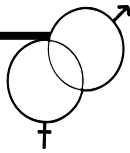


SOCIETY
for the
STUDY OF REPRODUCTION



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PRESIDENT

Barbara C. Vanderhyden
Ottawa Research Institute

5 December 2011

VICE PRESIDENT

Susan S. Suarez
Cornell University

To all SSR members,

VICE PRESIDENT-ELECT

Jock Findlay
Prince Henry's Inst. of Medical Research

My mother taught me that sex, religion and money were not appropriate topics for polite conversation. Now I can't say that I always obeyed my mother, but I have managed to avoid public discussions about money—until now. Ah, you were hoping for sex or religion!

PAST-PRESIDENT

Sally Perreault Darney
Cary, North Carolina

As a member of the premier society in the field of reproduction, you enjoy the scientific benefits of attending our annual meeting and reading and publishing in *Biology of Reproduction*. You can point with pride to the nurturing environment that SSR offers its trainees. SSR is the place we call "home," where we "grew up" as young scientists, learning from the trainee forums, workshops, and lunches how to write grants, how to mentor, and how to become independent investigators. It is the place where we share the frustrations and exhilarations of grant submissions and awards. And, most important, it is the place where our friends and colleagues challenge our hypotheses, question our methods, and help to ensure that our research is of the highest caliber.

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Well folks, it's time to show your appreciation! As you renew your membership and take advantage of its perks, please consider making a donation to the SSR. Member donations provide an important component of our financial plan by building our endowment for long-term sustainability, as seed money for new initiatives, and for trainee development opportunities. Thus, your contributions help insure our long-term financial health and sustainability.

EDITORS-IN-CHIEF (ex officio)

Bernard Robaire
McGill University
Bruce D. Murphy
University of Montreal

The long-term objective of SSR is to have assets equivalent to two years of operating expenses, which is approximately \$4 million. Reaching this goal will enable the Society to use the proceeds from its investments to sustain a number of its activities, programs, and awards. The good news is that we are getting closer to reaching this goal. Thanks to the strong stewardship of our funds by SSR Treasurer Marty Matzuk, our investments (unrestricted net assets and endowment funds) currently stand at \$2.837 million.

Donors may direct their support to the fund of their choice. The Legacy Fund, originally established to digitize all back issues of BOR, now is used to sustain the excellence of BOR in the 21st Century. We need to invest in our Journal, identifying and making improvements that add appeal to authors and to readers, such as Editorials, Commentaries, and the new "World of Reproductive Biology" feature. SSR Regular members now benefit from free publication in BOR, a great perk, but one that does reduce publication revenues.

SSR also recognizes the importance of acknowledging the achievements of its members. Donations to the SSR New Investigator Fund and the SSR Trainee-Mentoring Fund build the endowments that support those awards. The Anita Payne Endowment Fund, established in 2010, supports a lecture by a promising young investigator at the Annual Meeting and a scholarship for an SSR Trainee member to participate in the Frontiers in Reproduction course. The Mahesh Neuroendocrine Program Fund ensures that this topic will continue to be an element in the annual meeting program. The Larry Ewing Memorial Trainee Travel Fund is particularly important in this era of declining grant support. Many of you generously contributed an extra amount to this fund last spring when we learned that the level of funding for this purpose from our main meeting support grant was lower than we'd hoped. We critically need your continued support for this fund. Finally, both the General Endowment Fund and the Past Presidents' Fund help to support the Annual Meeting and other activities of the Society.

By expanding the endowment, we safeguard the future of SSR. No amount is too small. So here's my challenge to all of you: please consider donating \$25 for every year that you have been a member of SSR. More, if you are able. Donations of any amount will be recognized in the February Newsletter and in one of the donor categories: Platinum ($\$ > \$5,000$), Gold ($\$2,500-4,999$), Silver ($\$1,000-2,499$), Bronze ($\$250-999$) or Contributor ($\$1-249$). You can also choose to remain anonymous if you wish. For U.S. members, donations to the SSR are fully tax deductible.

Please don't let my deviation from Mom's advice be for naught. Take a moment now to show your appreciation for our society by using the convenient online process at www.ssr.org/Donations.shtml (a printable donation form that may be faxed or mailed is also available). Every contribution is important. For those who value the SSR as much as I do, please be generous in showing how much our society means to you. I thank you for your generosity.

In sincere appreciation,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara Vanderhyden". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Barbara Vanderhyden, Ph.D.
President