



From the President—

Let's Try Something New

Reading through this newsletter, you will find a subtle thread of a theme running through the articles: "Let's try something new." SSR is a fabulous society and during its history of 44 years, our Society has continuously evolved to address the changing needs and wishes of its members. New initiatives that were successful were retained and there has been a continuous spirit of "Let's try something new" to keep the society dynamic and vibrant. One just needs to consider some of the initiatives, described in these articles, to see that that innovative spirit is alive and well: social networking, the Anita Payne Scholarship, commentaries and biographies in *BOR*, strategies to recognize member loyalty, and creative changes to the Annual Meeting program format. What an interesting time to be an SSR member!

As we transition into the new academic year, we need to glance back briefly to thank Jodi Flaws and her remarkable team on the Program Committee for organizing the outstanding scientific program for the recent annual meeting. The local arrangements, organized by Jon Hennebold, were warm, welcoming, and convenient. This meeting also gave us the opportunity to honor and celebrate some of our most accomplished scientists: JoAnne Richards (Carl G. Hartman Award), Francesco DeMayo (SSR Research Award), Joy Pate (Distinguished Service Award), Derek Boerboom (New Investigator Award), and Patricia Hoyer (Trainee Mentoring Award). Congratulations to these most deserving award recipients.

The annual meeting relies on those who provide financial support, and we are most grateful for grants and support from the following organizations and individuals: Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture, United States Environmental Protection Agency, Burroughs Wellcome Fund, Circle of Giving, Cook Medical, FASEB MARC Program, Found Animals Foundation, Lalor Foundation, Virendra B. Mahesh Neuroendocrine Program Fund, March of Dimes, the Oregon National Primate Research Center, and the Oregon Health and Science University. A special thanks to those who donated to the Larry Ewing Memorial Trainee Travel Fund at the eleventh hour, helping to boost the support available for trainee travel.

And now it's time to look forward. First on the agenda is the World Congress on Reproductive Biology (WCRB). Following on the successful first WCRB held in conjunction with the SSR annual meeting in Hawaii in 2008, the steering committee of the WCRB has organized its second congress to take place in early October in Cairns, Australia. The SSR is a founding member of this informal union of reproductive biology societies from around the world and continues to support this forum for exchange among basic and clinical reproductive biologists. John Eppig will represent the SSR as a plenary speaker, and several SSR members will present as symposium speakers.

Support of trainees has always been a key element of the SSR, and a new trainee scholarship has recently been developed, thanks to a generous donation from the family of Anita Payne. Anita wanted to provide the opportunity for trainees to attend a leading-edge course on reproductive biology, such as Frontiers in Reproduction (FIR). The Anita Payne Scholarship has a value of \$5,000 and will be awarded to one SSR trainee who has been accepted into the FIR program. To become eligible, SSR trainees simply need to identify themselves as SSR members on the FIR application.



This has been an exciting year for *Biology of Reproduction*, with the 2010 impact factor (reported in July 2011) increasing substantially over the previous year, from 3.4 to 3.9. As noted by Bernard Robaire and Bruce Murphy (Editors-in-Chief) in their article, *BOR* now ranks second for publication of research articles in the Reproductive Biology category. The Editors have led the way in “trying something new” by introducing a number of innovations to the journal. These include commentaries on articles published in *BOR* that merit highlighting, biographies of reproductive scientists who have made major contributions to the field, and the weekly World of Reproductive Biology that highlights significant newly published work in other journals—all of which make *BOR* an even more interesting read.

It seems like just yesterday that the current Editors-in-Chief took on their responsibilities, but it is already time to address the fact that their term will end in June 2013. The Call for Applications for Editor(s)-in-Chief of *BOR* was announced in the July issue of *BOR*. Applicants should be active scientists with a distinguished record of service to SSR and must be fully committed to maintaining *BOR* as the premiere journal in its field. Please give some thought to colleagues who might be well qualified for this position. The deadline for applications is December 31, 2011.

Despite the considerable benefits of SSR membership, the number of Regular members continues to show a gradual decline. Jon Oatley, Chair of the Membership Committee, and Kate Loveland, Chair of the International Relations Subcommittee of the Membership Committee, along with their committees have developed several strategies to address the three R's: recruit, retain, and recognize SSR members. Please make their work much easier by renewing your membership promptly!

The 2012 Annual Meeting will feature a return to a campus for the first time in a decade. Those of us who yearn for green spaces and fresh air and a more relaxed atmosphere will find satisfaction at Penn State University. In keeping with that venue, it seems appropriate to loosen the grip on what has become a very tight schedule for the Annual Meeting. Maintaining a breadth of topics in the scientific program, while accommodating an increasing number of plenary lectures, special events, and breakfast and lunch meetings, has led to a schedule that is quite dense, with diminishing opportunities for interaction. At the request of the Board, Mary Zelinski and her Program Committee will be piloting a modified format for the 2012 Annual Meeting program. See Mary's article for a description of the new format and stay tuned for more details as the program develops. The theme is Applied Reproductive Biology: Making it Relevant, with a particular emphasis on research that facilitates the translation of basic research discoveries in reproductive biology into veterinary or clinical applications.

We are indebted to Teresa Woodruff and Denise Archambeault, the outgoing members of the Board of Directors, for their considerable efforts on behalf of SSR. The other Director whose term ended, Jock Findlay, has been retained in the new position of Vice President-Elect. This is the first year of the extended presidential chain and Jock is showing true dedication to this Society, serving a three-year term as Director followed by a four-year term in the presidential line-up! We also welcome to the Board Susan Suarez as Vice President, Jodi Flaws and Tom Spencer as new Directors, and Zeliann Craig as the new Trainee Representative.

SSR activities are guided by the Strategic Plan and VP-Elect Jock Findlay has agreed to chair an ad hoc committee to assess our progress and provide oversight in addressing the goals of this Plan. Additional objectives for this year include a review of the Society's management contract, the development of a policy that governs our interactions with other societies, and initiation of some long-range planning in advance of the next phase of strategic plan development. For those who would like a more detailed understanding of the current status of the SSR, please refer to the State of the Society letter at www.ssr.org/11StateOfSociety.shtml.

Finally, a special welcome to Laura Schulz as the incoming editor of the *SSR Newsletter*. In the spirit of “Let's try something new,” Laura is already thinking about ways to improve communication through the newsletter and other media, so don't hesitate to send her suggestions. We hope that you find this issue informative and interesting and look forward to keeping you updated on SSR activities.

—Barbara Vanderhyden, President
bvanderhyden@ohri.ca

Volunteer to Serve on SSR Committees!

The strengths of SSR as a scientific society are due to its members, particularly those who serve on committees. Committee service provides you with the opportunity to learn how SSR works and to help SSR evolve to continue to serve its members in the best possible way. It is my honor to assemble the rosters of

members to serve on the 2012-2013 committees for approval by the SSR Board of Directors. Membership terms will begin at the 2012 SSR Annual Meeting. I have listed the committees below. To find out more about these committees, please go to the SSR Web page at www.ssr.org. From there, choose "About," then "Administration," and then "Committees." There you will find a list of standing and ad hoc committees, as well as links to information about the chairs and 2011-2012 members of the committees. Each committee page has information about the activities of the committee, usually listed as a link to the "standard operating procedures" (SOP) of the committee. According to the SSR Bylaws, at least one-third, but not more than two-thirds, of the members of standing committees shall be replaced each year. This means that there are plenty of opportunities for you to join committees and also for you to learn from those who are continuing their service from previous years. Thanks to email and other digital opportunities for communication, members from around the world can participate in committees. If you are interested in serving, please email me at sss7@cornell.edu by November 11 to send me your primary and secondary choices. It would also help if you would include a sentence or two about why you would like to join the committee and what experience (in or out of SSR) you have to contribute to the committee. Trainees are encouraged to participate in the activities of the Trainee Affairs Committee. Some members of this committee serve as trainee representatives to other SSR committees. Thanks to all of you who are willing to serve!

—Susan S. Suarez, Vice President
sss7@cornell.edu

Current SSR Committees

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

Program Committee: 2012 Annual Meeting

The Program Committee is busy planning SSR's 45th Annual Meeting, which will be held August 12-16, 2012, on the beautiful campus of Pennsylvania State University. The theme of the upcoming meeting will be "Applied Reproductive Biology: Making it Relevant."

In keeping with this theme, President Barbara Vanderhyden has invited two exceptional speakers who will describe translational research relevant to both human and animal reproductive medicine. Professor W. Hamish Wallace, Consultant in Paediatric Oncology, Royal Hospital for Sick Children, will present on fertility preservation in male and female cancer patients. Dr. Patrick Lonergan, University College, Dublin, Ireland, will address current challenges and translational research associated with dairy cattle infertility.

The theme for SSR 2012 will be "Applied Reproductive Biology: Making it Relevant."

The Program Committee is in the process of identifying and selecting speakers for the Keynote, Historical Perspectives, and Anita Payne New Perspectives in Reproductive Biology lectures to address the meeting theme.

At the Committee meeting this summer, President Vanderhyden proposed some changes, originally suggested by the Board, to the format for the 2012 Annual Meeting with the ultimate goal of continuing to have a meeting that is appealing to all researchers in reproductive biology. The termination of the Reproductive Tract session at the Gordon Research Conference and the timing of the Ovarian Workshop with the SSR meeting in 2012 provide us with opportunities to bring those researchers into the SSR Annual Meeting. After much discussion, the majority of the Program Committee approved going forward with the new format and to begin its implementation.

The general intent for the proposed changes is to align certain elements of the program that share similar themes and allow more time for discussion (i.e., to create a "module"). Each module will consist of 4 to 4.5 hours every afternoon, with four modules running concurrently each day, for a total of 12 modules during the meeting. Each concurrent module will follow a similar schedule, allowing cross-attendance among the sessions. While the final format within each module is still being planned to allow harmonious coordination of the afternoon schedules, we envision integrating minisymposium talks with platform presentations culminating in a discussion and/or contentious topics session.

To bring the Ovarian Workshop into the context of the SSR Annual Meeting, one module each day will address Basic/Clinical Determinants of Ovarian Function and will be chaired by Ovarian Workshop organizers Bruce Murphy and Richard Legro. The Program Committee is in the process of selecting other module themes; chairs/co-chairs who have accepted the invitation and challenge of creating and coordinating programs within each module are as follows: Testicular Regulation and Function (Blanche Capel), Reproductive Tract and Pregnancy Outcome (Francisco DeMayo, Ann Croy, and Michael Soares), and Reproductive Neuroendocrinology (Lori Raetzman and Buffy Ellsworth). The themes for the remaining modules and the specific topics for presentation in each module will be selected at least in part from the minisymposia topics and speakers suggested by the SSR membership.

*Abstract submission
deadline is
15 February 2012*

Suggestions made by the Program Committee and the SSR membership for minisymposia themes will be developed into modules to cover a broad range of topics across the reproductive sciences with the aim of presenting both innovative science and translational opportunities. We thank those SSR members who submitted suggestions. These suggestions will be ranked by the Program Committee for final selection. As module topics are chosen, the specific topics within the abstract submission process may be revised

to help better identify and align the platform talks within each module.

Our goal is to select exciting topics and outstanding speakers to provide a balanced and comprehensive view of reproductive biology and how it is currently relevant to human and animal reproductive issues. We will strive to have something for everyone. We hope that you will attend the 2012 meeting; the Penn State campus is lush, green, easy to get around, and a perfect campus venue for the meeting.

—Mary Zelinski, Chair
2012 Program Committee
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Society to Offer Continuing Medical Education at Annual Meeting at Penn State

SSR is pleased to announce that the Society anticipates a continuation of its partnership with the American Society of Reproductive Medicine and expects that continuing medical education (CME) credits will be offered for registered attendees at the 2012 Annual Meeting at Penn State University. CME credits were reinstated at the SSR meeting in 2010 through the efforts of Dr. Elizabeth McGee at Virginia Commonwealth University, Dr. Shannon Hawkins at Baylor College of Medicine, Dr. Andrew LaBarbera at ASRM (who is also a long-time member of SSR), and the Translational Research subcommittee. The reinstatement of the CME program has been met with an overwhelmingly positive response by the physician scientists in the For further information, contact me at shannonh@bcm.edu.

—Shannon Hawkins, Chair
Translational Research Subcommittee, Program Committee
shannonh@bcm.edu

From the SSR Future Meetings Committee

The SSR Future Meetings Committee has recommended, and the SSR Board of Directors has approved, selection of Grand Rapids, Michigan, as the site of the Annual Meeting in 2014. Thus, the next three SSR meetings will be held in State College (hosted by Penn State), Pennsylvania (2012); Montreal (hosted by

Réseau Québécois en reproduction), Quebec, Canada (2013); and Grand Rapids (hosted by Michigan State), Michigan (2014). Per the preference indicated by the membership in response to the future meetings questionnaire that was circulated last year, we are attempting to rotate meeting locations among the western, middle, and eastern thirds of North America, with “offshore” sites also considered on occasion. The Future Meetings Committee will now focus on considering a site for SSR’s Annual Meeting in 2015. That will likely be an “offshore” site. Our goal is to have a selected site to be announced during the business meeting at next year’s Annual Meeting at Penn State.

—John McCarrey, Chair
Future Meetings Committee
john.mccarrey@utsa.edu

News from the Editors of *Biology of Reproduction*

BOR impact factor increases

As we have frequently stated, our strategy as editors of *BOR*, as well as that of our predecessors, has been to publish the best papers in reproductive biology. We are pleased to report that the 2010 impact factor of *BOR* (reported in July 2011) increased substantially over the previous year, from 3.4 to 3.9 (ISI 2010 JCR Science Edition, July 2011).

**BOR impact factor
increased to 3.9 in 2011**

Excluding *Human Reproduction Update* (a review journal), *BOR* now ranks second in the Reproductive Biology category. The statistics on downloads of *BOR* papers suggest a significant increase in usage of the journal—for the first 6 months of 2011, nearly a million PDF and full HTML files have been downloaded. Together, these measures indicate that the importance of *BOR* is increasing.

BOR submissions

The number of manuscripts submitted to the journal had declined in 2010 from the high in 2008 by more than 100. Statistics through August 2011 indicate a modest but substantial increase in the past 3 months in the number of submissions; if the trend continues, we expect that we will handle over 700 manuscripts this year. As authors now have numerous choices in the journals to which they can submit their work, it is essential that *BOR* stand out as an author-friendly and expeditious outlet for publication in reproductive biology. We continue working toward this goal.

BOR features WORB, biographies, editorials, and commentaries

As we pointed out in our last newsletter, we have added new features to the journal to increase its readership and readability as well as its overall impact and profile. Each issue contains commentaries on articles that we, the reviewers, and the Associate Editors judge to merit highlighting.

An effort is being made to further highlight these articles with press releases. We include the occasional editorial in the journal and at least one minireview is published in each issue. We are publishing biographies of the luminary reproductive scientists who have made major contributions to the field. The first by Ryuzo Yanagimachi was recently followed by that of Fuller Bazer. We have several others in the pipeline, including Yves Clermont, David DeKretser, Marie-Claire Orgebin-Crist, William Hansel, Roger Short, and Brian Setchell.



The World of Reproductive Biology, our new weekly feature by Dr. Charlotte Schubert highlighting significant newly published work in other journals, first appeared in April of this year. The number of internet hits on WORB summaries is increasing, indicating that this initiative is on its way to success.

A change in our Associate Editors

One of our stalwart Associate Editors, Susan Suarez, was elected Vice President of the Society, to become the President in one year. As this engenders a new workload and potential conflict of interest, she chose to relinquish her editorship. We will miss her timely, cogent reviews and her thoughtful analysis. Fortunately, we were able to convince George Gerton, who has a similar range of interest and expertise to Susan's, to accept the Associate Editorship. With his addition to the AE stable, we ensure that high quality of the review process will proceed seamlessly.

Search for new Editors-in-Chief

Oh how time flies when you're having fun! We are now more than half way through our mandate as Editors. According to SSR procedures, the hunt is now on for new editorship, to take over in July of 2013. The

Publications Committee is receiving proposals from potential editors. If you have suggestions about who might take over the reins of the journal, please send them to the chair of the Publications Committee.

And, don't forget, *BOR* is your journal. We welcome your feedback, and most importantly, your best manuscripts. Remember that there are now no page or color charges for Regular members.

—Bernard Robaire and Bruce D. Murphy, Co-Editors-in-Chief
Biology of Reproduction
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Biology of Reproduction is now on Twitter. For announcements, news, and links to new content, please follow [@BiolReprod](https://twitter.com/BiolReprod)

The Society for the Study of Reproduction is now on Facebook and Twitter. To stay on top of deadlines, see upcoming events, and gain access to exciting opportunities in the reproductive sciences community, please follow [@SSRepro](https://twitter.com/SSRepro) and [Like the Society](#) today.



Minutes of the 2011 SSR Business Meeting

August 3, 2011: Dr. Sally P. Darney called the Business Meeting to order at 6:22 PM. Approximately 150 members were in attendance. She asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the 2010 Business Meeting as distributed at the 2011 Business Meeting. No additions or corrections were requested.

President's Report: Dr. Darney thanked Judith Jansen and Executive Office staff for their contributions to the Annual Meeting. She acknowledged committee chairs for their leadership in carrying out the business of the Society. Dr. Darney reported that there were 1100 registered attendees at this year's Meeting with 826 regular abstracts and 38 late breaking abstracts. She noted that more than half of the attendees at the 2011 Annual Meeting were trainees and she commented that efforts should continue to ensure that both mentors and trainees continue to attend the Annual Meeting.

Dr. Darney recognized the following individuals and presented them with plaques on behalf of the Society: Dr. Mary Zelinski organized the second annual SSR Science Education Outreach Day on the campus of the Oregon National Primate research Center (ONPRC) on Friday, July 29, 2011. The theme was "Camp Monkey," and about 70 middle school students rotated among six separate lab experiences. This special event was the result of a collaboration between Dr. Zelinski, Ms. Diana Gordon (Education & Outreach Coordinator, ONPRC), and Dr. Derek McLean (Washington State University). Dr. Darney also noted that Dr. Zelinski will chair the Program Committee for the 2012 Annual SSR Meeting at Penn State University.

Dr. Jon Hennebold served as chair of the Local Arrangements Committee (LAC), and LAC member Dr. Richard Yeoman organized the 2011 SSR Run/Walk.

Dr. Jodi Flaws served as chair of the Program Committee. Dr. Darney thanked Dr. Flaws and the committee for organizing a fantastic program. Dr. Flaws thanked Dr. Darney for the opportunity to serve and acknowledged the hard work of the Program Committee and the SSR Business Office, especially Judith Jansen, Sara Koliner, Gwen Abramson, and Mel Clifton.

Innovations this year included the introduction of podcasts of plenary talks and the first Anita Payne New Perspectives in Reproductive Biology Lecture. Each of the sessions involved trainees as co-chairs. Feedback regarding the Annual Meeting program should be directed to Drs. Jodi Flaws and/or Mary Zelinski. Dr. Darney commented on the successful Trainee Forum, Minority Affairs program, and Heritage Breakfast presentation, and the excellent speakers selected for these and congratulated organizers Drs. Denise Archambeault and Tracy Clement, Dr. Winston Thompson, and Dr. Fred Stormshak, respectively.

Treasurer's report: Dr. Martin Matzuk summarized the status of the SSR investment portfolio, which is currently doing well and valued at approximately \$3.2 million, up from \$2.4 million at the end of 2009. The goal is to have funds of approximately twice the yearly operating budget of the Society, or about \$3.6 million. The portfolio was adjusted early in 2011 to a more diversified commodities position and equities were adjusted to 48% to better handle downturns in the market. He reported the selection of new auditors, Wegner, LLP, who specialize in working with nonprofit organizations. He noted that Mr. Glenn Miller, representing Wegner, LLP, attended the Board Meeting at his own expense. Mr. Miller reported that the annual audit of SSR went very well.

Dr. Matzuk summarized revenue and losses in budget categories of Membership and Publications. Membership continues to generate a loss and he noted that in 2010, Publications had a profit of \$328 thousand versus a projected profit of \$90 thousand this year. The Publications Committee has developed some ideas that should help us improve the financial situation. He noted that the Board understands the

obligation to abide by the Strategic plan and maintain a balanced budget. He thanked SSR members for their support.

Dr. Matzuk offered to answer questions. Dr. Suarez asked about diversification of endowment funds and whether each fund is handled separately. Dr. Matzuk explained that each fund is diversified equally. For example, the Anita Payne endowment fund has grown this year from \$100 thousand to \$113.2 thousand. Dr. Fields asked about the revenue loss in the Membership category. Dr. Matzuk explained that some of the membership fees go toward providing *BOR* online to members, support of the Business Office, and a number of other expenses. There may be a need to reevaluate and more carefully organize membership expenses.

Development Committee: Dr. Asgi Fazleabas is the chair of this committee and Drs. Janice Bahr and Ben Tsang are chairs of the Endowment and Annual Meeting-Industrial Relations (AMIR) Subcommittees, respectively. Dr. Fazleabas was not available to present a report. Dr. Darney noted that the committee is working to develop innovative ways to build the SSR's endowment funds and that local fundraising efforts had been effective for the 2011 Annual Meeting. Dr. Dick Stouffer obtained pledges from several local sources in support of the Annual Meeting. Dr. Darney obtained a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency for support of the Annual Meeting. The NIH NICHD grant, a percentage of which helps support the Larry Ewing Memorial Trainee Travel Fund (LEMTTF), was awarded this year but at a reduced level; a special appeal from the President brought in an additional \$4,000 from SSR members to support travel grants for the trainees to attend and present at the 2011 meeting.

Editors-in-Chief (EiCs) of *Biology of Reproduction (BOR)*: Dr. Bernard Robaire started the report by thanking the Associate Editors and SSR Business Office staff who work with the Editorial Office. He commented that the Journal is doing well and that the EiCs are happy with the cover art for each volume. Dr. Robaire mentioned that recent changes to the *BOR* business model included the elimination of color page charges, the elimination of page charges for corresponding authors who are Regular members, and the plan to make *BOR* an electronic-only publication. He encouraged everyone to submit his/her best work to *BOR*.

The Editorial Office recently implemented several initiatives, including an increase in the number of reviews and the introduction of at least one commentary per issue to highlight notable publications in *BOR*. Periodic editorials and biographical sketches of senior SSR members have also been added. The World of Reproductive Biology (WORB) articles are weekly short summaries, highlighting articles from other journals in our field written by Charlotte Schubert, a science writer. These will be compiled monthly into a WORB section in *BOR*. Dr. Robaire reviewed some *BOR* statistics, including the fact that the number of submissions has remained steady and the Editorial Office is starting to see an increase. The rejection rate for manuscripts has remained consistent at about 50%. The impact factor has increased by about 15% from 3.3 to 3.870 and the 5-year impact factor is now 3.979. He acknowledged the previous EiCs, Drs. John Eppig and Mary Ann Handel, for their contributions to the increased impact factor. He noted that a valuable measure of the impact of *BOR* comes from bibliometric analyses that reflect the number of PDF downloads and full-text HTML viewings of papers. From January to June of this year there have been about 1 million of these. He concluded by reminding members about the benefits of publishing in *BOR*, the improving impact factor, and the rapid turnaround time for publication in the Journal.

Publications Committee: Dr. Mitch Eddy, co-chair of the Publications Committee (with Dr. Virendra Mahesh) reported that the committee is working to make constructive changes in support of SSR and *BOR*. He reported that SSR is now on Facebook and Twitter and that *BOR* is on Twitter; he encouraged everyone to go to the SSR Web site and sign up for both. He said that this is an experiment with social media that SSR members should take seriously.

Dr. Eddy reported that the current EiCs of *BOR* are completing their second year of service and that it is time to begin the search for the next EiCs as it takes 2 years to complete the search and selection process. He invited SSR members to help the Publications Committee by identifying suitable candidates so that proposals can be obtained and interviews of prospective EiC candidates can be conducted next year.

Dr. Eddy reminded attendees that membership in SSR provides important new benefits related to publication in *BOR*. In addition to the elimination of charges for color figures, page charges have been eliminated for corresponding authors who are Regular members of SSR. He also reported the decision of the SSR Board of Directors to make *BOR* an electronic-only journal as of January 1, 2012. Print-on-demand or some other mechanism will be available for individuals who wish to have print copies, but these will be available at cost and will have no negative impact on the finances of the Society.

Dr. Darney thanked Dr. Eddy for his report and then pointed out that Dr. Virendra Mahesh, who had served as co-chair, would end his service to the Publications Committee this year and will be replaced by Dr. Alan Johnson, who will serve as co-chair with Dr. Eddy next year and then become chair the following year. She reviewed Dr. Mahesh's many years of service on the Publications Committee as chair and then co-chair, as well as his service as Editor-in-Chief for *BOR* from 1999 to 2004 and Consulting Editor from 2004 to 2008. Dr. Mahesh has also served as SSR's representative to the FASEB Board of Directors for two terms, and on SSR's Public Affairs Committee. His service on this committee will continue through June of 2012.

She noted that Dr. Mahesh was also a recipient of the Distinguished Service and Carl G. Hartman Awards, and that he has been a compass guiding SSR in several areas over the years. A compass was presented to Dr. Mahesh in acknowledgment of his many services on behalf of all SSR members.

Trainee Affairs Committee: Dr. Denise Archambeault, Senior Trainee Representative reported that 500 trainees attended this Annual Meeting and 78 trainees volunteered for service on the Trainee Volunteer Subcommittee. She congratulated Dr. Patricia Hoyer, the recipient of the 2011 Trainee Mentoring Award. She thanked the following individuals or groups on behalf of the Committee, including the Program Committee for involving trainees as co-chairs of sessions: the SSR Business Office for support of the Committee; Alison Ting and Sadie Murdie Dunn for service as co-chairs of the Trainee Volunteer Subcommittee; April Binder for organizing the Trainee-Mentor Luncheon and the mentors who attended the luncheon; Zeliann Craig for managing the LEMTTF; Jeremy Larson for managing the roommate referral service; Jeremy Larson and Alison Ting for developing the T-shirt design (with Joel Ito of the ONPRC); Dr. Leon Speroff (Trainee Forum speaker); Katie Palfry and the Found Animals Foundation for sponsoring the Trainee Mixer and Tracy Clement who worked with Ms. Palfry to organize the event; and all who donated to the LEMTTF. She acknowledged Tracy Clement and Zeliann Craig (incoming Senior and Junior Trainee Representatives, respectively) for their contributions.

Dr. Archambeault invited members and trainees to go to the Trainee Placement site to take advantage of the site and to provide feedback to the Trainee Affairs Committee. She thanked SSR for providing the opportunity to serve as Trainee Representative for the past 2 years.

Bylaws Committee: Dr. Darney thanked Dr. Michael Wolfe, chair of the Bylaws Committee, which had been quite active over the past 2 years. She noted that SSR members had voted to add another person to the SSR presidential chain by forming the new office of Vice President-Elect, an idea that originated when Dr. John Nilson was president.

Membership Committee: Dr. Darney thanked Dr. Joe Cloud for his service as chair of the Membership Committee. She reported that Dr. Jon Oatley is incoming chair and Dr. Kate Loveland is the chair of the International Relations Subcommittee. Drs. Oatley, Loveland, and Cloud had been working to develop a strategy involving over a dozen approaches to address declining SSR membership with a major focus on devising improved recruitment and retention strategies.

Dr. Kate Loveland thanked the Board for focusing on international membership. The introduction of podcasts and the Exchange Awards are important additions to enhance international member participation. She reported a plan to survey international members in the near future to assess how well SSR is meeting their needs. Strategies have also been developed to focus on international recruitment and retention.

Dr. Darney requested a moment of silence in recognition of the SSR members who had passed away during the past year: Drs. Roy Ax, Dale Benos, Henry Lardy, and N. Raghuvver Moudgal.

Nominating Committee: Dr. Darney acknowledged Dr. Richard Schultz, chair of the Nominating Committee. She noted that during the past year Drs. Jodi Flaws and Thomas Spencer were elected Directors, Drs. Susan Suarez and Jock Findlay were elected Vice President and Vice President-Elect, respectively. Dr. Michael Soares is the incoming chair of the Committee. Dr. Darney encouraged members to nominate individuals to serve as SSR Officers and Board members and pointed out that the SSR Web site has a service list of officers and committee members who have previously served the Society.

Old Business: Prior to installing Dr. Barbara Vanderhyden as President, Dr. Darney recognized officers retiring from the Board of Directors and Executive Committee and presented each with a plaque on behalf of the Society: Dr. John Nilson, Past President; Dr. Teresa Woodruff, Director; Dr. Jock Findlay, Director; Dr. Denise Archambeault, Trainee Representative; and Dr. Barbara Vanderhyden, Vice President. She commented on Dr. Nilson's effectiveness as an Officer and his ability to focus Board discussions and reach decisions. She noted Dr. Findlay's contributions and innovations to the international perspectives and Dr. Woodruff's innovative contributions along with her organization and executive skills. She noted Dr. Archambeault's contributions and professional growth. She acknowledged Dr. Vanderhyden's service as Vice President and involvement in SSR Executive Committee activities and her confidence in her leadership as incoming SSR President.

New Business: Dr. Barbara Vanderhyden thanked Dr. Darney for her mentoring and commented on her many contributions to SSR during the past year: her innovative ideas to increase relationships with other societies including piloting Exchange Lectures and international student awards; her work with Dr. Jodi Flaws in organizing the first Anita Payne New Perspectives in Reproductive Biology Lecture; and her contributions to development of the new *BOR* business model. Dr. Vanderhyden expressed her gratitude on behalf of SSR for Dr. Darney's leadership in moving the Society forward.

Dr. Vanderhyden commented on efforts in the coming year to focus on SSR membership and she thanked Drs. Oatley, Loveland, and Cloud for developing an innovative plan for recruitment and retention of SSR Members. She asked trainees to be sure to bring supervisors to the Annual Meeting and encouraged members to submit their best work for publication in *BOR*. Dr. Vanderhyden commented that the Program Committee did an excellent job organizing this year's Annual Meeting and that she and Dr. Zelinski are

challenged to match the quality of the 2011 meeting. The theme of the 2012 meeting will be Applied Reproductive Biology: Making it Relevant. Many of the speakers for the meeting have already been invited. She also noted that she was very pleased with the venue for the 2012 Annual Meeting at Penn State University. Both she and Dr. Zelinski stayed in the dorms during the site visit in June, and the amenities were as good as the hotels in Portland.

Dr. Vanderhyden asked Dr. Joy Pate, chair of the Local Arrangements Committee, to comment on plans for the 2012 Annual Meeting at Penn State University. Dr. Pate commented on the short distances between the various meeting spaces. Poster sessions will be a short walk from the building where plenary sessions will be held, which is also a short walk to the Forum, a building containing four auditoria appropriate for the minisymposia and platform sessions. Seating and acoustics in all of the rooms are good. The dorms are newly renovated with 800 single rooms along with a good number of 4- and 2-person suites. There is a 5-star hotel on campus. The area is circled by the town with plenty of places to eat and shop. State College has United, US Airways, and Delta flights. Penn State is a 2.5-3-hour drive from Philadelphia or Baltimore. The tentative date for the 45th Annual Meeting is August 11-15, but these dates will be finalized shortly.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 PM.

—Respectfully submitted,
Robert C. Burghardt, Secretary
rburghardt@cvm.tamu.edu

News from the Minority Affairs Committee

This year's MAC Symposium featured Dr. John Alderete from Washington State University. Dr. Alderete's presentation on August 1, entitled "*Trichomonas vaginalis*, Reproductive Health and a Minority Scientist's Experiences," was highly successful in motivating, inspiring, and advising meeting attendees, especially those from underrepresented populations. His presentation will be available on podcast. Dr. Alderete also participated in the Trainee-Mentor Luncheon. MAC extends its gratitude to Dr. Alderete for his enthusiasm and commitment to mentoring young scientists and hopes that he will participate in future SSR events.

Congratulations to the seven trainees and two junior faculty members awarded Burroughs Wellcome Travel Fellowships to attend the Annual Meeting. Trainee recipients were Jonathan Broady, Washington State University; Juanmahel Davila, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign; Mayra Pastore, University of Wisconsin-Madison; Jared Romero, Colorado State University; Nicole Whitfield, University of South Carolina School of Medicine; Carlos Guerrero-Bosagna, Washington State University; and Shaye Lewis, Baylor College of Medicine. Junior faculty recipients were Joshua Johnson, Yale School of Medicine; and Djana Harp, Morehouse School of Medicine. We appreciate your help with the MAC booth and your attendance and input at the symposium and committee meeting.

MAC will once again be reaching out to young scientists from underrepresented populations within the Society thanks to funding from FASEB-MARC and SSR. Carol Linder and Juanmahel Davila will represent SSR at the Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Latinos and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) National Meeting, October 27-30, 2011, in San Jose, California. Joshua Johnson and Gerialisa Caesar will attend the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS) November 9-11, 2011, in St. Louis, Missouri. Let Carol Linder know if you are attending either one of these meetings and would like to help out!

Find us on Facebook! To join search for "Society for the Study of Reproduction Minority Affairs Committee"

—Carol C. Linder, Chair
Minority Affairs Committee
clinder@nmhu.edu

Trainee Affairs

Hello, fellow SSR trainees and trainee mentors. Did you notice all the great opportunities that were offered at this year's meeting? I hope that you were able to participate in some of these events, and I would like to take this opportunity to recognize many of the trainees who helped bring it all together at the meeting. In the process I will have the chance to tell you about some opportunities for involvement for those who may not know.

A big thanks to all who volunteered; this level of trainee involvement really shows that we appreciate SSR and all that it has to offer—keep it up! This year we had 78 trainee volunteers helping with many events and tasks associated with running the annual meeting including Camp Monkey outreach, registration, fun run, signage, and runners for scientific session support to name a few. These efforts do not go unnoticed and help to perpetuate the success of SSR, the opportunities available, and the great relationship between regular and trainee members. With so many trainees eager to get involved, someone needs to coordinate all the activities. In 2007 the Trainee Volunteer Subcommittee was formed and was charged with pairing volunteers and tasks. This year, Sadie Dunn (Murdie) and Alison Ting took on the charge with enthusiasm.

They did a fantastic job ensuring that volunteers were available and informed. The meeting was able to run better because of their efforts.

The Trainee-Mentor Luncheon is always an excellent networking opportunity and was a success again this year due to the efforts of Dr. April Binder, who coordinated the event. April invited mentors with diverse interests and career paths, thus giving participants the opportunity to choose a mentor who could advise them on career topics of interest. Thanks to April and, of course, to all the mentors who agreed to come and talk with inquiring minds over lunch. Speaking of great mentors, Dr. Patricia Hoyer received the 5th annual Trainee-Mentoring Award. If you have a great mentor, be sure to nominate him/her when the call goes out for next year's Trainee Mentoring Award!

*78 trainee volunteers
helped at SSR 2011!*

This year's Larry Ewing Memorial Trainee Travel Fund (LEMTTF) was coordinated by Dr. Zeliann R. Craig. Through the sale of T-shirts, grants, and most importantly the kind support of SSR members, we were able to assist 122 trainees with their travel costs. Countries from all over the globe were represented by this year's LEMTTF recipients including Australia, Brazil, Canada, Japan, Spain, Taiwan, United Kingdom, and the United States. This year, as part of introducing the Trainee Affairs Committee booth at the Annual Meeting exhibit, we distributed the LEMTTF checks at the booth. For the first time in recent years, each LEMTTF recipient had the opportunity to meet the trainee representatives and other members of the Trainee Affairs Committee. Many new attendees even signed up to become involved in the society!

Also at the Trainee Affairs Committee booth was access to [ReproCareers](#), a free, online placement service that first came online at the 2010 meeting. It is available year-round for you to post a job or resume or to peruse jobs or candidates. We are currently looking for tech-savvy trainees to help manage the site. If you are interested, please contact a member of the Trainee Affairs Committee.

For several years now, FASEB representatives Bill Lindstaedt and Joe Tringali have been attending the SSR meetings, and we were grateful to have them again. They offer career development seminars, career counseling, and resume review services. Thanks, Bill and Joe.

The Trainee Forum this year featured a presentation about Gregory Pincus and the Development of the Birth Control Pill. Whoever has said history was boring has not heard Dr. Leon Speroff tell this story! It was a very charming and informative lecture, and Dr. Speroff helped put into perspective where we are at today in reproductive biology. Thanks so much to Dr. Speroff for agreeing to speak and to Dr. Denise Archambeault for organizing this very special event. Following the Forum, we had our first sponsored Trainee Mixer. The Found Animals Foundation provided wine and hors d'oeuvres for everyone to enjoy while mingling. During the event Found Animals program manager Katy Palfrey discussed [grants](#) available through Found Animals for research on new animal sterilizing agents and also announced Found Animals' new [graduate student challenge](#).

Last but not least on the long list of "thank you's," I would like to acknowledge Dr. Denise Archambeault for her service to SSR as Trainee Affairs Committee Co-chair for the last two years. She has been a fantastic representative of trainees on the Board of Directors and has definitely contributed to SSR and helped maintain a quality experience for trainee members. Even though we will miss Denise's support as Trainee Affairs Committee co-chair, I am sure that our incoming representative, Dr. Zeliann Craig, will do a fantastic job, too. Thank-you, Denise, and welcome, Zeliann.

Although the 2011 meeting feels like it just got over, it is time to gear up for the 2012 meeting at Penn State University. Keep an eye out for abstract and award submission deadlines. Remember—membership pays! Renew your membership and you will get a discounted rate for the Annual Meeting, be eligible for Trainee awards and travel grants, and get to be a part of the best society for Trainees in reproduction! In addition, you will be eligible to run for the next Trainee Affairs Committee Co-chair; look for the call for nominations soon. For a list of current Trainee Affairs Committee Members, go [here](#). If you would like to find out how you can become more involved or have suggestions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact Zeliann (zeliann@illinois.edu) or myself. I look forward to working with you all over the next year.

—Tracy M. Clement, Co-Chair
Trainee Affairs Committee
tmback02@yahoo.com

Call for Nominations for SSR Officers and Directors

The continued success of the SSR is dependent upon identifying an effective leadership team. Such an effort requires the active participation of the SSR membership. We are now accepting nominations of candidates for the office of Vice President-Elect, Treasurer, and two members of the Board of Directors. Simply submit the name of the individual(s) you wish to nominate, his/her professional affiliation, and a brief (1-2 sentences) statement of support. Please contact the individual(s) you wish to nominate to confirm their

willingness to be nominated and to serve, if elected. Members of the Nominating Committee (Michael J. Soares, Eric Asselin, Charles Chaffin, Colin M. Clay, Geula Gibori, John Nilson, Kyle E. Orwig, JoAnne S. Richards, Fredrick Stormshak, and Michael W. Wolfe) are not eligible for nomination. Visit the SSR Web site for listings of previous [SSR Officers](#) and [Board members](#); their duties are described in the [Bylaws](#) (<http://www.ssr.org/Documents/2011-02-19bylaws.pdf>). Send your nomination and statement of support to me ASAP, but no later than **November 7, 2011**.

—*Michael J. Soares, Chair
Nominating Committee
msoares@kumc.edu*

News from the Endowment Committee

The importance of an SSR endowment cannot be overstressed. The goal of the Endowment Committee is to increase the number of SSR members who contribute to the endowment and increase the amount given. In the world of philanthropy, one of the truisms is that the reason why many people do not contribute is because they are not asked to contribute. The Endowment Committee invites all SSR members to visit the SSR Web site and check on [donations](#). There, members will see a number of funds that have been established that serve different programs of SSR.

Last year the Endowment Committee sent a special invitation to past presidents to make a five-year pledge to the SSR Endowment and also to establish a Past Presidents' Fund. The return on these investments would be used to support the SSR Annual Meeting. The majority of past presidents were in favor of establishing a Past Presidents' Fund, which was approved by the SSR Board this past summer. We are eager to see this fund grow.

In only a few more months, 2011 will be over. The end of the year is a good time to make contributions to SSR because of the tax benefit. A special reminder is made to our senior U.S. SSR members who may need to withdraw money from their IRA accounts before the end of the year. This money can be given to a not-for-profit organization, such as SSR, and thus the donor will pay no tax on this money while receiving the tax benefit of the contribution. We do not know if this generous tax break will be available in 2012.

We wish you a good year and hope that contributing to the SSR Endowment Fund is in your plans.

—*Janice M. Bahr, Chair
Endowment Subcommittee, Development Committee
jbahr@illinois.edu*

Nominations Open for SSR 2012 Awards

The Society sponsors five major awards, each recognizing outstanding contributions to the science of reproductive biology. The Awards Committee encourages SSR members to exercise the privilege of membership by nominating individuals for these awards. The five major awards presented annually are:

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

The SSR Research Award recognizes an active, Regular member of the Society for outstanding research published during the previous six years.

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

The SSR New Investigator Award recognizes an active, Regular member of the Society for outstanding research completed and published within 12 years after receiving the Ph.D. or other equivalent professional degree.

The SSR Trainee Mentoring Award recognizes an active, Regular member of the Society who as a mentor has had a significant impact on trainees within the SSR. The Trainee Mentoring Award is intended for individuals who exceed the basic roles of an academic advisor, becoming a mentor to those with whom they interact

Guidelines for nominating candidates for awards, the award criteria, and the list of past recipients are available on the [SSR Web site](#).

Awards Committee members for 2011-2012 include Robert Viger (Chair), Kwan Hee Kim (Past Chair), Derek Boerboom, Jannette Dufour, Phillip Fields, Geoff Hammond, Carolyn Komar, Jeffrey May, Derek McLean, Sridaran Rajagopala, Bruce Schultz, Maria Viveiros, and Jennifer Wood.

Please send nominating materials by December 1, 2011, to: Robert Viger, Chair, SSR Awards Committee (robert.viger@crchul.ulaval.ca). Supporting documents may be sent by fax or mail, but the preferred method is by e-mail to facilitate review by the entire Awards Committee. Mailing address: Reproduction, Perinatal and Child Health, CHUQ Research Center (CHUL), Room T1-49, 2705 Laurier Blvd., Quebec City, QC G1V 4G2 Canada. FAX: 418-654-2765.

—Robert Viger, Chair
Awards Committee
robert.viger@crchul.ulaval.ca

Fall Budget Battles Threaten Funding for NIH and Other U.S. Science Agencies

With the legislative mandate to cut spending, it is critically important that SSR members take action to ensure that all members of Congress, not just those on the deficit committee, are educated about the importance of maintaining federal funding for research and how doing so will benefit their constituents. As a member of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB), SSR plays a vital role in bringing the voice of the research community to Capitol Hill. Through FASEB, SSR has access to a variety of advocacy tools that society members can use to reach out to their elected officials including [e-action alerts](#), a bi-weekly [newsletter](#), and social media outlets including [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#). In addition, FASEB has also created an online [tool kit](#) that provides information and resources individual scientists will need to plan a successful visit with their Senators and Representatives in their home districts.



Representatives from SSR and other FASEB member societies visited Capitol Hill March 28.

Legislation that Congress passed this summer to enforce a newfound measure of fiscal discipline in Washington will have a major impact on the current and future budgets for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) as well as the other federal science agencies. The [Budget Control Act](#) (BCA), Public Law 112-25, imposed immediate caps on security and non-security discretionary spending, accounting for nearly one trillion in savings and created a new twelve member Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction (JCDR) to identify an additional \$1.2 - \$1.5 trillion in deficit reduction (on top of the spending caps) over the next ten years. These savings are to be achieved through future spending cuts, changes in entitlement programs, reforms of the tax code, or any combination of those things. Research funding is not exempt from the spending cuts mandated in the BCA. However, in fiscal year (FY) 2012 and 2013 there is a “firewall” that prohibits lawmakers from making further cuts in non-security spending (such as medical research)

in order to increase funding for security programs.

The JCDR must approve recommendations and write a bill by November 23, 2011 and submit the legislation to Congress, the President and Vice President. Once the JCDR bill comes to the House and Senate floor all lawmakers will have an opportunity to vote “yes” or “no” (and are not allowed to offer amendments) on the entire package of recommendations. This vote must take place by December 23, 2011. If the JCDR fails to produce a bill to reduce the deficit by a minimum of \$1.2 trillion or Congress fails to approve it, a budget process known as “sequestration” would be triggered to reduce the federal budget through across-the-board cuts split equally between defense and non-defense discretionary spending. Social Security, Medicaid, Veterans benefits and pensions, food stamps, unemployment insurance, and low-income support programs would be exempt from any across-the-board cuts. The across the board cuts would go into effect on January 1, 2013 and would be divided and spread evenly across nine years (FY’s 2013-2021).

Although the members of the new committee represent a wide range of political views, they all have many years of legislative experience. Representatives Jeb Hensarling (R-TX), Dave Camp (R-MI), and Fred Upton (R-MI) bring the House Republican Conference Chairman and the leaders of the two committees (Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce) with jurisdiction over health care and entitlement programs to the negotiating table. In addition, Representatives James Clyburn (D-SC), and Xavier Becerra (D-CA) provide diversity to the committee while Representative Christopher Van Hollen (D-MD), the ranking member on the Budget Committee, has fiscal expertise. The two “freshmen” Senators (Pat Toomey, PA and Rob Portman, OH) who were appointed to the JCRD both served several terms in the House. Portman was also the Director

of the Office of Management and Budget during the George W. Bush administration. Appropriations and Budget Committee member Patty Murray (D-WA), Finance Committee Chair Max Baucus (D-MT), Senate Minority Whip Jon Kyl (R-AZ), and John Kerry (D-MA), the third most senior member of the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation panel are the remaining members of the new committee.

Members of the JDRRC have made few public comments about the work that lies ahead of them. However, a few have started to speak out about their priorities and stake out positions on specific issues that are expected to be considered as part of the upcoming discussions. On August 12th, Representative Van Hollen appeared on a local Washington, DC area radio station and expressed a desire to protect the National Institutes of Health (NIH) from funding cuts [stating](#), "It would be very short-sighted to make cuts to NIH because the history has that the discoveries that they've come up have helped to reduce costs because they've developed treatments to various diseases, so I'm very hopeful that we'll be able to protect that very important national investment." Senator Portman published a ["guest column"](#) in the Cleveland Plain Dealer articulating things that Congress could do to help promote economic recovery including "reducing regulatory barriers to medical innovation."

Given the tight deadlines that must be met by the JCDR, the next few months will be exceptionally busy in Washington. In addition, Congress has not finished work on the FY 2012 appropriations bills, which will leave most federal agencies, including NIH, operating under a "continuing resolution" (temporary funding measure) beginning on October 1st. [To date](#), the House has passed the bill that funds the National Science Foundation, recommending that the agency budget remain at the same as the FY 2011 level - \$6.9 billion. Neither the House or the Senate has acted on the legislation that will determine the 2012 NIH budget.

—Jennifer L. Zeitzer, Director of Legislative Relations
FASEB's Office of Public Affairs
Email: jzeitzer@faseb.org

SSR needs your support!

The Society for the Study of Reproduction prides itself as the top international professional society in the field of reproductive biology, for its excellent journal, and for the outstanding scientific and trainee-focused programs at its Annual Meetings. However, this kudos does not come without a significant price.

The issues

With the economic downturn during the past years, SSR and other professional societies, with membership focusing on fundamental research, are finding it increasingly difficult to secure funding support from pharmaceutical industries. With decreasing resources for marketing and promotion, pharmaceutical companies are asking more and more for "return on investments," at the same time focusing on "partnership" with those organizations which are closest to their corporate interests and therefore likely to bring financial return in the short and long term. Obtaining major funding support through their corporate offices is becoming increasingly difficult, particularly in face of the stiff competition confronting SSR from clinically relevant societies. The difficulty in securing funding from this source is compounded by the strict continuing medical education regulations imposed on dealings between professional societies and their industrial partners.

The Strategy

To capitalize on the limited resources in the larger community, SSR is examining its programs as well as its strategies in securing support from pharmaceutical industries. In addition to increasing the translational content of its Annual Meeting scientific program, the Annual Meeting Industrial Relations Subcommittee (AMIR) is now working closely with the Local Arrangement Committee to take advantage of relationships established locally to identify potential partners from whom to secure funding support and—hopefully—to engage more contributors, though maybe at relatively lower levels. These partners include local foundations; academic, research, and clinical institutions; as well as pharmaceutical and laboratory support industries.

AMIR Activities

The AMIR Subcommittee of the SSR Development Committee has worked hard during the past year to secure support for these activities. In the recent 6 months, AMIR has devoted much of its attention to develop standard operating procedures for soliciting financial support from external sources and on new ideas and approaches to increase funding support. A solicitation guide/package is being assembled and an interactive process to track the fundraising activities of the subcommittee is being implemented. With the scientific content of the SSR Annual Meeting established by the Program Committee, AMIR members will work with potential supporters to find appropriate matches between their corporate priorities/interests and programmed events. Financial support to SSR and its Annual Meeting program by an outside party must be an unrestricted grant and given directly to the Society. Depending on the nature and level of support, the "benefits" for supporting the Society could include complimentary exhibit space, meeting registration, and admission to social events at the Annual Meeting as well as advertising opportunities in *Biology of*

Reproduction and on the SSR Web site. Moreover, to encourage delegate participation at the exhibit booths during the Annual Meeting, AMIR will be initiating an incentive program in which attendees who have visited all the exhibit booths will qualify for a draw of exciting prizes.

AMIR Subcommittee Members include:

Steve Palmer, stephen.palmer@emdserono.com
Selva Nataraja, selva.nataraja@serono.com
Richard Stouffer, stouffri@ohsu.edu
Troy Ott, tlo12@psu.edu
Daniel Hagen, drh@psu.edu

Vassilios Papadopoulos, vassilios.papadopoulos@mcgill.ca
Hugh Clarke, hugh.clarke@muhc.mcgill.ca
Johan Smitz, johan.smitz@uzbrussel.be
Ben Tsang (Chair), btsang@ohri.ca

How you can help . . .

The success of a financial appeal depends on both the person doing the asking and the one being asked, as well as on the personal and/or professional relationship already established between them. Your participation/support in this endeavor is very much needed and appreciated. If you have established a personal or professional relationship with someone of influence in an organization that is supportive of the course of SSR or could help in any way, please contact me or any member of the AMIR Subcommittee. We will be very happy to work with you to explore any possibility.

—Ben Tsang, Chair
AMIR Subcommittee, Development Committee
btsang@ohri.ca

Status of the SSR Membership

Membership in the Society is waning. Over the last decade, there has been ~25% decline in the total number of members, including ~37% reduction in the Regular membership alone. The Membership Committee will be increasing outreach efforts to urge current members to renew this fall and to recruit new members within North America and targeted international regions.

Help from the SSR membership

The committee requests that Directors of both North American and international reproductive biology centers/groups help to ensure that all affiliated individuals renew their current membership or join as new members this fall.

The committee urges all members of SSR to help spread the word about benefits of membership in the Society and to identify potential new members. A [brochure](#) is available for download from the SSR Web site that details the benefits of membership in SSR, and it is a great resource to provide to individuals with a budding interest in the Society.

New initiatives for membership retention and recruitment

Revisions are being made to the requirements for membership which will provide a smoother transition for Trainee members into Regular member status. If you are currently a Trainee member wishing to become a Regular member in the Society, please pay close attention to the new requirements.

Beginning at the 2012 Annual Meeting, the committee will be implementing several programs aimed at recognizing member loyalty and retaining new members who are attending their first meeting. We will be instituting an SSR Fellows program to recognize those members with sustained membership and major service to the society

Online membership renewal is available now—renew your SSR membership today!

Membership Renewal

It's never too early to renew; online renewal of membership is currently available. Please renew this fall before it slips from mind and urge friends/colleagues to do the same.

The 2011–2012 Membership Committee

The committee has expanded in number over years past to provide greater coverage throughout North America and targeted international regions. For members retiring from the committee, thank you for the time and effort devoted toward sustaining and improving membership in the Society.

—Jon Oatley, Chair
Membership Committee
joatley@wsu.edu

WELCOME TO SSR!

New members

Regular

Alonso, Telma S.
Fijak, Monika

Associate

Hales, Karen H.
Weston, Andrew M.

Trainee

Adevai, Tiffany J.
Bauschard, Michael J.
Berger, Robert G.
Butler, Brandi L.
Chen, Mei-Chih
Chu, Guiyan
Cloninger, Elizabeth
Coticchia, Christine M.

Desaulniers, Amy T.
Diao, Yun Fei
Doyle, Timothy J.
Dzyadyk, Marta N.
Feitosa, Weber Beringuji
Ganesan, Shanthi
Goodyear, Shaun M.
Gorman, Jennifer
Guerrero, Valerie D.
Harp, Djana F.
Katileba, Kimberly D.
Kito, Gakushi
Knox, Antoinette
Kurrey, Nawneet
Lai, Meng-Shao
Lee, Ji Hye
Li, Jiachen
Li, Xiaoxia

Lin, Po-Han
Lin, Yu-Xuan
Liu, Jie
Mora, Jocelyn M.
Mu, Yi Fen
Napier, India D.
Nteebe, Jackson
Pan, Bo-Syong
Radnor, Rachel
Seabrook, Jill L.
Shim, Jangsoo
Stanley, Jessica
Subbarayalu, Panneerdoss
Sun, Chia-Hung
Urias, Christian
Vasquez, Yasmin M.
Viswanadhapalli,
Suryavathi
Yeh, Yung-Hsing

Change of status

To Emeritus:

Sherwood, O. David

To Regular:

Banu, Sakhila K.
Chang, Tien-Cheng (Arthur)
Ellsworth, Buffy S.
Hawkins, Shannon
La Salle, Sophie
Tai, Ping
Tong, Minghan

To Trainee:

Schmuki, Shawn T.

Heritage Committee Report

Dr. L. E. Casida was honored at the Heritage Breakfast at the SSR Annual Meeting in Portland. An illustrated biography was presented by Keith Inskeep and comments were added by several attendees. Attendance was increased in response to promotional initiatives directed to trainees and members before the Annual Meeting.

Committee members Fred Stormshak, Phil Dziuk, Janice Bahr, John Peluso, and Keith Inskeep met along with outgoing committee member John Resko, Trainee Representative Denise Archambeault, incoming Program Chair Mary Zelinski, President Barbara Vanderhyden, and President-Elect Susan Suarez after the Heritage Breakfast.

Committee Chair Inskeep pointed out that, based on standard operating procedure, our major assignments were to plan for next year's meeting in terms of selecting an honoree and a presenter. He opened the meeting for thoughts and suggestions to be considered when the entire committee was polled later in the fall. Outgoing member John Resko proposed that we consider honoring a group of contributors in a significant area (theme), as the procedure to date of honoring only one deceased person per year limited the record of our heritage. Dr. Stormshak felt that this suggestion was not a good idea, as it diminished the emphasis on a single career.

The discussion expanded to include the fact that this year's historical perspective lectures had been excellent summaries and well received, and that with the expectation of such initiatives continuing, the roles of the Heritage Committee and the Heritage Breakfast might need to be different (expanded or coordinated more closely with the Program Committee) in the future. While no decisions were reached, the officers and program chair in attendance indicated that they would provide some guidance early during the fall. Dr. Zelinski has since indicated that the committee should provide suggestions for the subject(s) and presenters to be considered for Historical Perspectives Lectures.

The group also discussed the concept of a registration fee for Emeritus Members at the Annual Meeting, in the amount of \$100. This change was readily endorsed and recommended to the Board of Directors; it was approved at the post-annual meeting Board Meeting.

In recent conversations, the possibility to move from a breakfast venue to a Heritage Luncheon became available and the committee members voted to make that move, so the Heritage Luncheon at the Penn State meeting in 2012 will be on Wednesday. Committee Chair Inskeep plans to poll the committee for suggested honorees and for suggested historical perspectives lectures topics and speakers to forward to Dr. Zelinski by early October. Suggestions from any members of the society are welcome: einskeep@wvu.edu or direct to Program Chair Mary Zelinski, zelinski@ohsu.edu.

—Keith Inskeep, Chair
Heritage Committee
einskeep@wvu.edu



Camp Monkey



Over 140 middle school students sought entry to SSR's 2011 Outreach Event at the Oregon National Primate Research center. In an effort limited only by physical space, 72 middle school students were selected (on a first-come, first-served basis) and treated to a day of hands-on science at "Camp Monkey" on July 29, 2011, from 9 am - 4 pm. The event was sponsored by the Society for the Study of Reproduction, the Oregon National Primate Research Center (ONPRC), the Burroughs Wellcome Fund, and Bio-Rad. SSR members and trainees, as well as over a dozen ONPRC employees and volunteers, provided invaluable assistance in the effort.

Camp Monkey was also well-publicized throughout the local Portland metropolitan area thanks to the Primate Center's media relations staff. Various news agencies ran press releases; local radio and television stations also provided coverage. The students enjoyed being interviewed by a "real" reporter.

Six "stations" accommodated 12 students at a time and students made their way through the stations throughout the day on 45-minute rotations, with lunch and snacks provided during the day. Stations included:

Monkey Behavior: Participants learned about typical monkey behaviors and how to recognize them. They used an ethogram to record data on the behaviors they observed in the rhesus macaque breeding colony, and they had the opportunity to view the Japanese macaque colony, as well.

Environmental Enrichment for Monkeys: Participants learned about the importance of enrichment in promoting species-normative behaviors and made food enrichment for monkeys.



Genetics Overview: Campers learned about DNA and gel electrophoresis (they had the opportunity to practice loading a gel) and also learned some simple Mendelian genetics concepts. They experimented with various tasting papers and discovered whether they were "tasters" or not. They also looked at other simple Mendelian traits (attached ear lobes, widow's peak, etc.), and compared similarities/differences among primate genomes and phenotypes.

Poisons in our Environment (Toxicology): Students learned about current threats to our environment and how some of them (bisphenol A, for example) can have detrimental effects on reproduction. Students were able to see the effect of toxins



(vinegar) on the behavior of various types of sperm.

Comparative Anatomy: Campers learned about reproductive tracts of various animals, including rats, cattle, pigs, and horses by viewing the actual tracts as well as models of the human female and male. Campers also aspirated follicles of the ovaries to view eggs.

Saving Endangered Species (Assisted Reproductive Technology): Students learned about various approaches to fertility preservation for endangered species of primates, including vitrification methods to store reproductive tissues in a 'frozen' zoo, and the use of biomaterials like alginate to help grow eggs to maturity.

One student commented to his very pregnant mother as she came to pick him up, "Now I know exactly how you got this way!"

Parents and other family members were invited to a presentation/tour of the Center, which took place from 2-4 p.m., ending just in time for them to pick up their sons/ daughters from the Camp. Approximately 50 individuals attended this optional event.

Students were sent home with a 'goodie' bag containing materials to make a candy model of DNA, and monkey-themed items (ruler, stickers and candy). The day ended with the entire group meeting together for a rousing "Camp Monkey!" cheer.

Feedback from participants was uniformly positive: "I liked that we got to see the monkeys and learn more about them;" "I liked making the treats; it was really just sticky and messy; that was enjoyable;" One student commented to his very pregnant mother as she came to pick him up, "Now I know exactly how you got this way!" "Learning more about electrophoresis was really neat!" "[I liked] the chemicals;" "I liked how



we were able to do experiments;" "It was interactive and fun!" "I had a great time, and I learned a lot!" "[I would like] a sleepover for a week or a night." "[Camp Monkey] was a great experience." "Camp Monkey was soooooooooooooo fun! ☺" Regarding the dissection activity, the "loved it" faction won out over the "it was gross/smelly" group.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Burroughs Wellcome Fund, Ingrid Miller (Bio-Rad), and to the following SSR members, and their associates for their enthusiastic contributions to Camp Monkey: Rachel Aazzerah, Cecily Bishop, Jacira Campos, Jon Hennebold, Kollan Jones, Alison Ting, and Lynzy Wooten (ONPRC); Derek McLean (Washington State Univ.); James Nagler (University of Idaho); Joan Jorgensen (University of Wisconsin-Madison); April Binder, Katie Burns, Sylvia, and Steve Hewitt (NIEHS); Bethany

Karman (University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana); Jenifer Cruickshank (SUNY Oswego); Bridgette Kirkpatrick (Collin College, Texas); Stine Gry Kristensen (University Hospital of Copenhagen); Dylan Abramson, Gwen Abramson, Sara Koler, and John Wolf (SSR office).

—Mary Zelinski, Chair
2011 SSR Outreach Event

—Diana Gordon
Education & Outreach Coordinator
Oregon National Primate Research Center

A Final Note from the Editor

Congratulations. You have actually read the newsletter all the way to the end. Drop me an email <laura.c.schulz@gmail.com> to let me know you're reading and you'll be entered in a drawing to win a signed copy of Leon Speroff's biography of Gregory Pincus. A Good Man: The Man, His Story, the Birth Control Pill.

*Published three times each year (February, June, and October) by the Society for the Study of Reproduction, Inc.
Business Office: 1619 Monroe Street, Madison, WI 53711-2063. Executive Director: Judith Jansen.
Editor: Laura Clamon Schulz. Managing Editor: John Wolf*