



SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF REPRODUCTION

Newsletter

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June 2011

From the President—

You sustain SSR

Ah, June...the romantic month of weddings, graduations, and new beginnings! To our Trainee members graduating from degree programs or completing postdocs this year, we wish you all hearty congratulations and the very best wishes as you transition into the next phase of your careers. Of course I hope you will stay in the field of reproductive science and continue your membership in SSR!

Congratulations are also in order for those being honored with SSR awards this summer, and for our newly elected Board members and officers. President-Elect Barb Vanderhyden and I have been working closely with Judy Jansen and our Executive Office to insure a smooth transition and orientation for these new Board members and also for committee chairs and committees. We want to make sure that the valuable time you dedicate to SSR is put to best use.

The 2011 SSR meeting in Portland will be the grand finale of many efforts, all finely orchestrated by Judy Jansen and her talented staff. Our Program Committee, under the astute guidance of Jodi Flaws, is putting the finishing touches on a diverse program that wonderfully integrates the many components of reproductive sciences. If you happen to be undecided about attending this year, I encourage you to visit www.ssr.org to look over the program. You will find plenary talks designed to expand your world view and update your knowledge, and minisymposia on just about every aspect of reproductive sciences: gametogenesis (stem cells, meiosis, gonad and gamete function), pregnancy and fetal development (including fetal programming of adult function and disease), endocrinology and neuroendocrinology, and public health impacts. You will learn how multiscale models (cell-based, tissue-based, and whole animals to include rodents, agriculturally important species, primates, and humans) are being used to translate fundamental knowledge for the benefit of mankind. You will leave with a greater appreciation for how our research contributes to protecting endangered species, feeding a hungry world, and ensuring, to a greater extent than ever before in history, that couples everywhere can conceive and raise healthy children when they so desire. You will cross the frontiers of 21st century science looking ahead, and gain new insights about how we got to where we are today by looking back over the last 50 years of progress. I promise you will return home much enriched.

The Local Arrangements Committee will make sure you also have a great time at social events that encourage activity and exploration, and that you are well fed! They will encourage you to explore the very green city of Portland and all the gorgeous scenery that Oregon has to offer. Likewise our Trainee volunteers will pop up at every turn to help as needed while also participating in events designed to link us across generations as well as across disciplines. The Trainees have invited some of our 2011 speakers as

well as best-loved SSR mentors to participate in the Trainee-Mentor luncheon. We also want everyone to know that the Trainee Forum is not only for Trainees, the Heritage Breakfast is not just for our senior members, and the Minority Affairs Program is not only for our minority members. So read more about these special programs below and take advantage of them.

For those of you who can't join us in Portland, we will be piloting podcasts of selected plenary talks through the SSR Web site after the meeting. We hope our international members will also feel better connected with SSR by having remote access to parts of the meeting and that all will appreciate the opportunity to share these presentations with students and colleagues once back at home.

Last fall we transitioned into a new publishing model for *Biology of Reproduction* whereby Regular and Associate members are no longer assessed page charges for papers on which they are authors. We hope this new practice will help us recruit and retain Regular members. Innovation also abounds with the launch of a new feature, highlights from the *World of Reproductive Biology*, thanks to the efforts of Editors Robaire and Murphy.

With all these new and exciting developments, we can't forget ongoing essentials. We need your help now and we need you to be ever mindful of this need. Members are the mainstay of SSR, and happy members are the best recruiters of new members.

- By your example, enthusiasm, and leadership;
- By bringing your Trainees and colleagues to an SSR meeting;
- By submitting your best papers to *Biology of Reproduction* and encouraging your colleagues to do the same;
- By distributing our new membership brochure at local meetings;
- By your service on SSR committees, as reviewers, and being willing to run for office;
- By your contribution to SSR outreach and educational activities;
- By your monetary contributions of any and all sizes to our endowment.

YOU SUSTAIN SSR and YOU ARE SSR.

I'll say this again in Portland when I pass the torch (... gavel) to Barb, but just in case you're not there to hear it, I want to express to all SSR members how privileged I feel to serve as SSR's President this year, and work with such smart, thoughtful, creative, and fun people. I look forward to seeing you soon. v

—Sally Perreault Darney

Please join us in beautiful Portland for SSR's 44th Annual Meeting

The program for the Annual Meeting, set for 31 July–4 August in Portland, is complete. The program includes a wide variety of topics and animal species and promises to be outstanding! The program schedule is now available at www.ssr.org/11Schedule.shtml.

The program will open with a Keynote Address by Laneta Dorflinger, Ph.D., titled *Reproductive Science: Expanding Choice, Empowering Women, Securing the Future*. The Keynote Address will be followed by the President's Symposium, a Historical Perspectives lecture, two State-of-the-Art Lectures, 15 minisymposia, and platform and poster presentations for 729 abstracts. The Program will also include a Trainee Forum and a Minority Affairs Symposium, as well as poster presentations for 38 late-breaking abstracts.

As you begin your plans for attending the meeting, please keep the following deadlines in mind:

- Preregistration is available through 8 July.
- After 8 July, on-site registration will be necessary.

- Reduced rates at the Doubletree and Red Lion Hotels are available until 10 July.
- The barbecue and dance are scheduled for the evening of August 3, with the hope that SSR attendees will stay through 3 August and travel home on 4 August. #

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

Dr. John F. Alderete to speak at Minority Affairs Symposium in Portland



The Minority Affairs Committee is honored to have John F. Alderete, Ph.D. (School of Molecular Biosciences, Washington State University), as our speaker for the **Minority Affairs Symposium and Reception on Monday, 1 August**. The title of his presentation will be “*Trichomonas vaginalis*, Reproductive Health and a Minority Scientist's Experiences.”

Dr. Alderete’s research focuses on molecular mechanisms regulating *Trichomonas vaginalis* pathogenesis. In particular, his laboratory is interested in host-parasite interrelationships and identifying candidates for Point-of-Care diagnostics and/or vaccines.

Originally from Las Vegas, New Mexico, Dr. Alderete received undergraduate degrees in Mathematics and Biology from New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, his doctorate in Microbiology from the University of Kansas in Lawrence, and was a postdoctoral fellow at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. He has had a distinguished and highly successful career, publishing over 120 research papers and almost 70 book chapters, invited articles, and reviews. His research on *Trichomonas vaginalis* has led to numerous discoveries, 10 patents, and several successful Point-of-Care diagnostics. In addition, he has given over 300 presentations, is on the editorial board for numerous journals, and has a long history of federal and private funding. Dr. Alderete is a member of the National Academy of Sciences of Mexico and an American Association for the Advancement of Science Fellow. Awards and honors include a special Premio Encuentro Award, the highest honor bestowed to a Hispanic in America in the area of Science and Technology, The Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) Distinguished Scientist Award, and the William A. Hinton Research Training Award from the American Society for Microbiology. He was recognized by Hispanic Business Magazine as one of the “One Hundred Most influential Hispanics,” and his commitment to mentoring and training the next generation of scientists from underrepresented populations is clearly a common thread throughout his service record.

We hope all SSR Annual Meeting attendees will join us for the Minority Affairs Symposium and Reception on 1 August. Dr. Alderete also will participate in the Trainee-Mentor Luncheon and is looking forward to interacting with as many Trainees and fellow reproductive biologists as he can.

See you in Portland! v

*Carol Linder, Co-Chair
Minority Affairs Committee*

Trainee report

First and foremost, congratulations to Zeliann Craig (University of Illinois) for being elected the incoming Trainee Representative, and a big “thank you” to the other candidates who were nominated for this post.

The Annual Meeting in Portland will be here before we know it, and Tracy and I are looking forward to another tremendous Trainee turnout! This year’s meeting has placed a strong emphasis on Trainees and we encourage you to take advantage of all of the activities!

The **Trainee Research Platform Competition** will be featured as a “prime time” event on the opening day of the meeting (Sunday, 31 July at 5:00 PM); please show your support for these talented and hardworking trainees by attending this session! The Trainee Mentoring Award will be presented to the very deserving Dr. Patricia Hoyer as part of the Awards Ceremony immediately following the Trainee Research Platform Competition.

The **Trainee-Mentor Luncheon** on Monday, 1 August, is being expertly organized by April Binder and will offer an opportunity to get to know leaders in our field in a more casual setting. The luncheon is always a fantastic chance to get answers to your questions about research, careers, and maybe even having a life outside of science! Please visit the SSR Web site for more details on the Trainee-Mentor Luncheon (www.ssr.org/11TMLuncheon.shtml), and don’t forget to sign up when you register!

This year’s **Trainee Forum** will be held on Tuesday, 2 August, and features scientist, nonfiction author, and biographer Dr. Leon Speroff. Dr. Speroff will be sharing his thoughts on “Gregory Pincus and the Development of the Birth Control Pill.”

We are also excited to add a **Trainee Mixer** to the program immediately following the Trainee Forum (6:30 PM). This wine and cheese reception will be supported by Found Animals Foundation, a philanthropic organization whose mission is to control pet overpopulation. As part of this mission, Found Animals is encouraging reproductive research focused on non-surgical sterilization techniques for cats and dogs through the Michelson Prize & Grants in Reproductive Biology (michelson.foundanimals.org/). To learn more about the research funding available through the Michelson Grants and to network with fellow SSR members, be sure to take advantage of this opportunity. It promises to be an excellent addition to Trainee events at the Annual Meeting.

Finally, Tracy and I would like to encourage every Trainee member of SSR to consider **volunteering** some of their free time during the Annual Meeting. Volunteering not only helps make the Annual Meeting run smoothly but also provides the perfect opportunity to network and make new friends. If you would like to partake in the fun, please view the “Call for Volunteers” (www.ssr.org/11TraineeMtgInfo.shtml#Volunteers) or contact the Trainee Volunteer Subcommittee co-chairs, Sadie Murdie (sadie.murdie@jax.org) and Alison Ting (ting@ohsu.edu).

Thank you to all of our trainees who are working so hard to make these activities a success! v

— Denise Archambeault and Tracy Clement
SSR Trainee Representatives

L.E. Casida to be honored at Heritage Breakfast

Since 2004, the Emeritus Committee (now the Heritage Committee) has at an annual breakfast recognized a pioneer scientist in the field of reproductive biology. As in past years, the Heritage Committee will sponsor the Heritage Breakfast during the forthcoming SSR Annual Meeting in Portland. The breakfast is

scheduled for Wednesday, 3 August, at 7:30 AM. 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. Dr. Casida was a renowned reproductive biologist who pioneered basic research on reproduction of various domestic animals for more than three decades. He also was widely recognized for his unique and successful approaches in the training of graduate students and postdocs.

In previous years, attendance at the breakfast has been minimal because it was generally assumed one had to be an Emeritus member to attend. This has never been the case, and it is emphasized that attendance at this breakfast is open to all members, and especially the Trainees. Trainees will find attendance at this breakfast an excellent way to learn something about the contributions of some of our leading pioneer reproductive biologists. To encourage greater attendance at the breakfast, the cost to Trainees is only \$10 (the difference in cost for a Trainee vs. a member will be covered by a donation to the Society). It is hoped that this incentive will result in greater participation by Trainees. Members who wish to be generous, and who have Trainees participating in the meeting, might also consider paying the full \$25 for the Trainee to attend the breakfast. Everyone attending the breakfast must register for this event. Please consult the registration form for the Annual Meeting. The Heritage Committee hopes attendance at this event will be far greater this year than in previous years. v

—*Fredrick Stormshak, Chair
Heritage Committee*

Call for SSR Outreach Day volunteers: Camp Monkey

The second annual SSR Outreach Day will be held on Friday, 29 July (just prior to the start of the SSR 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 72 middle school students from the Portland metropolitan area for a full day of science fun! The students will rotate among six separate, 45-minute labs, from 9 AM to 4 PM, with lunch and snacks provided.

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!

We need volunteers to help with hands-on laboratory activities appropriate for this age group. If you enjoy the excitement and enthusiasm of young students 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 have customized lab ideas to the monkey theme (comparative reproductive biology/neuroscience, behavior, RNA/DNA/genetics, assisted reproduction techniques, environmental contaminants, animal enrichment) that are related to biomedical/veterinary research in reproduction.

We have reserved a block of rooms at a local hotel for this event; volunteers will need to make their own reservations.

For more information, please visit the Outreach Day Volunteer Web site at www.ssr.org/OutreachDayVolunteer.shtml.

To volunteer, please contact the organizers of this activity via email: Mary Zelinski (zelinski@ohsu.edu), Division of Reproductive Sciences, ONPRC; Diana Gordon (gordondi@ohsu.edu), Director of Education Outreach, ONPRC; or Derek McLean, (dmclean@wsu.edu), Dept. of Animal Sciences, Washington State University. We are so excited to host this day of science outreach, and look forward to working with you! v

—Mary Zelinski, Chair
Outreach Subcommittee of PAC

New Officers, Directors, and Trainee Representative elected

The Society is pleased to announce the results of its 2011 election of Officers and Directors.

Vice President: **Susan Suarez** (sss7@cornell.edu)

Vice President-Elect: **Jock Findlay** (jock.findlay@princehenrys.org)

Directors:

- **Jodi Flaws** (jflaws@illinois.edu),

- **Tom Spencer** (thomas.spencer@wsu.edu)

The Nominating Committee reports that votes were received from almost 50% of our members. The Society is fortunate to have outstanding leaders who are willing to serve. We congratulate those elected, and express our gratitude and admiration to those who were candidates and to all who were considered for candidacy by the committee.

With more than 40% of eligible members voting, SSR Trainees have elected **Zelieann Craig** (zelieann@illinois.edu) as their representative to the Board of Directors for 2011–2013. Trainees were fortunate in being able to choose from candidates who are all actively involved in SSR activities and have consistently demonstrated commitment and service to the Society.

2011 SSR major award recipients — Congratulations!!

- *Carl G. Hartman Award* (sponsored by Cook Medical) — **JoAnne S. Richards, Ph.D.** (Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas)
- *SSR Research Award* (sponsored by the Society for the Study of Reproduction) — **Francesco DeMayo, Ph.D.** (Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas)
- *Distinguished Service Award* (sponsored by the Society for the Study of Reproduction) — **Joy L. Pate, Ph.D.** (Penn State University, University Park, Pennsylvania)
- *New Investigator Award* (sponsored by the Virenda B. Mahesh SSR New Investigator Fund) — **Derek Boerboom, D.V.M., Ph.D.** (Université de Montréal, Saint-Hyacinthe, PQ, Canada)

- *Trainee Mentoring Award* (sponsored by the SSR Trainee Mentoring Fund) — **Patricia B. Hoyer, Ph.D.** (University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona)

These SSR major awards will be presented during the SSR Annual Meeting in Portland, Oregon. The members of the Awards Committee thank the SSR membership for excellent nominations. A description of the awards is at www.ssr.org/Awards.html v

—*Kwan Hee Kim, Chair
Awards Committee*

Message from the Treasurer—

We still have lots of unknowns for 2011

We have good news and some possible bad news for the financial status of the Society. First, the good news. Our investment portfolio continues to do well. We ended 2010 with a portfolio of \$3,158,531. As of 4 May, our investment portfolio totaled \$3,290,279 (Table 1). Despite all of the volatility in the various markets in the U.S. and overseas, we have eked out a 4.2% gain in our investments in our internationally diversified portfolio. Along with Anne Marie Etergino and her team at Royal Bank of Canada Wealth Management, we have continued to tweak our portfolio to further diversify and take advantage of opportunities. Since the equity and bond markets continue to be volatile, we cannot count on the significant rises in our investments that we have seen over the last two years. However, our diversified portfolio should at least limit large fluctuations in our investment portfolio.

Table 1. Investment Portfolio Values on 5/4/11

SSR Investment Fund	\$ 2,302,246.14
General Endowment Fund	\$ 469,108.78
Legacy Fund	\$ 227,031.78
Mahesh Neuroendocrine Program Fund	\$ 101,972.45
New Investigator Fund	\$ 69,185.81
Anita Payne Endowment Fund	\$ 115,237.48
Trainee Mentoring Fund	\$ 5,496.83
TOTAL	\$ 3,290,279.26

Because it is recommended practice in the business world to change auditors every few years, we changed auditors for 2011. Our new auditors are Wegner LLP, CPAs & Consultants, who came highly recommended to us and specialize in tax-exempt organizations. The audit was carried out in March and everything went extremely well.

Now, the possible bad news. As I mentioned in the February Newsletter, there are still a lot of unknowns for 2011 and especially the effects of free publication in *BOR* on our Society's bottom line.

Revenues from *BOR* have been a major source of positive cash flow for our Society. At the winter Board meeting, the projected 2011 budget was predicting a loss of \$400,675. While this is typically a conservative estimate based on many unknowns, it is still somewhat troubling. As Dr. Sally Perreault Darney announced last September, we would make this change to *BOR* and re-evaluate the effects on the Society's bottom line after one year. We will have additional information on our financial status by the summer Board meeting, and I will be able to update you on our budget position at the Annual Meeting.

I thank the members for their continued support of the Society, and I hope that you will continue to be equally as generous with your donations to SSR. I look forward to seeing you in Portland! v

—Martin Matzuke

Message from the Editors—

BOR* launches the *World of Reproductive Biology

With this message, we are announcing a new component of *Biology of Reproduction*, the *World of Reproductive Biology*. It was first introduced on 20 April 2011, and comprises a weekly update on new, cutting-edge science published in journals other than *BOR* that we feel will be of interest to the entire readership of the Journal. We are extremely fortunate to have found and engaged a talented science writer, Dr. Charlotte Schubert, to develop this sector and to compose these short notes. Charlotte was trained as a developmental biologist and awarded a Ph.D. from the University of Washington. She brings outstanding credentials to this endeavor; in particular, she was employed for some years as an editor of *Nature Medicine*, where her job was to commission and write highlights for interesting articles in that journal and in other publications. Her task for *BOR* is similar; each week she identifies one or more articles describing exciting new research. Then, in consultation with the Editors, she develops a summary of the new science. These summaries are published online, once per week, under the rubric, the *World of Reproductive Biology*. They are then compiled each month and published in the Journal. The first article highlighted was on the mechanisms regulating meiosis, from the laboratory of SSR member, Dr. Marco Conti (www.biolreprod.org/content/early/2011/04/20/biolreprod.111.092957.abstract). As of this writing, a further three highlights have appeared. We believe this to be an exciting initiative. Your feedback is welcome, as are your suggestions of new and important emerging research published in other journals that we can highlight in the *World of Reproductive Biology*. To improve your access to these texts, we urge you to sign up for alerts at www.biolreprod.org/cgi/alerts/etoc; you will receive e-mails to flag to you that a new note has appeared. Each month, these notes will be collected in a dedicated section of the Journal.

As was reported to the membership by President Perreault Darney (www.ssr.org/10StateOfSociety.shtml), page and color charges for *BOR* were abolished for SSR members submitting papers after 1 September 2010, provided that the corresponding author is a Regular or Associate member in good standing at the time the paper is submitted. Comparison for the first four months of this year with 2010 shows only a small increase in submissions (~5%); this increase is less than we thought would occur as a consequence of this important change. It may be that the SSR membership is as yet unaware that they can publish in our Journal at no cost. Please spread the word. Other journal statistics indicate that the time from submission to first decision is holding steady at about one month, with by far the largest component being the time for completion and submission of the reviews. For the period since we began our editorship, the final acceptance rates have held at 45% of initial submissions. As we stated many times, we have no benchmark

for acceptance; we ensure that each manuscript is conscientiously reviewed and the decision is made on its merits.

We greatly value the impartial judgment and the timely handling of manuscripts of our conscientious and hardworking Associate Editors. We are pleased to report that our entire slate of AEs has agreed to continue for the next year of our editorship, July 2011–June 2012. This bodes for continued evenhanded evaluation of your submissions.

BOR is the SSR's flagship, it is your Journal, and its strength depends on the quality of manuscripts we receive. Please continue to submit your best work to *BOR*; we will evaluate it fairly and with the briefest turnaround we can manage. v

—Bernard Robaire and Bruce Murphy
Co-Editors-in-Chief of *BOR*

Call for applications for Editor(s)-in-Chief of *Biology of Reproduction*

The Board of Directors of the Society for the Study of Reproduction (SSR) has requested the Publications Committee commence a search for successors to the co-Editors-in-Chief of *Biology of Reproduction*, Drs. Bernard Robaire and Bruce Murphy, whose term ends in June 2013. Therefore, we are now seeking applicants for the position of Editor(s)-in-Chief, whose duties will start officially in July 2013 and extend through June 2017.

Applicants should be active scientists with a distinguished record of service to SSR, a broad background in reproductive sciences, an appreciation for integrative as well as cellular/molecular approaches to research, and a strong commitment to fairness and high standards for publication. Applicants must be fully committed to maintaining *Biology of Reproduction* as the premier journal in its field.

If you are interested in applying for the position of Editor-in-Chief, or wish to nominate a qualified individual for this important and prestigious position, please contact Mitch Eddy, Chair of the Publications Committee for 2011–2012 (mitcheddy@nc.rr.com), or Robert Burghardt, Publications Committee Board Liaison (rburghardt@cmv.tamu.edu). Guidelines for submitting an application packet will be forwarded to nominees beginning 1 July 2011. The deadline for applications is 31 December 2011. v

—Mitch Eddy, Chair
Publications Committee

Public Affairs Committee gets busy—

SSR brochure, SSR Facebook page, education outreach program, and more!

Members of the PAC have been busy working on various projects based on the recently revised Standard Operating Protocol. Laura Schulz from the Information Subcommittee designed a beautiful brochure for SSR; it is available on the SSR Web site: www.ssr.org/Documents/2011-03-25MembershipBrochure.pdf. This brochure will serve as a public affairs tool for recruiting new members and introducing SSR to the general public.

Jackye Peretz, also from the Information Subcommittee, started a trial version of the Facebook page for SSR and presented it to the Board of Directors. The task is now passed on to the Publications

Committee, which will look into the logistics of publishing and managing the SSR Facebook site.

Our Newsletter editor, Andrea Cupp, will retire from her post this summer. We would like to thank her for her contribution to SSR for the past 3 years. Laura Schulz has volunteered to take over the Editor's position at the end of the summer.

Patricia Morris will take over as PAC Chair this summer. She will also serve as the SSR's Advisor to the FASEB Board of Directors. I will step down from these two posts after the Annual Meeting.

The major event sponsored by the PAC at this year's Annual Meeting in Portland is the Education Outreach Program (Camp Monkey), a one-day science camp experience where local middle school students will learn about biology, behavior, and biomedical research. This event will be held on Friday, 29 July. Mary Zelinski from the Outreach Subcommittee will lead the program and is looking for more volunteers to help (see her report in this newsletter). v

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

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 achievements 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 on 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 Arrangements 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 SSR members in the upcoming year and convey this information to the national media. We encourage 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 chair of the PAC for 2009–2010. v

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

News from the Bylaws Committee

Over the winter, the SSR membership was given the opportunity to evaluate and vote on six amendments to the Bylaws of the Society. The actual vote took place in January and February of this year. All of the

amendments passed by wide margins (approval required a 2/3 vote of those who submitted a ballot) and are summarized below:

Amendment 1: *Proposed changes to the Bylaws to move the Emeritus, Nominating, and Trainee Affairs Committees from ad hoc to standing.*

For 97.5%
Against 2.5%

Amendment 2: *Proposed changes to the Bylaws to retain Chairs on the standing committees for one year as Past Chairs.*

For 98.5%
Against 1.5%

Amendment 3: *Proposed changes to the Bylaws to correct language discrepancies regarding the timing of elections.*

For 98.9%
Against 1.1%

Amendment 4: *Proposed changes to the Bylaws to allow one vote by the Trainee Representatives on the Board of Directors.*

For 90.1%
Against 9.9%

Amendment 5: *Proposed changes to the Bylaws to form the new office of Vice President-Elect.*

For 92.6%
Against 7.4%

Amendment 6: *Proposed changes to the Bylaws to rename the office of President-Elect to that of Vice President.*

For 95.2%
Against 4.8%

The Bylaws Committee would like to commend the membership for their participation in this activity and to thank those who provided comments. A total of 478 members (34.1%) cast votes on the Bylaws changes. This represents a greater participation than obtained previously. The committee would also like to thank Fraser Gurd at the SSR Business Office for his tremendous effort into putting together and managing the online voting process. Well done!

Please remember that this is your Society and it is the privilege of all Regular members to continue to 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. v

—Michael W. Wolfe, Chair
Bylaws Committee

Report from the Membership Committee

Membership brochure: Laura Schulz from the Information Subcommittee of the PAC has developed a wonderful membership brochure that is on the Membership page on the SSR Web site (www.ssr.org/Membership.shtml). Click on membership brochure (to the right under the logo) and you will be able to download and print it (use “landscape” orientation).

Reproductive Biology Centers: The Membership Committee needs your help. It appears that a number of participants of major reproductive biology centers around the world are not members of the SSR. The Membership Committee is requesting that the leadership of these centers help in recruiting new members.

Committee meeting: The Membership Committee will meet at the Annual Meeting in Portland, Oregon; the time and place of the meeting will be posted in the near future.

Leadership transition: Jon Oatley will be the new chair of the Membership Committee for 2011–2012. Jon has already participated in a number of conference calls concerning the membership of SSR and strategies to strengthen our numbers. Specifically, Jon will identify specific SSR members within our different regions to help recruit and retain members for our Society. v

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

International Relations Membership Subcommittee report

This subcommittee of the Membership Committee was established to ensure that SSR activities reflect the concerns of the 30% of members who work in countries outside of North America. The subcommittee is piloting an SSR International Postdoctoral Partnership Travel Award to support travel for emerging international investigators to SSR’s 2011 Annual Meeting in collaboration with the Society for Reproductive Biology (Australia/New Zealand) and The Epididymis V meeting planners (Brazil). Keep an eye out for these international award winners in Portland! v

—Kate Loveland, Chair
International Relations Subcommittee

SSR committees—

Service with a smile

If there is any doubt about the vibrancy of this Society, let me dispel that thought right at the outset. Yes, regular membership has shown a gradual decline in the past decade, and yes, the current funding situation leaves much to be desired. But the members of this Society have such high regard for its ideals, and apparently unlimited enthusiasm to support its activities, that it seems pretty clear to me that we are a strong Society nonetheless.

For the past few months, it has been my great pleasure to review and rejuvenate the SSR committees, and it indeed has been a tremendous pleasure. E-mail and phone chats with the members of the current committees have made it clear that SSR members are not only happy to serve, but are dedicated to doing whatever is necessary to improve all aspects of the Society. Trainee members transitioning into their first faculty positions are eager to serve on their first SSR committees as Regular members. And there are several new SSR members who will be joining SSR Committees for the first time. Welcome!

I want to thank every one of you who, without hesitation or prodding, responded positively to my invitation for you to serve, or to continue to serve, on an SSR committee for 2011–2012. The full committee memberships will be posted on the SSR Web site after the Annual Meeting, when the committees turn over. According to our new Bylaw, the current committee chairs will remain on their committees for one additional year to facilitate the transition.

The leadership of SSR committees for 2011–2012 is summarized below.

Committee

Awards Committee
Bylaws Committee
Committee on Reproduction and the Environment
Development Committee
 Endowment Subcommittee
 Annual Meeting/ Industrial Relations
Heritage Committee
Future Meetings Committee
Local Arrangements Committee
Membership Committee
 International Relations Subcommittee
Minority Affairs Committee
Nominating Committee
Program Committee
 International Program Subcommittee
 Translational Research Subcommittee
Public Affairs Committee
Publications
 Co-Chair
 Research Ethics Subcommittee
 Animal Ethics Subcommittee
Trainee Affairs Committee

Chair

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I look forward to working with all of you! v

—Barbara Vanderhyden,
President-Elect

SSR representation on Capitol Hill

On March 29, the co-chair of the Public Affairs Committee, Patricia Morris, was one of 22 scientists and engineers assembled by FASEB to meet with members of the U.S. Congress and their staff.

This day of advocacy was designed to provide input from scientists working in specialized health-related areas to meet with individual members of the Senate and the House of Representatives to underscore, on a personal outreach level, the need for strong legislative support for 2011–2012 NIH and NSF funding for biomedical research.

As the representative from SSR, Morris represented biomedical and basic researchers involved in the study of human and animal reproduction. Together with a computational biologist from the Jackson Laboratories and a FASEB legislative staffer, Patricia had the opportunity to meet with congressional staff in the offices of Senators Charles Schumer (D-NY; member of the Senate Finance Committee), Olympia Snowe (R-ME), and Susan Collins (R-ME; member of the Senate Appropriations Committee). The three-member team also met with health and legislative policy staff for Representatives Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) and Mike Michaud (D-ME). The scientists stressed the need to maintain critical ongoing research efforts to improve reproductive health from bench-to-bedside and to support basic research infrastructure.

In the midst of a Continuing Resolution to avoid a federal government shut-down, the Capitol Hill visit was a pleasant clear, brisk day of frequent crisscrossing between congressional buildings along flowering cherry blossom trees. The scientists represented diverse disciplines and came from across the United States. The evening before the event, the president of FASEB, William T. Talman, M.D., and FASEB's Public Affairs staff communicated to the scientists, many new to such advocacy efforts, the

consensus views of the biomedical research community FASEB presents to Congress, the White House, federal agencies, and advocacy partners. The scientists personalized their visits to lawmakers with pertinent “leave-behind” materials as well as conveying information regarding the biomedical programs and mission statements from their home institutions.

NIH and NSF funding updates: For fiscal year (FY) 2011, NIH was funded at \$30.7 billion, which represents a 1% cut from FY2010 spending levels and reflects a \$210 million decrease among all Institutes and Centers, including the Office of the Director. For comparison HR1, the original spending bill proposed that passed the House but not the Senate, would have meant a FY11 NIH budget of \$29.4 billion. This would have been \$1.4 billion less than the agreed-to FY11 level.

On 15 April, in concluding remarks during testimony to the House Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Labor, Health & Human Services, Education and Related Agency, FASEB President Talman stated, “The nation’s medical research agency needs sustainable and predictable budget growth to maximize the return on this investment in the health and longevity of all Americans. To that end, FASEB recommends an appropriation of \$35 billion for NIH in FY 2012.” In testimony submitted to the Senate Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies, Dr. Talman called for FY 2012 NSF support. On behalf of FASEB members, he requested that the same funding level contained in the President’s FY 2012 budget request and recommended by the bipartisan *America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010*, be supported at an appropriation level of 7.8 billion for NSF in FY 2012. v

—Patricia L. Morris, Co-Chair
PAC Committee

Science agencies escape big cuts in 2011 budget; 2012 funding faces new threats

After enacting seven “continuing resolutions” (temporary funding measures) and nearly shutting down the federal government, Congress and President Barack Obama finally reached a deal on the overdue fiscal year (FY) 2011 budget. The agreement (HR 1473) ended months of fighting over funding levels and policy issues. In the end, lawmakers and the president agreed on a budget through the end of FY 2011 (September 30) that cut nearly \$40 billion in spending from FY 2010 levels and subjected all non-defense discretionary spending to a 0.2 percent across-the-board cut. The House passed HR 1473 by a vote of 260–167 with 59 Republicans voting against the measure (including Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman Dennis Rehberg, R-MT) and 81 Democrats supporting it. Senate approval came on an 81–19 vote, although 15 Republicans and four Democrats opposed the legislation. President Obama signed HR 1473 on 15 April, more than 6 months after the start of FY 2011.

Considering the overall level of cuts, the impact on the federal science agencies was fairly minimal. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) was funded at \$30.7 billion, a \$300 million (one percent) reduction from FY 2010. \$210 million was cut from all of the Institutes/Centers and the Office of the Director (pro-rated based on the total funding provided), \$50 million was taken from the intramural buildings and facilities account, and \$40 million represented the 0.2 percent across-the-board cut. No funds were provided to implement the Cures Acceleration Network (CAN), a new NIH entity authorized to speed the development of therapies for patients.

Small cuts were also made to the National Science Foundation (NSF) and Department of Energy Office of Science (DoE SC) budgets. NSF was funded at \$6.87 billion, or \$65.76 million (one percent) below the FY 2010 level. DoE SC was cut by \$46.1 million, leaving the FY 2011 funding level at \$4.88 billion. In addition, the final bill did not include an earlier proposal to cap funding for the Biological and

Environmental Research program within DoE SC at half the amount appropriated in FY 2010. Implementing the cap halfway into FY 2011 would have had severe consequences on DoE SC's environmental research programs, as well as its biological and environmental user facilities.

Although the reductions in funding for the science agencies are disappointing, the collective advocacy efforts of individuals from across the country made it possible to defeat the much more draconian cuts that were included in a bill (HR 1) the House passed in February. HR 1 cut \$1.6 billion from NIH and \$359 million from NSF. Calls and e-mails from concerned scientists to their members of Congress had a big impact on the final budget agreement.

With FY 2011 settled, attention now shifts to the FY 2012 budget. Many in Congress are calling for further cuts in domestic discretionary funding (which supports NIH and NSF) while President Obama's FY 2012 budget request proposed a 4.1 percent increase for NIH (to \$31.97 billion), a 13 percent increase for NSF (to \$7.76 billion), and an 11 percent increase (to \$5.41 billion) for DoE SC. FASEB issued its FY 2012 funding recommendations in February. On April 15, the House passed H Con Res 34, an FY 2012 Budget Resolution (the document that establishes overall funding levels) by a vote of 235–193. H Con Res 34 cuts \$6.2 trillion from Obama's FY 2012 request over 10 years, reduces domestic discretionary funding to below 2008 levels, and freezes this category of spending for 5 years. The Senate Budget Committee was expected to release its version of the FY 2012 Budget Resolution in May. Adoption of a Budget Resolution is a critical step in the annual congressional budget process because it provides the total amount available to the Appropriations Committees which decide on funding levels for each federal agency. v

—Jennifer L. Zeitzer
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SSR member news—

***Repropedia* (www.repropedia.org)**

On 29 March 2011, the Center for Reproductive Research (CRR) at Northwestern University, a Specialized Cooperative Centers Program in Reproduction and Infertility Research, launched *Repropedia* (www.repropedia.org/). *Repropedia* is a comprehensive, reproductive-focused lexicon that was created to provide the public with words they can use to understand reproductive health and biology. Scientists, clinicians, and students from Northwestern University, as well as institutions throughout the country, contributed the words and definitions, and an editorial board, consisting of CRR trainees and other members of Dr. Teresa Woodruff's lab, reviewed all entries to ensure that definitions were both accurate and accessible to scientists and non-scientists alike. Many of the words contain links to images and video clips featuring contributors expanding upon a definition. There is also an "Ask an Expert" link, which allows users to submit a question or solicit additional information.

The aim is that *Repropedia* will evolve and grow, ensuring that lay-friendly definitions can be developed for teaching high school students and used by the public. CRR invites members of the reproductive science and health community to share their expertise and contribute additional terms, images, or video clips to this important resource. Please visit the Web site at www.repropedia.org or contact CRR program manager, Cathryn Smeyers (c-smeyers@northwestern.edu) for additional details.

Phillip Fields runs marathons—lots of them—with leukemia while raising money for kids with cancer

Phillip Fields is a member of SSR and a professor of anatomy to MD, PA, and PT students at the University of South Alabama College of Medicine, Mobile. As an average marathoner, he has always been able to train and run marathons in the 3:30s and qualified for Boston in 1996 with a 3:25 and in 2004 with 3:35. In January 2007, while training for another run at Boston, he noticed an alarming change in his stamina and couldn't complete 3 miles without walking. Following 8 months of cardiovascular, respiratory, and GI exams, the doctors had no clue. At his yearly checkup that September, the primary care physician discovered enlarged lymph nodes and a high white blood count. Dr. Fields was referred to the Mitchell Cancer Institute (Mobile, AL). Further blood tests, a bone marrow biopsy, and second opinion (MD Anderson, Houston, TX) confirmed high risk chronic lymphocytic leukemia.

When he explained the importance of running to his oncologists and asked about running marathons, he was told that taking the trash out would be fatiguing much less running a marathon. And besides, he would likely be starting chemotherapy within the next 4–6 months.

After a year of 2/day training to learn to run with the fatigue, Dr. Fields decided to attempt a marathon in February 2009 (Pensacola, FL). The race start was a scary moment, since in training runs, he was hitting the wall at 6 miles and would force himself to do 10 more. However, 20 more miles was an unknown. The marathon was two loops. "Passing the half marathon finish and continuing the second loop totally out of gas was all mental. However, I figured I wouldn't get closer to finishing a marathon, and if I quit, would I ever again be able to force myself to complete one." Although not close to qualifying for Boston, he was elated with 4:30 and began planning his next marathon. At Little Rock in March 2009, he heard about the 50 States Marathon Club and set a goal of running marathons in all 50 states + DC with leukemia.

At the Prairie Fire Marathon in Wichita, KS (October 2010), something happened that changed Dr. Fields's entire outlook. He was contacted by the race director with regard to the local newspaper running an article about his running marathons around the country with leukemia. "I had spent 2007–2010 keeping my leukemia known to close friends only, but figured since no one knows me in Kansas, what the heck." A lady in Wichita read the article, tracked down where he was staying for the marathon, and called him. She said how inspired and encouraged she was with what he had accomplished with leukemia. She went on to tell him about her young daughter who was recently diagnosed with leukemia and was starting chemotherapy. "Her story really touched me and I knew then what I had to do." Upon returning from the marathon, Dr. Fields began to research foundations that focused on the treatment of pediatric cancer. He read volumes of information on the National Leukemia Society and St. Jude and all the good work they were doing and checked out how much of the donations were actually spent on treatment versus administrative costs and advertising. He then learned about a foundation that devotes all its time and resources on research and treatment of pediatric diseases and especially pediatric cancer. The foundation is Nemours. Phillip developed the Web site www.marathonwithleukemia.org (went online January 2011) and with the help of Nemours began raising money for the treatment of children with cancer. When he travels to a marathon, articles are published in local papers and he has the Web site and Running for Kids with Cancer printed on his running shirts. Foundations like Nemours are dependent on donations. The National Cancer Society budgets \$4.8 billion/year to cancer research. Less than 4%, about \$175 million, is devoted to pediatric cancer. That is why the newest treatment for children's leukemia was developed nearly 20 years ago.

Visitors to the Web site can see photos of all the places Dr. Fields has traveled. “That way, even if someone goes to the Web site out of curiosity and doesn’t donate, they will at least come away with a sense of how great our country is”

Running appeared to delay the need for chemo; however in February 2011 his oncologist said it was time. Again my question to the oncologist was, “Can I continue to run during chemo?” His response this time was, “Do whatever you feel like doing. However, you are not going to feel like doing.” Since there was no state in February where Phillip hadn’t run a marathon, he ran the Mardi Gras half marathon in New Orleans, LA (Feb 13) and Five Points half Marathon in Gainesville, FL (Feb 20). These were one and two weeks past the first round of chemotherapy and were his attempt to test whether he would be able to run a marathon during chemo. Maryland (March 2011) was his 30th marathon in 26 months with leukemia and came after the second round of chemo.

“In a way, leukemia has been a blessing. Because of the fatigue, I’m not running marathons as fast as I would like, but I am having a blast going state to state and seeing our great country while doing what I enjoy—running marathons. I would never have done this without leukemia.”

Favorite marathons to date: Choteau, Montana – afterwards, hiked Glacier National Park; Sedona, Arizona – afterwards, stayed at El Tovar on the rim of the Grand Canyon; South Dakota – started at Crazy Horse Monument near Mount Rushmore. Hardest: Estes Park with its altitude. “I guess having sufficient red blood cells really is important.”

The Crazy Horse Marathon race director finished his e-mails with "You don't limit your challenges, you challenge your limits". This is probably a good slogan for all of us to live by. In April, Knoxville, TN will be marathon #31 with leukemia and will come right after the third round of chemotherapy. “Believe me, it is easier taking the trash out.” v

—Phillip Fields, age 63

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Eppig elected to National Academy of Sciences

SSR member John J. Eppig has been elected to the National Academy of Sciences. Dr. Eppig, a pioneer in developmental and reproductive biology, is a senior staff scientist and professor at The Jackson Laboratory, Bar Harbor, Maine.

Dr. Eppig has served SSR in many capacities including President, Co-Editor-in-Chief of *Biology of Reproduction*, and Director. In 1999, he received the SSR Research Award, and in 2010, the SSR's highest award, the Carl G. Hartman Award.

Dr. Eppig was one of 72 new members and 18 foreign associates from 15 countries who were recognized this year by the Academy for their distinguished and continuing achievements in original research. The Academy now includes 2,113 active members and 418 foreign associates.

Congratulations, Dr. Eppig !

New members

Regular

Alderete, John F
An, Wenfeng
Crabtree, Judy S
Da Silva, Nicolas
Diaz, Emilce Silvina
Hernandez-Cruz, Arturo
Holloway, Joanna K
Kanka, Jiri
Kraus, William Lee
Ma, Liang
Pang, Myung-Geol
Selman, Helmy

Associate

Zhou, Yuping

Trainee

Adur, Malavika K
Akison, Lisa K
Al Naib, Abdullah
Al-Alem, Linah F
Albaghdadi, Ahmad JH
Baidya, Raji
Bastos, Michele R
Beckett, Evan M
Bhattacharya, Poulomi
Bremgartner, Matthew J
Broady, Johnathan W
Brown, Raquel B
Bunel, Audrey
Burrroughs, Chelsie A
Caesar, Gerialisa
Cagnone, Gael
Campos, Jacira R
Cha, Jeeyeon
Chaen, Takashi
Chakraborty, Prabuddha
Chin, Peck-Yin
Choi, So Young
Cleys, Ellane R
Cook-Bailey, Audrey M
Crouse, Rebecca A
da Fonseca, Gabriela Rios
Dai, Mingdao
Davis, Jeffrey C
Davis, Matthew G
De, Santanu
Deaver, Stacie E
Donaubauer, Elyse M
Duffy, Gillian B
Dun, Matthew D
Eddie, Sharon L

Enriquez, Vanessa A
Evans, Elizabeth B
Filant, Justyna
Forsgren, Kristy L
Frank, Laura A
Gannon, Anne M
Garcia, Thomas
Garfoot, Andrew
Garon, Gabriel
Gates, Katherine C
Gawecka, Joanna E
Geiger, Scott W
Gieske, Mary C
Gohin, Maella
Graves-Herring,
Jennifer E
Greene, Jonathan M
Greff, Sorin
Guerrero-Bosagna,
Carlos M
Hale, Benjamin J
Hear, Melissa E
Hodgkinson, Kendra
Hormann, Annette M
Hughes, Jennifer R
Hwang, Keumsil
Jagarlamudi, Krishna
Rao
Jasurda, Jake
Jinks, Emma M
Kamat, Manasi Manohar
Kassotis, Christopher D
Kent, Travis J
Kim, Hong Im
Kim, Soon-Ok
King, Mandy L
Kobayashi, Ayumi
Kristensen, Stine Gry
Kruse, Shantille G
Kuo, Tsung-Hsien
Kwon, Sojung
Labrecque, Remi
Lai, Wei-An
LaPiana, Francesca
Lapointe, Evelyne
Law, Sze Ming
Lee, Hyun-Seo
Lee, Jae Hee
Legacki, Erin L
Maalouf, Samar W
Madawala, Romanthi J
Mamo Geneme, Solomon
Marandel, Lucie

Maurice, Clotilde
McNeel, Anthony K
Miao, Yi-Liang
Mirzapour, Tooba
Momand, Jamila R
Murata, Takuya
Nicholls, Peter K
Nicol, Barbara
Nivet, Anne-Laure
Nurmamat, Tursunjan
Oh, Seo Jin
O'Neil, Derek S
Ortogero, Nicole E
Padilha, Deborah M
Padilha, Rodrigo T
Paiva, Premila
Park, Ji Yeon
Pluta, Katarzyna Anna
Pohler, Ky G
Prud'homme, Bruno
Raheem, Kabir A
Rajamanickam,
Gayathri Devi
Rangarajan, Adithya
Reardon, Sarah N
Rodrigues, Jhenifer K
Romero, Jared J
Rubel, Cory A
Schjencken, John E
Shasa, Desiree
Shin, Hyejin
Silva, Erick JR
Singh, Mohan
Siqueira Caixet, Ester
Slawny, Nicole A
Stauber, Leah M
Stice, Claire E
Stowe, Heather M
Sugawara, Atsushi
Summers, Adam F
Szwarc, Maria M
Tiwari, Anupama
Tolson, Kristen P
Tonsfeldt, Karen J
Tran, Stella Le Minh
Turchet, Lisa F
Veillette, Annabelle
Voss, Amy M
Washburn, Catherine A
Welch, Kristene A
Whitfield, Nicole E
Whitley, Justin T
Windell, Veronica L

Winuthayanon, Wipawee
Wong, Kim H
Woodward, Elizabeth M
Wu, Tsung-Sheng
Wu, Yan-Guang
Yano, Ayaka
Yimbessalu, Joannes
Paulus
Yu, Hope Y
Zhang, Mengyuan
Zhou, Ping
Zuniga Condor, Lidia M

Change of status

To Emeritus:

Bhatnagar, Yogendra M
Bosu, William TK
Bryant-Greenwood,
Gillian
Gwazdauskas, Francis C
Kille, John W
Mann, David R
Mason, J Ian
Okulicz, William C
Weems, Charles W

To Regular:

Chappell, Patrick
Devi, Y Sangeeta
Feugang, Jean Magloire
Foradori, Chad D
Huang, Joseph S
Jin, Shiyang
Kenny, Hilary
McGinnis, Lynda K
Shum, Winnie WC
Telugu, Bhanu
Prakash VL

To Associate:

Ashley, Ryan L
Bermudez, Dielrich S
Duncan, Francesca E
Jays, Friederike L
Russell, Darryl
Sprague, David CC

To Trainee:

Chen, Jing
Seo, You

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