting. The event received generous support from the Burroughs Wellcome Fund. Dr. Jorgensen will lend her expertise to organizers of a similar outreach event planned for the 2011 Annual Meeting.

Dr. Elizabeth McGee, Virginia Commonwealth University, facilitated the accreditation for Continuing Medical Education at the 2010 Annual Meeting, with the help of Dr. Shannon Hawkins, Baylor College of Medicine, and SSR Board liaison Dr. Thomas Curry.

Dr. Stephen Downs, Chair of the Local Arrangements Committee, went above and beyond what was necessary for the post; in addition to "Musings on Milwaukee" and a personalized guide to Milwaukee restaurants, Dr. Downs arranged for performances by jazz and polka bands and folk dancing during social events on the final evening of the Annual Meeting.

Dr. Daniel Poole served as Co-Chair of the Trainee Volunteer Subcommittee (TVS), organizing the efforts of 71 trainee volunteers at

the 2010 Annual Meeting. Dr. Poole had also served as Co-Chair for the 2009 Annual Meeting and will be passing the role to current Co-Chair Sadie Murdie and others for 2011.

Drs. Ruth Ann Keri and Leslie Heckert, Co-Chairs of the 2010 Program Committee, were thanked for organizing a great program with depth and breadth of content.

Dr. Nilson thanked the many individuals and groups that worked to make the Annual Meeting a success, including the organizers of the Historical Perspectives Lecture, the Trainee Volunteers, the Awards Committee, session chairs, abstract reviewers, and the staff of the SSR Business Office.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Martin Matzuk thanked Dr. Bruce Murphy, former SSR Treasurer, and the staff of the SSR Business Office for mentoring him as new Treasurer. He thanked Dr. Nilson for his excellent job in leading the SSR Board of Directors. Dr. Matzuk summarized the status of the SSR investment portfolio and endowment funds. He noted that the recent SSR Strategic Plan states the importance of donations to the health of the Society. The goal is to have funds of \$3.6 million in reserve, the equivalent of approximately twice the yearly operating budget. A new initiative to increase funds for SSR was discussed at the Past Presidents' Breakfast held during the Annual Meeting; the membership of the Society should be hearing more about this over the next year. Dr. Matzuk summarized revenue and losses in the budget categories of Publications and Membership. He noted that although the overall budget for SSR is in good shape at this point, there has been a disconcerting drop in the number of Regular and Associate Members. The Board of Directors has charged the Membership Committee to develop innovative strategies to reverse this trend, with a goal to increase membership by 50%. Members of the Society are

invited to forward ideas for increasing membership and funding.

Dr. Bruce Murphy moved to accept the Treasurer's report. Dr. Janice Bahr seconded. The motion passed by voice vote.

Editors-in-Chief of *Biology of Reproduction*:

Dr. Bernard Robaire presented the report for himself and Dr. Bruce Murphy, Editors-in-Chief of *BOR* for the past year. He reported that the 12 individuals who have served as Associate Editors over the past year have been wonderful and that all had accepted the invitation to serve an additional year. Dr. Robaire thanked the editorial staff in Madison for its excellent support, which makes running *BOR* possible. He reported a decrease in the number of manuscripts submitted for publication in *BOR*, but emphasized that the overall quality of papers was very high. He encouraged members of the Society to submit their best work for publication in *BOR*. Dr. Robaire explained that editorial team had initiated publication of one commentary per issue, with the objective of increasing this number. In addition, there is interest in increasing the number of minireviews published from one to two per issue. A new plan is to include highlights on pioneers in reproductive biology at the rate of one to two papers per volume. There will be initiatives to make the Journal more attractive and useful for networking and to facilitate keeping up with the newest developments in reproductive biology. The editorial goal is to publish the best papers, with no limitation placed on number of papers accepted for publication or the species of focus.

Dr. Nilson thanked the Editors-in-Chief for their creative stewardship of *BOR* and for promoting the high level of scholarship represented in the Journal.

Dr. Janice Bahr moved to accept the report of the Editors-in-Chief of BOR. Dr. John McCarrey seconded. The motion passed by voice vote.

Publications Committee: Dr. Mitch Eddy reported for himself and Dr. Virendra Mahesh, Co-Chairs of the Publications Committee. Dr. Eddy explained that the role of the committee is

to make recommendations for consideration and vote by the SSR Board of Directors. It had been a busy year in which the Publications Committee helped to obtain Board approval of a Facebook site initiated by the Minority Affairs Committee and facilitated initiation of an electronic Placement Service by the Trainee Affairs Committee. A primary goal is to move *BOR* and the Society to a more interactive format; ideas from the membership on how the Publications Committee might facilitate this are welcome.

Dr. Neena Schwartz moved to accept the report of the Publications Committee. Dr. Susan Suarez seconded. The motion passed by voice vote.

Trainee Affairs: Dr. Denise Archambeault presented the report for herself and co-representative for Trainee Affairs, Dr. Chrissy Cochran. She extended congratulations to Dr. Peter Hansen for receiving the 2010 SSR Trainee Mentoring Award. She noted that the Trainee Forum at the Annual Meeting had been successful, and she extended thanks to the speakers, Cathee Johnson-Phillips (Executive Director, National Postdoctoral Association) and Dr. Philip Clifford (Associate Dean, Medical College of Wisconsin). She thanked the staff of the SSR Business Office for their help throughout the past year. She extended thanks to the following groups of individuals for facilitating the work of the Trainees on the Annual Meeting: Daniel Poole and Sadie Murdie, who co-chaired the Trainee Volunteer Committee; Aileen Keating, who coordinated the 2010 Larry Ewing Memorial Trainee Travel Fund; Kristen Happ-Molitoris, who designed the T-shirts, and Jackie Atkins, who organized T-shirt production; Carolina Gillio Meina, who organized the roommate referral service; Chrissy Cochran, who served as Trainee representative for the last two years and who organized the new online Placement Service; and FASEB, for its continued support of trainee activities. Dr. Archambeault introduced incoming Trainee Representative Tracy Clement.

Dr. Janice Evans moved to accept the report of the Trainee Affairs Committee. Dr. Fuller Bazer seconded. The motion passed by voice vote.

Bylaws Committee: Dr. Michael Wolfe reviewed six proposed amendments to the SSR Bylaws and the rationale for each, referring to a brief printed summary provided to each attendee at the Business Meeting. He then invited questions and discussion from the membership.

Dr. Perreault Darney commented that there had been discussion about changing the name of the Emeritus Committee to the Heritage Committee in order to reflect the expanding role of this committee in maintaining the history of the Society. Dr. Wolfe said that Amendment 1 would be clarified to reflect the suggested change in name. Dr. Neena Schwartz then requested, as a member of the Emeritus Committee, to formally propose this name change. Dr. Nilson confirmed that this requested change would be included in the wording of the amendment.

Dr. Janice Bahr moved to accept the report of the Bylaws Committee. Dr. Jerry Kidder seconded. The motion passed by voice vote.

Awards Committee: Dr. Kwan Hee Kim, Chair of the Awards Committee, thanked the membership for their attendance at the Trainee Research Competition and complimented the finalists on the quality of their research and presentations. She noted that choosing the top three finalists in each of the poster and platform presentation categories was extremely difficult for the judges. She thanked EMD Serono Research Institute for sponsorship of the Trainee Research Awards. The six finalists in each of the Poster and Platform presentation categories were introduced and invited to the podium, and the third-, second-, and first-place winners were announced. *(Please see details of winners in Trainee and Junior Faculty Awards report on page 11.)*

Dr. Kim encouraged members to nominate their colleagues for the various SSR awards and reminded them that the deadline for receipt of nominations is December 1, 2010.

Dr. John McCarrey moved to accept the report of the Awards Committee. Dr. Mary Hunzicker-Dunn seconded. The motion passed by voice vote.

Membership Committee: Dr. Kate Loveland reported for the Chair of the Membership

Committee, Dr. Joe Cloud. She reported that the membership is declining in numbers and that the challenge of their committee is to maintain the size of the membership and to insure provision of desirable features and services. She said that the membership seems to be narrowing and the committee has discussed how to re-embrace the animal scientists and comparative biologists, groups that represented areas of previous strength in the Society. One idea is to encourage organization of symposia that will attract these groups. She explained the need to encourage Trainees to become Regular members in the future. A suggestion is to increase the number of mentors participating at the Trainee-Mentor Luncheon and to promote development of relationships beyond the brief lunch meeting. Other suggested approaches include simplifying application for Regular membership in SSR and continually stressing and demonstrating that the benefits of membership are worth the cost. It is hoped that there will be no increases in the cost of membership.

Dr. Loveland asked for a moment of silence in memory of three members of the Society who had passed away in the last year: Sheldon J. Segal, Ph.D., The Population Council, Rockefeller University, Charter member of SSR, died 17 October 2009; T.Y. Tanabe, Ph.D., Penn State University, died 27 May 2010; and Gordon L. Woods, D.V.M., Ph.D., Colorado State University, died 20 August 2009.

Dr. Loveland reported that 39% of SSR members are international, (i.e., residing outside the United States) but that a smaller proportion of international members participate on SSR committees and on the Board of Directors. There is currently an attempt to increase involvement of international members of the Society and an International Relations Subcommittee of the Membership Committee has been formed to facilitate this. There is a perception that the cost of membership for international scientists is high relative to the benefits; therefore, reminders of the benefits are necessary. It is believed that increased participation in the workings of the Society is likely to generate “positive feedback loops”—

greater participation in the Society is likely to lead to longer-term members. The Membership Committee is investigating the possibility that videotapes of presentations at the Annual Meeting might be made available for downloading by members of the Society at a nominal cost, an initiative that might be particularly attractive to international members. The committee is in favor of encouraging the use of videoconferencing to allow interactions among committee members across international boundaries. Another initiative under discussion is development of an international travel partnership award in which the cost of travel by a trainee is shared by SSR and a cooperating international society; this would be a means of promoting attendance at SSR meetings by gifted scientists. It is acknowledged that it is sometimes uncomfortably expensive to cover the cost for students to attend SSR meetings and that the concept of holding SSR meetings outside of North America could be considered. It was noted that the World Congress of Reproductive Biology had made some contribution to addressing this problem.

Dr. Janice Bahr commented that membership dues to individuals from developing countries, as identified by the World Bank, had been reduced by 50%.

Dr. Mitch Eddy moved to accept the report of the Membership Committee. Dr. Bernard Robaire seconded. The motion passed by voice vote.

Nominating Committee: Dr. Mary Hunzicker-Dunn, Chair of the Nominating Committee, reported that 52% of members of the Society voted in the most recent election for officers and Directors. Newly elected individuals are: Dr. Barbara Vanderhyden, President-Elect; Dr. Robert Burghardt, Secretary; and Dr. Blanche Capel and Dr. John McCarrey, Directors. Dr. Hunzicker-Dunn encouraged members to be active in the Society and to make nominations. Dr. Perreault Darney commented that it would be advantageous to have the proposed changes in the Bylaws acted upon in time to initiate any changes relevant to the upcoming cycle of nominations. In addition, it would be

advantageous to implement any changes in requirements for membership before the new membership year begins.

Dr. Mitch Eddy moved to accept the report of the Nominating Committee. Dr. Susan Suarez seconded. The motion passed by voice vote.

Old Business: Dr. Nilson made some remarks before installing Dr. Perreault Darney as President. He recognized officers retiring from the Board of Directors and Executive Committee and presented each with a plaque on behalf of the Society: Dr. Asgi Fazleabas, Past President; Dr. Susan Quirk, Secretary; Dr. Janice Bailey and Dr. Janice Evans, Directors; and Dr. Chrissy Cochran, Trainee Representative. He presented a plaque to Dr. Sally Perreault Darney for her service as President-Elect. Dr. Nilson said that it had been a privilege and an honor to serve as President of the Society and that it would not have been possible without members who had voted him into office and had given him this opportunity. He thanked his parents for their momentary interest in reproduction at a seminal moment. He commented that the Society has had a historical focus on support of trainees and that this would continue. He acknowledged the superb mentoring he had received during his presidency from Dr. Asgi Fazleabas and Dr. Doug Stocco, and he thanked members of the Board of Directors for making his term enjoyable. He noted that Judy Jansen and her staff in the SSR Business Office provide the institutional memory for the Society.

New Business: Dr. Sally Perreault Darney acknowledged how much Dr. Nilson had already mentored her for the role of President. She commented that one could see from Dr. Nilson's remarks that service to the Society is a wonderful chance to make friends and to work with dedicated individuals. She noted that Dr. Nilson's upbeat, can-do attitude and work on the structuring of SSR committees had benefitted the Society. At this point, Dr. Nilson bestowed Dr. Perreault Darney with the SSR gavel, used to symbolize installation of the new President. Dr. Perreault Darney explained that her work with

the Environmental Protection Agency emphasizes sustainability and that she hopes to extend this focus for the Society. This will include determining the needs of the membership and meeting them, as well as through outreach. A main avenue for these efforts is through the Society's journal, *BOR*. She explained that there are great ideas for transformations in the Journal that will significantly increase its impact. These will include adopting a fully electronic format as well as other changes to be announced in the upcoming President's letter to members of the Society. The overall goals are to enhance the value of the Journal and to increase membership in the Society.

Dr. Jodie Flaws, Chair of the Program Committee for the 2011 Annual Meeting,

reported that her committee, consisting of a large group of talented individuals, had already been working on the program. The theme of the meeting is *Reproduction and the World's Future*. Her committee will be discussing potential topics for symposia and speakers and suggestions from the membership were encouraged.

Dr. Janice Bahr moved to adjourn the Business Meeting. Dr. Susan Suarez seconded. The motion passed by voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:52 p.m. ■

*—Respectfully submitted,
Susan Quirk
Secretary*

Editors-in-Chief report changes to Journal

We are now well into our second year as Editors-in-Chief of *Biology of Reproduction*. During the first year of our tenure, we handled 613 new submissions; 246 manuscripts were printed in Volumes 81 and 82, comprising 1232 and 1236 pages, respectively. Since the onset of our editorship, our policy has been that there are no upper or lower limits on the proportion of submitted manuscripts to be judged acceptable. The rates of acceptance from July 2009 to this writing are 44.5%, not different from the preceding 2-year period, from July 2007 to June 2009, when the rate was 45%.

We have made some changes in content over the last year; most significantly, we have added commentaries beginning with Volume 82. These commissioned texts are designed to explain the nature of advances that we, the Associate Editors, or the reviewers, have flagged as particularly innovative and interesting. To date, each issue of Volume 82 has contained a single commentary. Our goal is to commission and publish two per issue, and therefore we are emphasizing identification of articles worthy of commentaries to the Associate Editors and to the reviewers. In addition to commentaries, occasional editorials have been published with opinions on current events in science and reproductive biology. An interesting editorial highlighting the 50th anniversary of oral contraceptives, contributed by John McCracken, is currently in press. We expect to increase the frequency of these over the next year.

We have further increased the number of minireviews published in the Journal, with a goal of two per issue. To meet this goal, we have asked each Associate Editor to identify and invite two minireviews per year. This policy has resulted in a quality minireview in each issue since we have taken over as Editors-in-Chief. We need to continue to develop our pipeline of proposed reviews to ensure that there continues to be relevant, informative, and novel

minireviews. Toward this goal, we would appreciate receiving suggestions from all members of the Society. We have also made a few changes in the table of contents that is published on the internet, to include biographical sketches of authors of minireviews. We hope that this will aid in attracting authors.

We found the performance of our 12 Associate Editors to be consistent, rigorous and fair in their assignment of reviewers, their evaluation of reviews, and their recommendations; we are very pleased that all have agreed to continue for 2010–2011. Members for the Board of Reviewing Editors (i.e., the editorial board) were proposed by the Associate Editors and Editors-in-Chief, with the caveat that they undertake at least one timely review per month, if asked. Those who met this criterion were renewed for a second year, and new members were added, based on editors' suggestions and the spread of topics in submitted manuscripts.

A disturbing trend has been noted in the reduced number of submitted manuscripts, down by approximately 18% for 2009–2010 compared to 2008–2009. The first 3 months of 2010–2011 indicate that although lower, the submission rate is stable at approximately 50 manuscripts per month. Reduced submissions from US scientists account for the majority of the decline (down from 285 in 2008–2009 to 182 in 2009–2010), while submissions from Europe were stable (132 vs. 138). The reasons for the decline in submissions are unclear, but an informal poll of other editors revealed, for example, that *Endocrinology* has experienced a similar decline (16%) over the same period.

Two major decisions were made at this summer's Board of Directors meeting that have a major impact on the Journal. The first is that *Biology of Reproduction* will become an online-only journal as of January 1, 2011. The second is the elimination of page and color charges, if the submitting author is a member in good standing

of SSR. Furthermore, the all-inclusive fee for members to have their articles be Open Access has been reduced from \$3,000 to \$1,800. We believe that these are transformative changes for *Biology of Reproduction*, rendering submission to the Journal more financially attractive.

Over the coming months, we plan on adding two regular features to our Journal. We will have autobiographies/biographies of pioneers in the field of reproduction, explaining how they developed their ideas, how their careers evolved, and how the scientific community is in constant flux; these biographies not only will provide a historical record from our leaders but also will serve as examples for the coming generations of reproductive biologists. We plan to have one or two such biographies per volume. Although we believe that many of the leading articles in our field are published in our Journal, we do realize that there are a number of articles that are highly relevant to our community published in other scientific journals. Consequently, we plan to develop “The World of Reproductive Biology,” a

feature that will highlight ground-breaking articles soon after publication; these short capsules (100–200 words) will be made readily available online to all members and will be collected each month as a feature of *Biology of Reproduction*. Finally, we plan to revamp the manuscript submission process in an attempt to make it easier for authors to submit their articles. In conjunction with HighWire, we plan to release an application that will keep *Biology of Reproduction* accessible on your iPhone and iPad.

We always welcome suggestions from Society members as to how we can further improve the quality and scope of our Journal. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any recommendation you may have for the Journal. ■

—Bernard Robaire and Bruce Murphy
Co Editors-in-Chief
Biology of Reproduction
E-mail: bernard.robair@mcgill.ca
bruce.d.murphy@umontreal.ca

Message from the Treasurer—

Please renew your membership early

All of you have received your annual dues statement. Membership in SSR has become an even greater bargain since it is now linked with FREE publication in *BOR*. (Please see full details in the Editors-in-Chief report above). It is important that the membership support this new initiative. We may not know how these changes will influence our ability to balance the budget, and therefore it is critical to renew your membership. If you can

send in your renewal forms as soon as possible, that will also help with our finances in many ways because this is a slow income period. In addition, if you can afford to renew for 3 years, please do so. As an example, I have already renewed my membership for 3 years.

Please support YOUR Society! ■

—Marty Matzduk

Trainee Affairs report

I would like to begin with a whole-hearted “thank you” to our outgoing Trainee Representative, Chrissy Cochran. In addition to serving as an outstanding leader, Chrissy worked determinedly on many issues critical to SSR’s Trainees and was the primary force behind getting the SSR Placement Service online. On a personal note, I greatly appreciate her mentoring and friendship over the past few years. As much as we will miss Chrissy, I know that Tracy Clement, our incoming 2010–2012 Trainee Representative, will also do a terrific job of serving our Trainees. I look forward to working with her over the coming year. I would also like to thank the dedicated advisors to the Trainee Affairs Committee—Joan Jorgensen, Humphrey Yao, and Mary Zelinski—for their continuing support of SSR’s Trainees.

As I mentioned, one of the most exciting developments this past year has been the creation of the SSR Placement Service Web site. This online Placement Service provides all SSR members (not just Trainees!) with the opportunity to create profiles, search for jobs, and look for qualified candidates for open positions. The Web site was developed by Justin Fear, an extremely talented Trainee who graciously volunteered his time. Chrissy and I also owe thanks to a number of Trainees who volunteered to help us troubleshoot the Web site prior to launch. You can currently check out the SSR Placement Service Web site at ssr.eatingainesville.com/.

The new online Placement Service is just one example of the tremendous efforts of SSR’s Trainee Volunteers. At this year’s Annual Meeting in Milwaukee, we once again had a terrific group of Trainee Volunteers who worked tirelessly to ensure that the meeting ran smoothly. I would like to thank all of our wonderful volunteers and our Trainee Volunteer Subcommittee Co-Chairs, Dan Poole and Sadie Murdie. This year’s “cheesy” T-shirts were courtesy of Jackie Atkins and Kristen Happ-Molitoris. Aileen Keating was kind enough to handle the Larry Ewing Memorial Trainee Travel Fund. This year’s Trainee-Mentor Luncheon was organized by Yalda Afshar and coordinated on-site by Pamela Monahan.

In addition to the traditional Annual Meeting activities, SSR held a Science Outreach Day during

which students from Milwaukee were treated to a day of scientific inquiry and fun. This event would not have been possible without the leadership of Dr. Joan Jorgensen and her Trainee coordinator for the event, Juanmahel Dávila. A tremendous number of Trainee AND mentor volunteers arrived in Milwaukee prior to the Annual Meeting to lend their support to this highly successful event.

Some other highlights of the Annual Meeting included the awarding of the SSR Trainee Mentoring Award to Dr. Peter Hansen and a presentation by the National Postdoctoral Association at the Trainee Forum. I hope all who attended the forum came away with a better understanding of postdoctoral associations and the ways they can enrich the postdoctoral experience. As it has in previous years, FASEB provided generous support for our career counseling room at the Annual Meeting. This year we were again fortunate to have Bill Lindstaedt and Joe Tringali offering career advice.

While many of us may feel like we are still recovering from the 2010 Annual Meeting, it is time to start thinking ahead to next year’s meeting in Portland. Keep an eye out for abstract and award submission deadlines and remember—membership pays! By renewing your membership, you receive a discounted rate for Annual Meeting registration, become eligible for Trainee awards and travel grants, and can brag on your CV that you are a member of the best society for Trainees in reproduction! In addition to these benefits, you will have the opportunity to run to become the next Trainee Representative—look for the call for nominations soon. Thank you again to all of the Trainees for your hard work this past year. I am very excited about what we will be able to accomplish this coming year with your help. Please feel free to contact Tracy (tmback02@yahoo.com) or me if you have any questions or would like to find out how you can become more involved in SSR. ■

—Denise R. Archambeault
Senior Trainee Representative
E-mail: archambe@bcm.tmc.edu

2010 SSR awards and fellowships to Trainees and Junior Faculty

Trainee Research Awards - Platform Presentations *(Sustaining support from EMD Serono Research Institute)*

First Place

Kylie R. Dunning, University of Adelaide, Australia

Second Place

Amanda L. Krull, Washington State University

Third Place

Heather L. Franco, Baylor College of Medicine

Finalists

Alison S. Care, University of Adelaide, Australia

TaeHoon Kim, Baylor College of Medicine

Younghyun Shin, University of Pittsburgh

Trainee Research Awards - Poster Presentations *(Sustaining support from EMD Serono Research Institute)*

First Place

Dulce Maroni, University of Nebraska Medical Center

Second Place

Jessica A. Keegan, University of Missouri

Third Place

April K. Binder, Washington State University

Finalists

Jill Bennett, University of Illinois-Chicago

Tracy Clement, NIEHS

Md Almamun, University of Missouri

Lalor Foundation Merit Fellows *(Sustaining support from the Lalor Foundation)*

Jill Bennett, University of Illinois-Chicago

Cecily Bishop, Oregon National Primate Center

Teresa Chiang, University of Pennsylvania

Tracy Clement, NIEHS

Kylie R. Dunning, University of Adelaide, Australia

Xinjun Fan, Stanford University

Heather L. Franco, Baylor College of Medicine

Gurvinder Kaur, Texas Tech University

Jessica A. Keegan, University of Missouri

TaeHoon Kim, Baylor College of Medicine

Amanda L. Krull, Washington State University

Jun Ma, University of Pennsylvania

Yonghyun Shin, University of Pittsburgh

Hitomi Suzuki, University of Pittsburgh

Michael VanGompel, Northwestern University

National Research Initiative Merit Awards *(Sustaining support from USDA-National Institute of Food and Agriculture)*

Alfredo Antoniazzi, Colorado State University

Joseph Chen, State University of New Jersey

Takuo Hojo, Okayama University, Japan

Sheikh Omar Jobe, University of Wisconsin–Madison

Lacey Luense, University of Kansas

Dulce Maroni, University of Nebraska Medical Center

Yukari Tasaki, Okayama University, Japan

Bhanu Prakash Telugu, University of Missouri

Swamy Triputani, West Virginia University

Jesye Wojtusik, Cornell University

Ye Yuan, University of Illinois

Burroughs Wellcome Fellowships *(Sustaining support from the Burroughs Wellcome Fund)*

Junior Faculty

Francisco Diaz, Pennsylvania State University

Jennifer Hernandez Gifford, Oklahoma State University

Sana Salih, University of Wisconsin–Madison

Trainees

Kyle C. Cairns, Washington State University (Mentor

Derek McLean)

Zeliann Rivera Craig, University of Illinois (Mentor *Jodi*

Flans)

Juanmabel Davila, University of Illinois (Mentor *Paul*

Cooke)

Siobhon Harris, Eastern Virginia Medical School (Mentor

Diane Duff)

Olutobi Olumole, University of Guelph (Mentor *Ann*

Habneh)

Desiree Rucker, Prairie View A&M (Mentor *Gary Newton*)

FASEB MARC Travel Awards *(Sustaining support from FASEB MARC through NIGMS)*

Faculty Mentors and Trainees

Mentor: *Olga Bolden-Tiller*, Tuskegee University

Trainees: *Micaela Sims* and *Christopher Ragland*

Mentor: *Idhali Flores*, University of Puerto Rico at Ponce

Trainee: *Elienid Caraballo*

Poster and Platform Presenters

Sean Fling, Spelman College

Krystle Frabm, Colorado State University

Harold Higgins, Tuskegee University

Tyvette Hilliard, University of Illinois

Sheikh Omar Jobe, University of Wisconsin–Madison

Martin G. Maquivar, The Ohio State University

Fernando Migone, Cornell University

Mayra B. Pastore, University of Wisconsin–Madison

Lynnette A. Ruiz-Ortiz, Ponce School of Medicine

Alejandro J. Silva, Auburn University

Nominations open for SSR 2011 awards

The Awards Committee invites SSR members to nominate individuals for five major awards who have made outstanding contributions to the discipline of reproductive biology. The awards are:

The Carl G. Hartman Award, named for the distinguished reproductive biologist, is SSR's highest award and is given in recognition of a career of research and scholarly activities in reproductive biology. The nominee does not have to be a member of the Society.

The SSR Research Award recognizes an active, Regular member of SSR for outstanding research published during the last 6 years.

The SSR Distinguished Service Award recognizes an individual who has demonstrated unselfish service and leadership in advancing the discipline of reproductive biology.

The SSR New Investigator Award recognizes an active, Regular member of SSR for outstanding research completed and published within 10 years after receiving the Ph.D. or equivalent professional degree.

The SSR Trainee Mentoring Award

recognizes an SSR member who as a mentor has demonstrated a measure of support and guidance to SSR Trainees that far exceeds the basic responsibilities required of an academic advisor.

The nomination procedure (or nomination form), award criteria, selection process, and list of past recipients are posted on the SSR Web site (www.ssr.org/Awards.shtml).

Awards Committee members include Kwan Hee Kim (Chair), Charlie Chaffin, Jannette Dufour, Phillip Fields, Michelle Garcia, Geula Gibori, Carolyn Komar, Jeffrey May, Cheryl Rosenfeld, Bruce Schultz, Robert Viger, and Jennifer Wood,

*Please send nomination packages to Kwan Hee Kim by **December 1, 2010**. The preferred method is by e-mail (kbkim@wsu.edu), but supporting materials may be sent by fax (509-335-9688) or mail to: Kwan Hee Kim, Chair, SSR Awards Committee, School of Molecular Biosciences, Biotechnology Life Sciences Building 345, 1715 NE S Fairway Rd, Washington State University, Pullman, WA 99164-7520*

Call for nominations for SSR Officers and Directors

A democratic institution, such as our Society, is only as strong as its membership's willingness to engage and participate in that institution. So for the coming year, I urge you to nominate candidates for two Directors, the office of President-Elect, and the new office of Vice President-Elect (pending approval of the proposed change to the Bylaws; please see the report of the Bylaws Committee in this issue of the Newsletter). Simply submit the name of the individual(s) you wish to nominate, his/her professional affiliation, and a *brief* (1–2 sentences) statement of support. Please contact the individual(s) you wish to nominate to confirm their willingness to serve, if

elected. Members of the Nominating Committee (Richard Schultz, Joy Pate, John Eppig, Michael Griswold, Marco Conti, Rex Hess, Janice Evans, Patricia Hoyer, Michael Soares, and Andy La Barbera) are not eligible for nomination. Previous Board members and SSR Officers can be reviewed at www.ssr.org/Directors.shtml and www.ssr.org/Officers.shtml. Send your nomination and statement of support ASAP, but no later than **November 8, 2010**, to Richard Schultz (rschultz@sas.upenn.edu). ■

—Richard Schultz, Chair
Nominating Committee

Proposed bylaws changes ready for ballot

The Bylaws Committee has been busy over the last year working on several proposed amendments to the Bylaws. These changes were brought to our attention by the Board of Directors as well as the membership. After considerable discussion, modification, and approval by the Board, the proposed amendments were distributed to the membership (see links below) and discussed in Milwaukee at the annual Business Meeting this past summer. An additional modification discussed at the Business Meeting was to change the name of the Emeritus Committee to the Heritage Committee. This change was proposed in order to make the committee more inclusive to the membership and to highlight its role in preserving and promoting the history of SSR.

In accord with established procedures for modifying the bylaws, the proposed amendments have now been approved by the Board of Directors and discussed by the membership at the annual Business Meeting. The remaining step in this process involves a vote by the Regular members of the Society. This should occur within the next few months. Approval requires a 2/3 vote of those casting a ballot.

We invite the membership to submit any questions or comments regarding the proposed amendments to the chair of the Bylaws Committee. A summary and full description of the proposed amendments to Bylaws can be accessed at the following links on the Society's Web site.

A summary of the proposed changes discussed at the Annual Meeting is at:

www.ssr.org/Documents/2010-07-25SummaryProposedBylawsChanges.pdf

A full description of the proposed changes is at:

www.ssr.org/Documents/2010-07-13BylawsAmendments1-6.pdf

The current Bylaws are to be found here:
www.ssr.org/Documents/2007-06-19bylaws.pdf

Please remember that this is your Society, and it is the privilege of all Regular members to review and suggest changes to the Bylaws to make this a stronger and more vibrant Society. The Bylaws Committee and Board of Directors are always open to your suggestions and concerns. ■

—Michael W. Wolfe, Chair
Bylaws Committee

News from Minority Affairs Committee

The Minority Affairs committee (MAC) sponsored a highly successful Health Disparities Colloquium at the Annual Meeting featuring the honorable Louis W. Sullivan, MD, former U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services and President Emeritus Morehouse School of Medicine. Dr. Sullivan spoke passionately about “Reducing Health Disparities by Increasing Diversity in the Health Professions” and fielded a wide variety of questions from the audience.

To increase minority membership in the Society, and increase participation of minority members in SSR activities, both the Burroughs Wellcome Fund and the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology Minority Access to Research Careers (FASEB MARC) program have generously provided monetary support toward all MAC activities. Six trainees and three junior faculty members were awarded Burroughs Wellcome Travel Fellowships. Trainee recipients were Kyle C. Caires, Washington State University; Zeliann Rivera Craig, University of Illinois; Juanmahel Davila, University of Illinois; Siobhon Harri, Eastern Virginia Medical School; Olutobi Oluwole, University of Guelph; and Desiree Rucker, Prairie View A&M. Francisco Diaz, Pennsylvania State University; Jennifer Hernandez Gifford, Oklahoma State University; and Sana Salih, University of Wisconsin–Madison were the Junior Faculty recipients. The FASEB MARC program awarded additional travel fellowships to the following poster and platform presenters: *Sean Fling*, Spelman College; *Krystle Frahm*, Colorado State University; *Harold Higgins*, Tuskegee University; *Tyvette Hilliard*,

University of Illinois; *Sheikh Omar Jobe*, University of Wisconsin–Madison; *Martin G. Maquinar*, The Ohio State University; *Fernando Migone*, Cornell University; *Mayra B. Pastore*, University of Wisconsin–Madison; *Lynnette A. Ruiz-Ortiz*, Ponce School of Medicine; and *Alejandro J. Silva*, Auburn University.

MAC is participating in several activities this fall in an effort to reach out to young scientists from underrepresented populations within the Society, thanks to support from FASEB MARC through a grant from NIGMS. Carol Linder, New Mexico Highlands University, represented SSR at the Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Latinos and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) National Meeting, September 30–October 3, 2010, in Anaheim, California. Joan Jorgensen, University of Wisconsin–Madison and organizer of the SSR Science Outreach Day in Milwaukee, will attend the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS) November 10–13, 2010, in Charlotte, North Carolina.

MAC is now on Facebook. The group aims to facilitate research collaborations among members, improve communications throughout the year, disseminate information about job and internship opportunities, and reach out to new potential trainees and scientists interested in reproductive biology. To join, search for “Society for the Study of Reproduction Minority Affairs Committee.” Contact Carol Linder (clinder@nmhu.edu) for more information. ■

—Carol C. Linder, Co-Chair
Minority Affairs Committee

Advocacy for science by FASEB on behalf of its constituent societies

As a representative of the Society for the Study of Reproduction on the Board of Directors of FASEB, I would like to inform the SSR membership of FASEB's advocacy of science funding as well as its attention to issues regarding science policy. The mechanisms used for addressing science policy issues and the way input can be made to these policy-making groups will also be described in brief.

Currently FASEB's membership consists of 25 scientific societies representing over 100,000 members; thus FASEB represents a strong voice in the scientific community and on Capitol Hill. FASEB is now recognized by Congressional staff, the NIH, and the Office of Science and Technology Policy at the White House, and frequently is called upon for comments and briefings. Three of the most visible actions of FASEB are the following publications:

Quality of Life through Research is issued yearly and provides recommendations for Federal Funding for Biomedical and Related Life Sciences.

Breakthroughs in Bioscience is a series of essays illustrating recent breakthroughs in biomedical research and their importance to society; the series also highlights the important role animal models play in biomedical research and discovery. *Breakthroughs in Bioscience* is now being enlarged to include *Horizons in Bioscience*, which consists of impending breakthroughs.

Washington Update lists and describes the activities of FASEB's Office of Public Affairs (OPA). The OPA has also assembled a "tool box" to help individuals prepare to talk to their members of Congress about biomedical funding. These publications, articles, and tools are easily accessible at the FASEB Web site (www.faseb.org).

In its most recent visit to Capitol Hill, FASEB's Board of Directors learned from Congressional staff members how impressed they were with the thoroughness of FASEB's OPA in preparing the 2011 estimates for Federal Funding for Biomedical and Related Life Sciences Research.

FASEB's OPA and its Board of Directors are constantly looking for important issues that may arise. Such issues are immediately referred to the

Science Policy Committee, which currently has nine subcommittees (new subcommittees are formed as needed). Each subcommittee consists of an OPA staff person and members of FASEB's constituent societies. The Subcommittees are listed below:

Animals in Research and Education Issues

Subcommittee: Issues dealt with include the Great Ape Protection Act and the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) guide for investigators and institutions. There is continuing work with AAALAC concerning FOIA issues. SSR member Dr. Joanne Fortune is a member of this subcommittee.

Biosecurity Subcommittee: This subcommittee is working on regulations concerned with biosecurity and weapons of mass destruction.

Breakthroughs in Bioscience Subcommittee:

This subcommittee identifies science writers and advisors for upcoming issues of *Breakthroughs in Bioscience*. The article released in July 2009 was "Bone Builders: The Science of Grafts, Biomaterials, and Bone Engineering." In January 2010 the article "Magic Bullets and Monoclonals: An Antibody Tail" was released. Also in January 2010, a new series, *Horizons in Bioscience*, was launched; the first article was "How Biomedical Research Provides Fertility Hope to Cancer Survivors."

Clinical Research Subcommittee: This subcommittee submitted comments to the Office of Research Protection on proposed accreditation standards for the Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs, on the proposed draft on "Guidance of IRB Continuing Review and Guidance on IRB of Research with Conditions," and HIPAA regulations on research.

International Issues Subcommittee: This subcommittee has been active in monitoring visa policies for visiting scientists and scholars and is a contributing organization on FASEB international summit on animal rights extremism.

NIH Issues Subcommittee: I represent SSR on this subcommittee. The subcommittee has drawn NIH Director Francis Collins's attention to the fact that funding of R01s, as a percentage of the NIH budget, has gone down during the last 5 years, and

that sustained funding of R01s has traditionally led to innovations in research. This subcommittee has raised the question of whether RFAs and Program Announcements truly constitute R01s in the traditional sense. Also, in these years of tight NIH funding, the subcommittee has urged the NIH Director to achieve a balance between basic, translational, and clinical Research. In view of the independent budget and policy-making regarding these issues in various NIH institutes, the FASEB president and the public affairs staff are also meeting with institute and center directors at NIH to convey this message. This subcommittee also provided FASEB's analysis of the proposed NIH policies on conflict of interest before NIH issued a draft proposal, and is now responding to the draft proposal.

Peer Review Subcommittee: This subcommittee sent a letter to Dr. Toni Scarpa, director of the NIH Center for Scientific Review, and to Dr. Story Landis expressing its concerns about the quality of feedback to applicants provided through use of the structured critique templates and the impact of the resubmission policy on new investigators and applicants who score close to the funding pay line.

Research Information Technology

Subcommittee: This subcommittee developed comments on the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' proposed rules on the Electronic Health Record Incentive Program and responded to the White House Office of Science

and Technology Policy's request for information on "Grand Challenges of the 21st Century."

Training and Career Opportunities

Subcommittee: This subcommittee proposed FASEB's Individual Development Plan for postdoctoral fellows and urged the NIH Director to increase stipends for postdoctoral scholars. SSR member Dr. Lori Raetzman is a member of this subcommittee.

These nine Subcommittees communicate by conference calls and e-mail; they meet tight deadlines and submit recommendations to the Science Policy Committee, which, in turn, after studying and approving the recommendations, sends them to the FASEB Board of Directors. After the Board approves the recommendations, the FASEB president and public affairs staff implement them.

FASEB not only supports an intensive effort on science funding but also acts on a variety of issues that influence science policy and are important for the function of their member societies as scientists.

If there are any issues that SSR members want to place on the FASEB agenda, please get in touch with me and I will direct your concerns to the right person. ■

—*Virendra B. Mabesh*
SSR Representative
FASEB Board of Directors

Report from the Membership Committee

Membership Renewal

Membership renewal online is currently available. Although it is not the end of the year, please consider renewing your membership at this time. For regular members, you have the option to renew for multiple years (up to 3 years); simply contact the SSR office for a customized renewal form.

Development of the Membership Committee for 2010–2011

The Membership Committee for the upcoming year is currently being formed. We are still in need of someone to represent the southeastern US; if you reside in that region and would like to work on the committee, please contact me. For those members who are retiring from the

committee, I thank you for the time and efforts that you have contributed to this committee.

First Committee Task

The first task of the committee will be to review the current requirements for the various membership types. This charge to the committee will be sent out shortly once the committee structure has been finalized. ■

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

New members

Regular

Chen, Li
Dveksler, Gabriela S
Gulay, Mehmet S
Kanamarlapudi,
Venkateswarlu
Kurita, Takeshi
Ogawa, Yuya
Olcese, James M
Payne, Christopher J
Sood, Rashmi
Taniguchi, Hiroaki
Xu, Eugene Y

Associate

Devkota, Bhuminand
Huffman, Sarah R
Spady, Thomas J

Trainee

Adams, Leah A
Antillon Ruiz, Javier
Arriaga, Soraya S
Beker van Woudenberg,
Anna Rita
Bellefleur, Anne Marie

Bidarimath, Mallikarjun C
Camp, Meredith E
Chang, Haixin
Dovey, Serena L
Eilati, Erfan
Fagman, Lana
Feng, Lin
Goldberg, Leah B
Gonzales, Ramona L
Grimbleby, Carli J
Harris, Rebecca M
Henderson, Christine A
Hernandez, Silvia Fatima
Jimenez, Patricia T
Kim, Alison M
Kim, Boram
Kim, Minjung
Kirscher, Lindsay C
Kong, Betty
Ladley, Sara E
Lamour, Sophie Anne
Llerena Vargas,
Evelyn M
Mainigi, Monica A
Matsuyama, Haruyo
Mendoza, Alejandra V

Morrison, Celeste E
Nandi, Shyam Sundar
Norton, Sarah N
Pace, Emy
Pan, Lurui
Pohlmeier, William E
Ragland, Christopher L
Sargent, Kevin M
Speckman, Sheree C
Tai, Ping
Takahashi, Tsukasa
Tingen, Candace M
Watanabe, Yuki
Wessinger, Paola
Wheeler, Sean T
Wilker, Chase C
Wu, Linda LY
Xie, Fang
Yang, Caixia
Yousif, Awat N

Change of status

To Regular:
Han, Zhiming
Jang, Goo

Kipp, Jingjing Liu
Lei, Lei
Nakamura, Noriko
Namekawa, Satoshi
Nilsson, Eric E
Ohta, Kohei
Veiga Lopez, Almudena
Yamauchi, Yasuhiro
Yao, Jianbo
Yu, Ching Han

To Associate:

Assiri, Abdullah M
Atkins, Jacqueline
Barcelo Fimbres,
Moises
Bracero, Nabal J
Cruickshank, Jenifer
Kordus, Richard J
Lawson, Crystal
O'Connell, Anne R

To Trainee:

Abi Salloum, Bachir

Results of membership survey on the Annual Meeting

Last spring a survey was conducted to canvass SSR members' opinions regarding various aspects of the Society's Annual Meeting. Thirty percent of the membership completed the survey. There was strong agreement from the responding members that the programmatic format of the Annual Meeting (Keynote Address, State-of-the-Art Lectures, President's Symposium, concurrent lectures, minisymposia each with multiple speakers addressing a specific topic, concurrent platform presentations, and poster sessions) be retained in its current form. A significant proportion of the membership (41%) indicated a preference for holding meetings on campuses, though a slightly larger proportion favored holding meetings at large hotels or convention centers (50% when those two venue options were combined). Also a strong majority favored rotating the location of the meeting between the eastern, middle, and western thirds of North America, and there was support for occasionally holding the meeting at a non-North America location. Results of the survey may be found at:

<http://www.ssr.org/Surveys/2010AMSurvey/SurveySummary.html>

Last year the Future Meeting Sites Committee was abolished as part of a move to eliminate most SSR ad hoc committees. This year the SSR Board of Directors voted to establish a new Future Meetings Committee that will handle the duties previously performed by the Future Meeting Sites Committee, as well as additional

duties related to SSR's Annual Meetings. Members of this committee represent different geographical regions and include Janice Bailey (Canada), Janice Evans (Eastern US), John Davis (Middle US), Derek McLean (Western US), and Jock Findlay (Australia). Martin Matzuk, SSR's Treasurer, is also on the committee to provide fiscal perspective. The committee is chaired by John McCarrey. A primary duty of this committee will be to work with the SSR Business Office to identify and screen potential future meeting sites and recommend these to the Board of Directors. The SSR Business Office and the Board of Directors have agreed to a plan to lock in meeting sites 3 years in advance. To adhere to the preference expressed by the SSR membership that meetings be distributed among different geographical regions, potential future locations will be grouped into (1) Eastern North America, (2) Middle North America, (3) Western North America, and (4) offshore locations. Our next meeting (2011) will be in Portland, Oregon (Western North America), then at Penn State University (Eastern North America) in 2012, and in Montreal, Canada (Eastern North America) in 2013. The Future Meetings Committee will work with the SSR Business Office to identify candidate sites for one new region each year. Thus, the committee is currently examining potential sites in Middle North America for the 2014 meeting. ■

—John McCarrey, Chair
Future Meetings Committee

News from the Reproductive Science Branch, NICHD

Dr. Alan Guttmacher Named Director of NICHD

After serving the *Eunice Kennedy Shriver NICHD* as Acting Director since December 2009, Dr. Alan Guttmacher was named its Director this past July. As stated in our previous SSR Newsletter piece, Dr. Guttmacher was formerly Deputy Director of the National Human Genome Research Institute. Prior to coming to the NIH, Dr. Guttmacher, a pediatrician and medical geneticist, was medical director of the Vermont Newborn Screening Program, where he founded Vermont's only pediatric intensive care unit. The Guttmacher Institute was named in honor of his uncle, the late Alan Frank Guttmacher, who was a distinguished obstetrician-gynecologist. We here at the NICHD are pleased with Dr. Guttmacher's appointment and look forward to working with him in the future.

NICHD Seeks to Identify Promising Scientific Opportunities

Over the coming year, the NICHD, in collaboration with its external communities, will seek to identify the most promising scientific opportunities of the next decade in its mission-relevant areas. This scientific "visioning" (grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-HD-10-021.html) seeks to set an ambitious agenda that will inspire the institute, its many partners, and the research community to achieve critical scientific goals and meet pressing public health needs. To create the vision, the institute is planning to hold a series of nine workshops between the latter months of 2010 and spring 2011. Each workshop will center on a specific scientific theme. The process will culminate in a conference tentatively planned for May 2011 that brings together recommendations from all nine workshops. For more information about the NICHD Vision process, please visit www.nichd.nih.gov/vision. Public input is

welcomed and can be conveyed by sending questions or comments to [<NICHDvision@mail.nih.gov>](mailto:NICHDvision@mail.nih.gov).

New Funding Opportunity Announcements

The following FOAs have been published. All FOAs listed below are PARs or Program Announcements that have special reviews. Each PAR will have one receipt date over the next 3 years.

Vulvodynia – Systemic Epidemiologic, Etiologic or Therapeutic Studies (R01)

PAR-10-190.

[<grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-10-190.html>](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-10-190.html)

Vulvodynia – Systemic Epidemiologic, Etiologic or Therapeutic Studies (R03)

PAR-10-191

[<grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-10-191.html>](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-10-191.html)

Vulvodynia – Systemic Epidemiologic, Etiologic or Therapeutic Studies (R21)

PAR-10-192

[<grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-10-192.html>](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-10-192.html)

Receipt dates: September 21, 2010, 2011, 2012.

Dual Purpose with Dual Benefit: Research in Biomedicine and Agriculture using Agriculturally Important Domestic Species (R01) (with the USDA)

[<grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-10-276.html>](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-10-276.html)

Receipt dates: November 3, 2010, September 20, 2011, September 20, 2012. ■

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

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