



SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF REPRODUCTION

# Newsletter

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*From the President—*

## Greetings and updates

*Dear Colleagues:*

I hope the New Year finds you happy, healthy, and ready to submit an abstract for SSR's 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. The abstract deadline, February 15, is just around the corner. As featured in this issue of the Newsletter, plans for the Annual Meeting (July 31–August 4) are well under way. Jodi Flaws and her committee have organized a mind-expanding scientific program around the theme *Reproduction and the World's Future*. In addition to the Keynote Address on this theme, the program will again feature State-of-the-Art lectures, the President's Symposium, and a Historical Perspectives lecture along with 15 minisymposia on diverse topics. Check the Web site for updates.

We visited the Portland Convention Center recently and were impressed with this modern, “green” facility and its proximity to the SSR hotels and Portland mass transit system. You can board a train at the airport and be at the Convention Center in about 20 minutes for less than \$3.00, and from there travel within Portland is FREE!

The meeting dates, July 31–August 4, are an ideal time to add a vacation and explore Portland and the beautiful Pacific Northwest. Jon Hennebold and his Local Arrangements Committee are busy planning social events, including a fun run, and gathering information to help you enjoy your visit.

This will be our 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, and as the years go by we enjoy celebrating our rich heritage by remembering friends and colleagues who helped make SSR what it is today. I hope you will attend the annual breakfast hosted by the Heritage Committee (formerly Emeritus Committee) to hear about the career and contributions of Dr. L.E. Casida. This event is open to all SSR attendees and is a wonderful chance for trainees to meet our senior members and learn more about SSR's “roots.”

SSR has a long tradition of featuring trainee research, supporting trainee travel, and incorporating mentoring and other special events. This tradition continues in 2011 as summarized by Trainee Representatives Denise Archambeault and Tracey Clements, including the annual Trainee-Mentor Luncheon being organized by April Binder and the Trainee Forum at the meeting. In addition to the outreach activities under way by our Minority Affairs Committee (see Winston Thompson's report), this committee will host a presentation at the Annual Meeting by Dr. John Alderete, a prominent minority scientist; a reception open to all attendees, will follow. Finally, Mary Zelinski is organizing the second annual educational outreach day just prior to the meeting.

The Board of Directors will hold its midwinter meeting February 18–19 to review our finances and investments, track membership trends and journal statistics (especially those related to the recent changes

announced in the State-of-the-Society letter), and consider new initiatives, some of which are described in this Newsletter.

SSR is in sound financial health, but as Treasurer Marty Matzuk points out, these are uncertain times. To stay vigorous, we need to continually evaluate our goals as a Society and insure that we meet the needs and desires of our members. We need to make fiscally responsible decisions even as we instigate new and innovative programs. We also need to hold strongly to our Society values, which include fostering excellence in research and mentoring. Finally, we need to openly communicate our results in *Biology of Reproduction* and in other ways, to the agencies and foundations that support our Society and our research, and to the tax-paying public which depends upon sound science to make informed personal decisions related to reproductive health.

To do all this we need to elect outstanding leaders, serve on committees, and contribute to our endowment. Please do your part by voting on the proposed Bylaws changes, one of which would institute a new Officer, the Vice President-elect, thus extending the Presidential chain by a year. Your voice is important, so make sure to use it by voting in the SSR election this spring and responding to other requests in this Newsletter, and of course by publishing your best science in *Biology of Reproduction*. Your entry to all SSR information and activities is [www.ssr.org](http://www.ssr.org). We appreciate your input and suggestions at any time, either through the Business Office (Judith Jansen) or by contacting Officers, Board members, or committee chairs.

The next Newsletter will report actions taken by the Board, election results, 2011 Awardees, and more details about the summer meeting. Thank you for your continuing support of SSR! ■

—Sally Perreault Darney

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## Program for the 2011 Annual Meeting nears completion

We have made excellent progress in planning the scientific program for SSR's 2011 Annual Meeting, July 31–August 4, in Portland, Oregon. The plenary talks and minisymposia are set (summarized below), and we are making plans for reviewing abstracts and developing the poster and platform sessions. Abstracts will be due February 15, 2011. We hope you attend what promises to be an exciting meeting in a beautiful place!

### **SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM:** *Reproduction and the World's Future*

The theme of the meeting was selected to convey how reproductive science, in all its dimensions, provides significant benefits to mankind.

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS: Laneta Dorflinger, Ph.D.** (FHI [formerly Family Health International], Research Triangle Park, North Carolina), *Reproductive Science: Expanding Choice, Empowering Women, Securing the Future*

This lecture will set the stage for the meeting theme by discussing how research and public health practice combine to enable provision of culturally appropriate family planning services around the globe, and how such programs are empowering women and families in ways that advance both human health and economic development. Despite recent advances, discovery and innovation are still needed to fill existing gaps in contraceptive technologies and broaden choice for women and couples worldwide.

## **PRESIDENT'S SYMPOSIUM: Protecting Reproductive Health in a World of Man-Made Chemicals**

The annual President's Symposium will feature three speakers who will explore the molecular basis for manufactured endocrine active chemicals, illustrate how such chemicals may both benefit and harm mankind, and show how computational tools and novel animal models are being applied to detect, predict, and assess environmental risks to humans from chemicals, especially those that mimic hormones.

Chair: **Sally Perreault Darney, Ph.D.** (Environmental Protection Agency, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina).

*Speakers:*

**Geoffrey L. Greene, Ph.D.** (University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois), *Hormone Mimics as Reproductive Allies and Enemies: SARMS, SERMS, and EDCs.*

**David J. Dix, Ph.D.** (Environmental Protection Agency, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina), *Preventing Environmental Risks to Reproduction in Humans and Wildlife Using Computational Toxicology.*

**Gail S. Prins, Ph.D.** (University of Illinois-Chicago, Chicago, Illinois), *The Impact of Estrogens and Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals on Prostate Disease.*

## **HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES LECTURE**

**John Biggers, Ph.D.** (Harvard University, Boston, Massachusetts), *IVF/ART Impact and Ongoing Research Needs and Questions.*

This talk will complement the meeting theme by showing how research in reproductive science has contributed to the assisted reproductive technologies in use today that are enabling infertile couples to have the children they so passionately desire.

## **STATE-OF-THE-ART LECTURES**

These lectures will update meeting attendees about advances in understanding pluripotency in stem cells, and on how epigenetic modulation of gene expression is responsible for imprinting certain genes that impact human development.

**Marissa S. Bartolomei, Ph.D.** (University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania), *Epigenetic Regulation of Genomic Imprinting.*

**Amander Clark, Ph.D.** (University of California, Los Angeles, California), *The Next Frontier for Pluripotent Stem Cell Research in Reproductive Biology.* (Anita Payne New Perspectives in Reproductive Biology Lecture, supported by the Anita Payne Endowment Fund.)

## **MINISYMPOSIA**

**A Fresh Look at Pituitary Hormones in Reproduction.** Chair: **Sally Camper, Ph.D.** (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan). *Speakers:* **Lori Raetzman, Ph.D.** (University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois), *Kicking It Up and Down a Notch: An Important Switch in Pituitary Development and Disease;* **John H. Nilson, Ph.D.** (Washington State University, Pullman, Washington), *New Pathways That Mediate GnRH-Regulated Expression of Gonadotropin Genes;* **Ulrich Boehm, Ph.D.**

(Institute for Neural Signal Transduction, Hamburg, Germany), *Embryonic GnRH Signaling Is Necessary for Maturation of the Male Reproductive Axis*.

**Signaling Molecules and Pathways That Regulate and Determine the Fate of Male Germline Stem Cells.** Chair: **Marie-Claude Hofmann, Ph.D.** (University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois). *Speakers: Kate Loveland, Ph.D.* (Monash University, Clayton, Victoria, Australia), *Hedgehog Signaling in the Testis*; **Marie-Claude Hofmann, Ph.D.** (University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois), *Notch Signaling in the Postnatal Male Germ Line*; **Martin Dym, Ph.D.** (Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.), *Potential of Spermatogonial Stem Cells: Mouse and Human Studies*.

**Reproductive Cancers.** Chair: **Janice Bahr, Ph.D.** (University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois). *Speakers: Nelly Auersperg, M.D., Ph.D.* (University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada), *The Origin of Ovarian Cancers —Theories and Controversies*; **Barbara C. Vanderhyden, Ph.D.** (Ottawa Health Research Institute, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada), *Lessons Learned from Mouse Models of Ovarian Cancer*; **Jennifer Richer, Ph.D.** (Denver School of Medicine, Denver, Colorado), *MicroRNAs Regulate Endometrial and Ovarian Cancer Sensitivity to Anoikis and Chemotherapy*.

**Changing Age of Puberty and Causal Factors.** Chair: **Prema Narayan, Ph.D.** (Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Illinois). *Speakers: Emily Walvoord, M.D.* (Indiana University School of Medicine, Indianapolis, Indiana), *The Changing Age of Puberty: Clinical Evidence and Potential Outcomes*; **Heather Patisaul, Ph.D.** (North Carolina State University, Raleigh, North Carolina), *Endocrine Disruption of Female Neuroendocrine Pathways*; **Manual Tena-Sempere, Ph.D.** (University of Cordoba, Cordoba, Spain), *Neuroendocrine Mechanisms for the Metabolic Control of Puberty*.

**Wildlife Preservation and Conservation: Lessons for Human Reproduction.** Chair: **Pierre Comizzoli, Ph.D.** (Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.). *Speakers: Janine Brown, Ph.D.* (National Zoological Park, Front Royal, Virginia), *Lions, Tigers, Bears, and Elephants: New Models for Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility*; **William Holt, Ph.D.** (Zoological Society of London, London, England, United Kingdom), *Sperm Assessment: Is the Average Spermatozoon Any Good? The View from the Zoo!*; **Pierre Comizzoli, Ph.D.** (Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.), *Building Bridges Between Wild Species and Human Research Through Fertility Preservation Studies*.

**Estrogen, Cognition, and Neuroprotection** (Supported by the Mahesh Neuroendocrine Program Fund). Chair: **Darrell W. Brann, Ph.D.** (Medical College of Georgia, Augusta, Georgia). *Speakers: Walter Rocca, M.D.* (Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota), *Surgical Menopause and Increased Risk of Cognitive Impairment and Dementia*; **Darrell W. Brann, Ph.D.** (Medical College of Georgia, Augusta, Georgia), *Prolonged Hypoestrogenicity Leads to Enhanced Alzheimer's Disease-Related Protein Induction and Ischemic Stress Damage in the Hippocampus*; **Roberta Diaz Brinton, Ph.D.** (University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California), *Estrogen, Mitochondrial Bioenergetics and Alzheimer's Disease*.

**Historical Perspectives: Honoring Anne McLaren.** Chair: **Monika A. Ward, Ph.D.** (University of Hawaii School of Medicine, Honolulu, Hawaii). *Speakers: John Biggers, Ph.D.* (Harvard University, Boston, Massachusetts), *The Life's Work of Anne McLaren*; **Elizabeth Simpson, Ph.D.** (Imperial College, London, England, United Kingdom), *Examination of Obno's Hypothesis with Anne McLaren: Separation of HY and TDY*; **Paul Burgoyne, Ph.D.** (MRC National Institute of Medical Research, London, England, United Kingdom), *The Role of Y-Encoded Zinc Finger Transcription Factor ZFY in Male and Female Infertility in Mice*.

**Post-translational Protein Modifications in Gametes, Embryos, and the Reproductive**

**System.** Chair: **Peter Sutovsky, Ph.D.** (University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri). *Speakers:* **Janice L. Bailey, Ph.D.** (Laval University, Quebec City, Quebec, Canada), *Tyrosine Phosphorylation of Sperm Proteins: What Does It Mean?*; **Hitoshi Sawada, Ph.D.** (Nagoya University, Toba, Japan), *Ubiquitin–Proteasome System Involved in Fertilization of Ascidans and Sea Urchins*; **Thomas R. Hansen, Ph.D.** (Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado), *Isgylation: A Conserved Pathway in Mammalian Pregnancy*.

**Reproductive Research and Its Impact on Feeding the World's Hungry.** Chair: **Robert**

**Cushman, Ph.D.** (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Clay Center, Nebraska). *Speakers:* **G. Cliff Lamb, Ph.D.** (North Florida Research and Education Center, Marianna, Florida), *Using Technologies to Improve Reproductive Efficiency and Feed the World*; **Daniel J. Nonneman, Ph.D.** (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Clay Center, Nebraska), *Using Genetic Technologies to Improve Reproductive Efficiency*; **Gregory M. Weber, Ph.D.** (National Center for Cool and Cold Water Aquaculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Kearneysville, West Virginia), *Use of Technologies to Control Reproduction in Finfish Aquaculture and Feed the World*.

**Regenerative Medicine in Reproduction.** Chair: **Rebecca L. Krisher, Ph.D.** (National

Foundation for Fertility Research, Lone Tree, Colorado). *Speakers:* **Evelyn E. Telfer, Ph.D.** (University of Edinburgh, Scotland, United Kingdom), *In Vitro Growth of Oocytes: From Primordial Stage to Maturation*; **Gary D. Smith, Ph.D.** (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan), *Bioengineering Tools for Improved Embryo and Embryonic Stem Cell Culture*; **Mandy Katz-Jaffe, Ph.D.** (National Foundation for Fertility Research, Lone Tree, Colorado), *Clinical Application of Comprehensive Chromosome Screening and Beyond*.

**Evolving Concepts in Sperm Capacitation and Fertilization.** Chair: **Bernard Robaire, Ph.D.**

(McGill University, Montreal, Quebec, Canada). *Speakers:* **Jurrien Dean, M.D.** (National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, Bethesda, Maryland), *Evolving Paradigms of Gamete Recognition in Mice*; **Masaru Okabe, Ph.D.** (Osaka University, Osaka, Japan), *Verification of Established Theory for Fertilization by Gene-Manipulated Animals*; **Pablo Visconti, Ph.D.** (University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts), *Compartmentalization of cAMP Signaling Pathways in Sperm Capacitation*.

**Novel Mechanisms of Receptor Function in Female Reproduction.** Chair: **Francesco J. De**

**Mayo, Ph.D.** (Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas). *Speakers:* **Bruce D. Murphy, Ph.D.** (University of Montreal, St-Hyacinthe, Quebec, Canada), *Orphan Nuclear Receptors in Reproduction: Lessons from Tissue-Specific Knockout Mice*; **Milan Bagchi, Ph.D.** (University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois), *Stromal Epithelial Communication Regulates Steroid Receptor Function in the Uterus*; **Sophia Tsai, Ph.D.** (Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas), *The Role of COUP-TFII, an Orphan Nuclear Receptor, in Uterine Function*.

**Meiosis: The Roots of Fertility and Infertility.** Chair: **Mary Ann Handel, Ph.D.** (The Jackson

Laboratory, Bar Harbor, Maine). *Speakers:* **Alex Bortvin, Ph.D.** (Carnegie Institute Washington, Baltimore, Maryland), *Transposons and Meiosis*; **Michael Nachman, Ph.D.** (University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona), *The Genetic Basis of Reproduction Isolation in House Mice*; **Terry Hassold, Ph.D.** (Washington State University, Pullman, Washington), *The Origin of Aneuploidy in Humans: Does Prophase Set the Stage?*

**Epigenetic Mechanisms for Developmental Origins of Adult Disease.** Chair: **Kwan Hee Kim, Ph.D.** (Washington State University, Pullman, Washington). **Sarah Kimmins, Ph.D.** (McGill University, Montreal, Quebec, Canada), *The Paternal Genome Serves a Critical Function in Embryo Development*; **Kevin Osteen, Ph.D.** (Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee), *Developmental Dioxin Exposure Negatively Affects Fertility and Pregnancy Outcomes in Mice for Multiple Generations*; **Cheryl Lyn Walker, Ph.D.** (University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Smithville, Texas), *Developmental Reprogramming of Cancer Susceptibility by Environmental Estrogens*.

**Novel RNAs in Reproduction.** Chair: **Shannon M. Hawkins, M.D., Ph.D.** (Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas). *Speakers:* **Richard M. Schultz, Ph.D.** (University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania), *The Role of Small RNAs in Oocyte Development*; **Shinichiro Chuma, Ph.D.** (Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan), *Mammalian Tudor-Related Genes in the Male Germline*; **Martin M. Matzuk, M.D., Ph.D.** (Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas), *Small RNA Function in Ovarian Cancer and Reproduction*.

The Exchange Lectures, to be announced later this spring, will feature the SSR New Investigator, the ASRM Distinguished Research Scientist (Dr. Richard L. Stouffer), the SRF New Investigator, and the SGI exchange lecturer. Finally, the program will be rounded out with events organized by the Trainee Affairs, Minority Affairs, and Heritage Committees. We look forward to seeing you in Portland.

**Please remember that abstracts are due February 15, 2011. ■**

—Jodi Flaws, Chair  
2011 Program Committee  
E-mail: [jflaws@illinois.edu](mailto:jflaws@illinois.edu)

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## **Update from the Local Arrangements Committee**

On behalf of the Local Arrangements Committee, we look forward to welcoming you to Portland for SSR's 2011 Annual Meeting. The committee has been hard at work to ensure your visit to the Rose City is an enjoyable one. Based on economic and logistic considerations, the opening social as well as the closing night dinner and dance will be held at the convention center. We are working closely with the SSR office in Madison to ensure that these events provide you with great food and entertainment. We are also in the process of putting together several optional events that will give attendees a chance to see and experience Portland from outside the confines of the convention center. For those of you who prefer to explore Portland and its environs on your own, a list of regional points of interest and favorite local dining spots will be available on the meeting Web site. The listed points of interest include options in the metro area as well as those that are within an hour or two drive. And for those of you that are more athletically inclined, the committee has been working on organizing a 3-mile fun run/walk. This event will start near the convention center and follow the Willamette River through the center of Portland. It's a great way to get your exercise and see the city at the same time. See you this summer! ■

—Jon Hennebold, Chair  
2011 Local Arrangements Committee  
Email: [henneboj@obsu.edu](mailto:henneboj@obsu.edu)

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## Call for SSR Outreach Day volunteers: Camp Monkey

The second annual SSR Outreach Day will be held on Friday, July 29 (just prior to the start of the Annual meeting on Sunday). Taking advantage of the unique proximity of the SSR meeting in Portland to the beautiful campus of the Oregon National Primate Research Center (ONPRC), where the activity will be held, the theme for our outreach day will be Camp Monkey. We will accommodate 75 middle school students from the Portland metropolitan area for a full day of science fun!

Camp Monkey: a one-day science camp experience where students will learn about biology, behavior, and biomedical research. Curious about monkeys? Come to Camp Monkey and learn all about these fascinating creatures, including:

- ◆ Monkey biology
- ◆ Behavior
- ◆ Threats to survival in the wild
- ◆ How monkeys help scientists understand disease
- ◆ and more!

If you would like to volunteer to help with hands-on laboratory activities appropriate for this age group, have ideas for hands-on labs, and enjoy the excitement and enthusiasm of children as they discover new things in the world around them, we welcome your assistance and input. You do not need to know anything about monkeys. We can help you customize your lab experience and ideas to the monkey theme (comparative reproductive biology, behavior, neuroscience, DNA/RNA, genetics, immunology, assisted reproduction techniques, stem cells, environmental contaminants, anything related to biomedical/veterinary research in reproduction, or other areas).

For more information or to volunteer, please contact the organizers of this activity via e-mail: Mary Zelinski ([zelinski@ohsu.edu](mailto:zelinski@ohsu.edu)), Division of Reproductive Sciences, ONPRC; Diana Gordon ([gordondi@ohsu.edu](mailto:gordondi@ohsu.edu)), Director of Education Outreach, ONPRC; or Derek McLean ([dmclean@wsu.edu](mailto:dmclean@wsu.edu)), Department of Animal Sciences, Washington State University. We are so excited to host this day of science outreach, and look forward to working with you! ■

*—Mary Zelinski, Organizer  
Outreach Day  
Public Affairs Committee*

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## Continuing medical education will be offered at Annual Meeting

SSR is pleased to announce that the American Society of Reproductive Medicine (ASRM) has generously agreed to partner with the SSR to offer continuing medical education (CME) for registered attendees at the Annual Meeting in Portland. Last year, SSR—in conjunction with ASRM—reinstated CME credits at the Annual Meeting through the efforts of Dr. Elizabeth McGee at Virginia Commonwealth University, Dr. Shannon Hawkins at Baylor College of Medicine, and the Translational Research Subcommittee of the Program Committee. Due to the overwhelmingly positive response of the physician scientists in the Society, CME credit will be offered at the SSR Annual Meeting again this year. For further information, contact Dr. McGee at [eamcgee@vcu.edu](mailto:eamcgee@vcu.edu). ■

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## Calling all Trainees

Trainee members of SSR are beginning preparations for the upcoming Annual Meeting. As the current Trainee Representatives, we would like to alert you to important events coming up in the next few months.

Three terrific candidates are running for 2011–2013 SSR Trainee Representative: April Binder (National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences), Zeliann Craig (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign), and Jeremy Larson (University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee). Their candidacy statements will be posted on the Trainee Affairs Web site in the near future. Trainees members will receive an e-mail notice when the election begins in the spring. We encourage each of you to vote for your new Trainee Representative! Remember...you cannot vote unless your membership is current! If you have not renewed your membership for 2011, please do it now at <http://www.ssr.org/MembRenew.shtml>

With the recent *Call for Abstracts*, we're sure everyone is busy putting together abstracts for the Annual Meeting. Don't forget to pay your dues by the abstract submission deadline (February 15, 2011) so that you are eligible for a travel grant from the Larry Ewing Memorial Trainee Travel Fund (LEMTTF)! Zeliann Craig will be managing the LEMTTF awards for the 2011 Annual Meeting. Trainees are eligible for the LEMTTF if they are current Trainee members of the SSR (dues paid) at the time of the deadline for submission of abstracts (February 15), and have an abstract accepted for presentation at the Annual Meeting. Also, keep in mind that T-shirt sales are a major funding sources for the LEMTTF—that means your 2011 Annual Meeting T-shirt is not only a fun souvenir but also provides travel support for SSR's Trainees! Jeremy Lawson is coordinating the design of this year's T-shirts. Purchasing a T-shirt is just one way you can support SSR—trainees can also donate to SSR's charitable funds via the "Donations" link on the SSR website (<http://www.ssr.org/Donations.shtml>) or when registering for the Annual Meeting.

When you register for the meeting, don't forget to sign up for the Trainee-Mentor Luncheon. The luncheon is a great opportunity for Trainees to interact with established scientists (Regular members of SSR and invited speakers at the meeting) to discuss research, funding, starting a laboratory, and balancing responsibilities. April Binder is organizing this year's luncheon.

Trainee volunteers provide critical support in making the Annual Meeting run smoothly. Sadie Murdie and Alison Ting are graciously serving as co-chairs of this year's Trainee Volunteer Subcommittee (TVS). They are recruiting motivated Trainees to volunteer to serve their Society (and their constituent Trainees)! Please contact Sadie ([sadie.murdie@jax.org](mailto:sadie.murdie@jax.org)) or Alison ([ting@ohsu.edu](mailto:ting@ohsu.edu)) if you are interested in volunteering during the 2011 Annual Meeting. There are many fun opportunities for involvement to suit each individual.

Finally, we would like to remind SSR's Trainees of all of the wonderful opportunities you have for interaction with other members of our Society during the Annual Meeting. Leon Speroff, M.D., will speak at this year's Trainee Forum and will also participate in the Trainee-Mentor Luncheon. While the Trainee Forum is always a highlight for Trainees, it is far from the only event for us to attend. The Heritage Committee has extended a warm welcome to Trainees to attend their annual breakfast. This is a fantastic chance for Trainees to get to know some of our Society's pioneers and to learn more about SSR's history and reproductive biology in general. We sincerely hope Trainees will take advantage of this fun opportunity! In addition to participating in the Heritage Breakfast, all Trainees are also encouraged to check out the Minority Affairs Symposium organized by the Minority Affairs Committee. This year's symposium features Dr. John Alderete, a truly dynamic speaker who is not to be missed!

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. ■

—Denise Archambeault & Tracy Clement  
SSR Trainee Representatives

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## Calling all Mentors!

I am excited to be coordinating the annual Trainee-Mentor Luncheon at the 2011 Annual Meeting. As you know, this annual luncheon is an important component of the SSR meeting, and planning is already under way. If you will be attending the meeting and are interested in participating in the luncheon please e-mail me at [akbinder1@gmail.com](mailto:akbinder1@gmail.com). This is a great opportunity to interact with other Trainees and contribute to the development of SSR. I am looking forward to working with everyone—volunteers and mentors—to make this event a success. See you in Portland this summer! ■

—April Binder  
Trainee Coordinator of Trainee-Mentor Luncheon

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## News from the Endowment Subcommittee (Development Committee)

Why do people contribute to an organization? This is a question that is often asked. Individuals skilled in philanthropy realize that people give money to organizations that have a program, a cause, a need—whatever you call it—that people believe in!

For this reason, the SSR Endowment Committee is targeting specific groups of SSR members with defined needs for SSR. We sent a letter to the 32 past presidents of SSR during late December inviting them to either pledge or give “up front” \$5,000 for the Presidents’ Endowment Fund. Interest earned on this Fund will be used to provide enduring support for the Annual Meeting, in particular, the President’s Symposium, and the Distinguished Service Award. Specific requests for the use of this money to support trainees to attend the Annual Meeting will also be honored. Because the establishment of a specific Fund needs SSR Board approval, current donations are being placed in the General Endowment Fund until the Presidents’ Endowment Fund is officially established. This Fund as well as seven other funds that currently exist (see SSR Web site and click on SSR Donations page) are all part of the General Endowment Fund.

The Endowment Committee has also targeted SSR Trainees. President Sally Perreault Darney invited each Trainee to contribute \$5.00 to his or her fund of choice. The purpose of this request to our Trainees is to have them establish the habit of giving early in their career.

Also, a general announcement was sent to the entire membership to contribute to the Endowment Fund. You may wonder why this push to get all SSR members to contribute to the Endowment Fund? Simply put, the reason is that the expenses of running a large scientific society, publishing a first-rate journal, holding an outstanding, information-filled Annual Meeting, as well as offering the other services provided by SSR, requires money.

That \$5.00 or \$5,000 you give to the Endowment Fund will always be used for the purpose you intended. ■

—Janice M. Babr, Chair  
Endowment Subcommittee of the Development Committee

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*Message from the Treasurer—*

## **We did well in 2010 but lots of unknowns in 2011**

Happy New Year to all of you! I hope you had fun over the holidays and are ready for a healthy and exciting 2011.

SSR continues to be more than holding its own financially. With fiscal guidance from the Business Office, we balanced the books again in 2010 and ended in the black. Our investment portfolio also continues to do well. We ended 2009 at \$2,491,956. With the help of your donations including a generous parting gift from Dr. Anita Payne as well as profits from our investments, our portfolio increased to \$3,158,531. This is the highest year-end total in SSR’s history and a 26.7% year-over-year rise in our portfolio. I thank Anne Marie Etergino and her team at Royal Bank of Canada Wealth Management for their expert management of our diversified portfolio. During the past year, we made several changes in our investments to take advantage of market conditions, including increasing our conservative investments in gold (a hedge against inflation and a relative devaluation of the U.S. dollar) and increasing our exposure to international equities (i.e., balancing international and U.S. equities). The investments are internationally diversified among Fixed Income (i.e., bonds; 26.5%), Equities (i.e., stocks; 48.5%), Real Assets (i.e., gold and REITs; 12.5%), and Alternative Investments (e.g., hedge funds, etc.; 12.5%). As seen in Table 1, the portfolio investments are divided between several fund categories with 70% in the SSR Investment Fund.

**Table 1. Investment Portfolio Values on 12/31/10**

SSR Investment Fund	\$ 2,210,060.96
General Endowment Fund	\$ 450,325.00
Legacy Fund	\$ 217,941.11
Mahesh Neuroendocrine Program Fund	\$ 97,889.33
New Investigator Fund	\$ 66,415.51
Anita Payne Endowment Fund	\$ 110,623.21
Trainee Mentoring Fund	\$ 5,276.73
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 3,158,531.85</b>

Although we are in excellent financial shape, there are still a lot of unknowns for 2011. We do not know the effects that free publication in *BOR* for SSR members will have on our Society’s bottom line at the end of 2011. In addition, we cannot count on continued rises in our investments since the equity and bond markets continue to be volatile. However, our diversified portfolio should limit large fluctuations in our investment portfolio. I thank the members for their support of SSR in 2010, and I hope that you will be equally as generous with your donations to the various SSR Fund categories this year. I look forward to serving as your treasurer in 2011. ■

*—Martin Matzduk  
Treasurer*

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## From the Editors of *Biology of Reproduction*

The year 2010 has come to a close, marking 18 issues of the SSR's journal that have been published under our editorship. The statistics maintained by the publications office demonstrate that *BOR* is a truly international journal. There were twice as many manuscripts submitted from outside the USA as from within during both 2009 and 2010. Last year saw a modest increase in acceptance rates over 2009 (48% vs 44%), reflecting the increased number of commissioned reviews and commentaries that have been published. We remain concerned that there has been an approximately 10 percent decline in submissions in 2010 from 2009 totals. We have noted that the major reduction is in manuscripts submitted by scientists in the United States. This may be an echo of the reduced funding success rate that the community has experienced over recent years. We hope that the following Journal initiatives set to occur in 2011 will boost submissions.

As announced by President Perreault Darney in October, the big news is that *BOR* is now published as an e-journal only. This is the next step in a logical progression, as noted in our Editorial published in the January 2011 issue of *BOR*, since most of our readers already access only the electronic Journal. It would appear that the future belongs to electronic readers such as the iPad and Kindle that are rapidly evolving to provide instant access to print media online. The all-electronic journal will be beneficial to authors in a number of ways: (1) the cost to SSR members for publication will decline considerably, as both page charges and color charges have been eliminated for them; (2) an all-electronic journal creates the potential for new enhancements, such as biographical sketches of authors of minireviews, and continued enrichment of online-only content such as animated abstracts or videos of authors explaining key results of highlighted articles; (3) the time from final acceptance to publication will be reduced. It is our hope that these changes will stimulate an increase in submission rate.

As we indicated in earlier Newsletters, a major goal of our editorship is to establish *Biology of Reproduction* and its Web site as the "go-to" place for information about reproductive biology. As a step toward addressing this initiative, we are establishing a monthly section of the Journal entitled "The World of Reproductive Biology," comprising brief but timely contributions, focusing on new findings in reproductive biology. A budget for this endeavor was approved at the summer meeting of the SSR Board of Directors, and we have made progress in recruiting an associate editor for this component of the Journal. We expect to roll out this new section of the Journal in 2011.

This year will also see the publication of biographies of individuals whose research has contributed substantially to our understanding of the realities of our discipline. These will be briefer versions of the model autobiography by Dr. Ryuzo Yanagimachi that appeared in the February 2009 issue of the Journal. We look forward to publishing biographies of some the leaders who have taught us much about reproductive biology. Your suggestions for biographies for future issues will be gratefully received.

An enhancement that we introduced in 2010, and one that we believe has been successful, is Commentaries. These brief articles highlight accepted manuscripts that have been judged to be of particular interest to our readership by the reviewers and the editors. One or two have appeared in each of the last 12 issues of the journal, and we are striving to publish two per issue. In 2011, we hope to use Commentaries to focus attention on exciting articles as a means to increase the profile of *Biology of Reproduction*.

One recent paper (Deng et al., *BOR-Papers in Press*, December 8, 2010) received considerable attention in the press. The article announced the birth of mice with two fathers, and a press release coinciding with its publication online received worldwide attention. In the first week, the release was accessed more than 3500 times on *EurekAlert!*, the online science news resource of AAAS. A Commentary by de Boer and de

Vries (Are There Benefits from Having Two Genetic Fathers? *doi:10.1095/biolreprod.110.09047*) on this article was published ahead of print on December 22, 2010.

Increasing visibility of the Journal is a further goal that we consider important to pursue in 2011. We are developing a plan, to be presented to the Board of Directors at its February meeting, to elevate the awareness of *BOR* in the scientific community. Initiatives may include social networking sites, exhibit booths at congresses with significant basic or clinical reproductive biology content, and advertising—in particular online advertising exchanges with sister societies and journals.

We are looking forward to a year which will be transformative for *BOR*, a year that will raise its profile, readership, and submissions. We wish all of our fellow SSR members a healthy and scientifically productive 2011. We solicit your feedback on the Journal, and we hope that you will publish your best science in *BOR* this year. ■

—Bernard Robaire and Bruce Murphy  
*Editors-in-Chief*

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### **Heritage Committee (formerly Emeritus Committee)**

The name of the Emeritus Committee has been changed to the Heritage Committee. This name change was deemed appropriate to more accurately reflect the activity of the committee and to promote increased attendance at the annual honoree breakfast. Since 2004, the Emeritus Committee has hosted an annual breakfast at which a pioneer scientist in the field of reproductive biology is recognized. Attendance has been minimal because of the general impression among Members and Trainees that only Emeritus members could attend this function. As in past years, the newly named Heritage Committee will sponsor the Heritage breakfast during the forthcoming SSR Annual Meeting in Portland, Oregon. The breakfast is scheduled for Monday, August 1, at 7:30 a.m. The scientist to be recognized at this 2011 breakfast will be Dr. L.E. Casida. The tribute presentation will be made by Dr. Keith Inskeep, a former graduate student of Dr. Casida. It is emphasized that attendance at this breakfast is open to everyone, especially Trainees. This event is a wonderful way to learn about the mentoring and research contributions of one of the pioneers in the field. The registration form for the Annual Meeting will allow one to register to attend the breakfast. ■

—Fredrick Stormshak, Chair  
*Heritage Committee*

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### **New Year's resolutions for the Public Affairs Committee**

The main mission of the Public Affairs Committee (PAC) is to represent the SSR membership in promoting public awareness of the importance of reproductive biology and the achievement of SSR members. The PAC also communicates with government agencies, other scientific societies, and advocacy groups such as the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB). The Newsletter you are reading now is another contribution of PAC (thanks to the efforts of Andrea Cupp, a PAC member and Newsletter Editor). In the Year of the Rabbit, we will embark a refinement of the organization and goals of PAC in order to better serve SSR's members. The PAC will be divided into three subcommittees: Outreach, Public Liaison, and Information. The Outreach subcommittee will work with the Local Arrangement Committee for the SSR Annual Meeting in Portland to promote the Outreach Day and other aspects of this summer's meeting. The Public Liaison Subcommittee will solicit SSR members and subsequently draft a list of funding and policy priorities reflecting the needs of SSR

members. This list will be provided to FASEB to help establish its priorities on behalf of its constituent societies. In addition to publishing the Newsletter, the Information Subcommittee will update the PAC Web site, and it will also identify critical findings by the SSR members in the upcoming year and convey this information to the national media. We encourage the SSR members to review the reorganization of the PAC and provide us with feedback and suggestions.

The PAC also wants to express our appreciation to John McCarrey for his service as the chair of the PAC for 2009–2010. ■

—*Humphrey Hung-Chang Yao, Chair*  
*Patricia Morris, Co-Chair*  
*Public Affairs Committee*

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## **Serve your Society: Newsletter editor wanted!**

Our Newsletter Editor, Andrea Cupp, will step down from her post this summer. Andrea has been Editor of the Newsletter since the summer of 2008 and has done a fantastic job. We are very grateful for her contribution to the SSR membership. The PAC is looking for an enthusiastic SSR Regular member to join the Committee and serve as the Editor starting this summer. Currently, SSR publishes three issues of the Newsletter per year (October, February, and June). The duty of the Editor is to solicit, compile, and edit articles from the President, Officers, and Directors of the Board; chairs of committees; and other SSR constituents following the schedule provided by the Society's Executive Office. In addition to these articles, the Editor can solicit articles from SSR members. After the Editor collects and arranges the articles in their final order, the articles are submitted to the Managing Editor, who fact-checks and copyedits the articles, then produces the final draft for the Editor to review. Upon the approval of the Editor, the Newsletter is posted on the SSR's Web site and its availability is announced to SSR members.

This position is open to all SSR Regular members. This is your chance to serve the SSR. Please nominate yourself for this position (e-mail Humphrey Yao with your nomination). ■

—*Humphrey Hung-Chang Yao, Chair*  
*Patricia Morris, Co-Chair*  
*Public Affairs Committee*

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## **Report of the SSR International Relations Membership Subcommittee**

This committee was established in 2010 to ensure that SSR activities reflect the concerns of the 30% of members who work in countries outside of North America.

The benefits of SSR membership for international members must address the fact that most international members will choose to belong to their local reproductive biology society first, and then decide whether to belong to SSR in addition. To address international members' needs, the following suggestions were presented at the 2010 Business Meeting for discussion, endorsement, and action from the broader SSR membership and the Board of Directors. These items are described more fully in the Minutes from the 2010 Business Meeting. Please send feedback and additional ideas directly to the Subcommittee.

1. Videostreaming or videotaping SSR Keynote presentations for subsequent access by SSR members.
2. Setting a target for international representation on committees to match membership proportion.

3. Video teleconferencing to enable participation of international members on committees.
4. Establishing SSR International Postdoctoral Partnership Travel Awards has been proposed and is under discussion with the Board of Directors.
5. Surveying SSR International members for suggestions to improve SSR membership benefits.
6. Ensuring that travel awards to international students are of sufficient value to enable them to attend SSR's Annual Meeting.
7. Holding the Annual Meeting at a location outside of North America. ■

—Kate Loveland, Chair  
*International Relations Subcommittee*  
 E-mail: [kate.loveland@monash.edu](mailto:kate.loveland@monash.edu)

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## News from CORE

The Committee on Reproduction and Environment (CORE) has expanded its membership to insure breadth of expertise and diversity of backgrounds. Appreciation of the impact of environmental chemicals on reproduction and development continues to grow. Recently, a questionnaire was sent to all committee members and volunteers in order to determine the mandate for CORE and prioritize objectives for the committee members to work on over the course of the coming year. Many of the members and volunteers have already provided their responses, demonstrating both the enthusiasm of the participants and the significance they perceive for environmental impacts on reproduction. From the early responses to the questionnaire, it is clear that the committee members see communication amongst established investigators and trainees as important along with efforts to enhance collaboration amongst investigators with an interest in the reproductive and developmental effects of environmental contaminants. Once all the questionnaires have been received and the results compiled, a summary of the findings will be circulated to all CORE members. The committee looks forward to communicating our mandate and sharing with the SSR membership at large the objectives that have been selected for CORE activities this year. ■

—Warren G. Foster, Chair  
*Committee on Reproduction and Environment*

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## News from MAC

The Minority Affairs Committee (MAC) and SSR are reaching out to young minority scientists to spark their interest in reproductive biology. With the support of FASEB MARC, SSR exhibited at two of the largest meetings attracting primarily undergraduate students from underrepresented minorities. Carol Linder attended the Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Latinos and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) meeting in Anaheim, California, September 30–October 3, and Joan Jorgensen attended the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS) meeting in Charlotte, North Carolina, November 10–13. The goal of both organizations is to encourage undergraduate, postbaccalaureate, and graduate students to pursue advanced training in the biomedical and behavioral sciences, including mathematics. The SACNAS is particularly geared toward mentoring and leadership development. This is evident in their mission statement: “*SACNAS is a society of scientists dedicated to fostering*

*the success of Hispanic/Chicano and Native American scientists—from college students to professionals—in attaining advanced degrees, careers, and positions of leadership.”*

Both Carol and Joan had invigorating experiences interacting with the students during the meetings and at the booths. Each meeting drew more than 3,000 participants. Over 40% of the students that attended SACNAS were interested in the biological sciences. Family-style meals allowed a great deal of personal interaction, and it was amazing to listen to the students talk so professionally about their research and career goals. There were also outstanding minority speakers at lunch and dinner that inspired not only the students but their mentors and even the most jaded of scientists! Students that stopped by the booth were primarily interested in summer research opportunities and graduate training programs.

At ABRCMS the SSR booth was located on "FASEB Row" where students were given passports to get stamped at each society's booth after they answered a question to help them learn about the societies. Students with full passports were entered into a drawing for an iPod! Many students just came by to figure out the question and get their stamp, but several spent a little more time listening to Joan and learning how great research in reproductive biology was and what it meant in translational and basic terms. One kid even told her that he was a "test-tube baby" and thanked us for the research that led to allowing him to be born!!

SSR must now decide whether to continue its participation in future SACNAS and ABRCMS meetings. The exhibit booth had very high traffic and student interest, plus it allowed us to give away SSR calendars and pens. There are several other opportunities to reach out to minority students during the meetings. Since Joan and Carol were the sole SSR representatives, they didn't get an opportunity to visit many posters or attend sessions. SSR could judge and award a reproductive biology poster category or even sponsor a session!

MAC is interested in finding SSR members who regularly attend SACNAS, ABRCMS, or other meetings that attract a large number of young scientists from underrepresented groups. Please contact Winston Thompson ([wthompson@msm.edu](mailto:wthompson@msm.edu)) or Carol Linder ([clinder@nmhu.edu](mailto:clinder@nmhu.edu)) if you are interested in helping SSR at future meetings.

**Remember we are now on facebook!** To join search for "[Society for the Study of Reproduction Minority Affairs Committee](#)" Contact Carol Linder ([clinder@nmhu.edu](mailto:clinder@nmhu.edu)) for more information. ■

—Carol Linder & Winston Thompson. Co-Chairs  
Minority Affairs Committee

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## News from the Reproductive Sciences Branch

### ***Retirement of Dr. Richard Tasca***

After more than 25 years of service with the Reproductive Sciences Branch (RSB), Dr. Richard Tasca retired from federal service at the end of 2010. Dr. Tasca joined the RSB in 1984 and immediately embarked on assembling a portfolio of research and research training grants dealing with the developmental biology of reproduction. Research supported by this program included studies on gametogenesis and fertilization, the results of which contributed to the development of technologies for in vitro fertilization, studies that addressed the critical importance of preimplantation embryo development to successful reproduction, and, most recently, the biology of stem cells and their potential role in regenerative medicine and treatment of infertility. His superb leadership of this program throughout the years was most evident by the achievements of the National Cooperative Program on Nonhuman In Vitro Fertilization and Preimplantation Development, which was fondly referred to as "The Culture Club." Research supported by this cooperative program led to the development of an IVF culture medium (i.e.,

Global) that is currently used in clinics around the world. His knowledge, dedication, passion for science, and easy demeanor will be sorely missed by us and by the scientific community at large. Please join me in wishing him well in his retirement.

### ***NICHD Visioning Moves Forward***

As mentioned in our last Newsletter piece, the NICHD, in collaboration with its external communities, is seeking to identify the most promising scientific opportunities of the next decade in its mission-relevant areas. This scientific “[visioning](#)” 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 from January through March 2011. Each workshop will center on a specific scientific theme. The process will culminate in a conference scheduled for June 2011 that brings together recommendations from all nine workshops. Participation by outside individuals is by invitation only. Those not participating in the meeting are welcomed to provide comments or questions at [NICHDvision@mail.nih.gov](mailto:NICHDvision@mail.nih.gov).

For more information about the NICHD Vision process, please visit <http://www.nichd.nih.gov/vision>. ■

—*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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### **FASEB rallies scientific community in support of research funding**

The 111<sup>th</sup> Congress adjourned on December 22, with legislators quickly wrapping up the year’s business before heading home for the holidays. As negotiations on the 2011 budget were in full swing, FASEB rallied the scientific community to urge their Senators and Representatives to pass a spending bill that included a \$1 billion funding increase for the National Institutes of Health (NIH). As a result of FASEB’s call to action, scientists sent nearly 9,500 messages to Capitol Hill urging lawmakers to sustain the federal investment in biomedical research. Despite the best efforts of the community, legislators failed to reach an agreement on a budget for the entire fiscal year, passing instead a continuing resolution (CR) that will keep the government operating until March 4, 2011. The CR continues funding for nearly all federal agencies at 2010 levels, although exceptions were made for certain programs that would otherwise expire or be seriously interrupted. The federal science agencies were not included among these exceptions, and the CR does not apportion funds to implement the Cures Acceleration Network, a new NIH entity authorized at \$500 million to speed the development of “high need cures.”

The new year did ring in some good tidings for the scientific community, however. Over the final days of the Congressional session, FASEB worked with others in the research community to prevent Congress from passing a bill that would have reauthorized the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer programs (STTR). These programs fund research conducted by small businesses by “setting aside” a portion of the budgets of 11 federal agencies, including NIH, the National Science Foundation (NSF), the United States Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Energy (DOE). These agencies are already required to devote at least 2.5 percent of their budgets to SBIR research funding. A bill introduced in the Senate would have increased the “set-aside” to 3.5 percent—redirecting as much as \$1 billion to a single research program at the expense of all other national scientific priorities and further eroding NIH’s capacity to fund competitive investigator initiated grants. Responding to the introduction of the Senate bill, FASEB

initiated an action alert which generated over 1,000 letters to Congress from scientists who opposed the bill. FASEB and its advocacy partners also sent letters to every Senator, the House leadership, and the House Committees on Small Business and Science and Technology. The bill was defeated when those Committees blocked the House from taking action on the Senate bill.

Since early 2009, FASEB has led a coalition of nearly 100 groups from research institutions, higher education associations, and patient advocacy organizations to fight attempts to increase the SBIR “set-aside,” noting that it would redirect funding from competitive, peer-reviewed research at a time when future funding levels are uncertain. The current authority for the SBIR and STTR programs expires on January 31, 2011, and it is likely that the next Congress will try again to renew both programs. FASEB will continue to oppose any attempt to increase the “set-aside” and urge legislators to work with the Obama Administration to increase funding for all research.

Scientists have another reason to celebrate 2011: both the House and Senate passed the *America COMPETES Act Reauthorization of 2010*. The legislation provides a three-year reauthorization for key federal science agencies including NSF, the DOE Office of Science (DOE SC), and the National Institute of Standards and Technology, continuing a plan to double authorized funding for those agencies over 10 years. Over the short term, recommended funding levels for NSF would grow from \$7.8 billion in FY 2012 to \$8.3 billion in 2013, while DOE SC levels would increase from \$5.6 billion to \$6 billion over the same time frame. Retiring House Science and Technology Committee Chairman Bart Gordon (TN) hailed the approval of the legislation, and House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (MD) spoke during the debate saying, “Federal support for research and innovation is one of the best investments we can make in our future.” President Obama’s signed the COMPETES legislation into law on January 4, 2011.. ■

—Karen R. Mowrer and Jennifer A. Hobin

Jennifer A. Hobin ([jhobin@faseb.org](mailto:jhobin@faseb.org)) is Director of Science Policy and Karen R. Mowrer ([kmowrer@faseb.org](mailto:kmowrer@faseb.org)) is the Legislative Affairs Officer in FASEB’s Office of Public Affairs

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## Membership Committee report

As we begin a new calendar year, the Membership Committee would like to remind everyone to renew their membership if they have not yet done so. Additionally, if one of your colleagues has not yet renewed his or her membership, please give him or her a nudge. Maintaining and growing our membership is an important component in the continued development of our Society.

Our Trainee members are also an important component of our Society and their renewal rate is currently lagging behind previous years (as of the beginning of the year, the SSR has 86 Trainee members

as compared to 474 last year). This decline in membership of Trainees in the SSR is a signal to everyone to increase efforts to engage their trainees and encourage them to become Trainee members of the Society.

Since the Annual Meeting of the SSR has historically provided trainees with ample opportunities to present their research findings and to interact with other members of the reproductive biology community, the Annual Meeting has been one of the best recruiting tools of the Society. This year the Annual Meeting will be in Portland, Oregon. For those of you who have not visited the Pacific Northwest, this is an excellent venue; plan now to attend the meeting and to bring your students.

The Membership Committee needs everyone in SSR to participate in the recruitment of new members. If you have suggestions to increase our membership, please send these to the Board of Directors or to the SSR office. ■

—Joe Cloud, Chair  
Membership Committee

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## New members

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### Regular

Chandler, Douglas E  
Knott, Jason  
Wang, Hongxing

### Associate

Pintado, Belen  
Schmuki, Shawn T

### Trainee

Allen, Jeremy J  
Allred, Rachel P  
Bogevik, Andre  
Chavoshinejad, Ramyar  
Clyde, Lindsey A

Hannon, Patrick R  
Li, Rong  
Madden, Jill  
Ruiz-Gonzalez, Irene  
Salavati, Mazdak

### Change of status

*To Regular:*  
Bertolla, Ricard  
Chang, Chia Lin  
Geyer, Christopher B  
Hermann, Brian P

Keating, Aileen  
Majumdar, Subeer S  
Mayer, Loretta P  
Meyer, Ralph G  
Oliveira, Cleida A  
Watanabe, Hiroyuki  
Zorrilla, Leah

### *To Associate:*

Delbes, Geraldine

### *To Trainee*

Banda, Liveness

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