Ramblings (if not rhetoric) from the President

In the last newsletter, I introduced you to the great county fairs in the Northwest. Another popular summer pastime for young and old alike is to attend summer camp. There’s something for everyone, from MAD (music, arts, drama) camp to sports camp (e.g., basketball for addicts like Barry Zirkin); from camps in natural settings (Adventure camp, including hiking to the mountain tops of Three Sisters) to camps in cities (Shakespeare camp in Ashland, Oregon). Both of my genetic offspring had the opportunity to work as counsellors last summer at Oregon camps. One last impression was that there are two types of attendees: those who are pleasant and those who are “pains in the butt”—and these two types generally correlate with those who eagerly attend camp versus those who are sent to camp by their parents (perhaps because of their butt problems at home). Which makes me wonder why anyone would not want to attend camp. It’s a great change from the normal routine, a chance to make new friends and renew old acquaintances from last year’s camp, and a unique opportunity to learn or refine particular skills and recharge one’s enthusiasm and spirit. Not to mention, you usually don’t have to perform such mundane chores as cooking or making your bed!

For me, these reasons are similar to those that attract me to regularly attend the summer Annual Meeting of the SSR. This year’s meeting is scheduled for July 27–30 on the campus of the University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, Canada. The Program Committee (Gene Albrecht, chair) and Local Arrangements Committee (Dave Pomerantz, chair) have planned an outstanding scientific and social event that you will not want to miss. In addition to lively poster and platform sessions, there will be a symposium on neuroendocrine regulation of the ovulatory gonadotropin surge and three State-of-the-Art lectures on the Human Genome Project, sperm-egg fusion, and StAR protein. After the overwhelming success of the mini-symposia last year, we expanded this part of the meeting to include twelve topics, ranging from gene expression in the early embryo and cellular remodeling in the reproductive system to male reproductive toxicology and new insight into mechanisms of hormone action. The inclusion of mini-symposia greatly increases the diversity of reproductive science at the SSR meeting and discussions of the hottest, and perhaps controversial, research topics in reproductive biology. Between scientific sessions, have lunch with an old or new acquaintance and attend the legendary barbeque/SSR awards ceremony/social Monday night.

So, I urge all of you to attend SSR Camp this coming July in beautiful Ontario, Canada! A major attraction of our relatively small (~1,000 attendees), informal meeting, as opposed to the mega-meetings of other societies, is that you will return home reinvigorated by the science and your interactions with colleagues who are probably just down the hallway—just as if you went to camp! Only there aren’t any camp counsellors and the food is much better! See you in July!

P.S. If you haven’t already done so, either prior to or in response to the SSR brochure you received in November, please consider a contribution to the Endowment Fund. The plan is to use income from this fund to enhance our Annual Meeting by providing travel fellowships for Trainees and foreign scientists, establishing endowed lectures by distinguished scientists, and offering educational programs on timely topics. Contributions from members are coming in—over $11,000 in 1995—but we are a long way from our goal. Please keep the Society in mind this year as you contribute to charitable, nonprofit organizations. Consider it your way of sending a future scientist or someone less fortunate or far away to SSR Camp!

—Richard L. Stouffer
Program for Annual Meeting previewed

The program for the SSR Annual Meeting scheduled for July 27–30, 1996, at the University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, should prove to be provocative, stimulating, and of great interest to investigators in many different areas of reproductive biology.

In addition to an expected record number of platform and poster presentations, the meeting will include a the President’s Symposium on Neuroendocrine Regulation of the Ovulatory Gonadotropin Surge: A Comparative View; State-of-the-Art lectures on recent advances in different research fields; mini-symposia highlighting areas of emerging research interest; a workshop on Techniques in Reproductive Biology: Flow Cytometry and Signal Transduction; a placement service coordinated by the Society’s Trainee members; and brown bag lunches encouraging spontaneous discussion of current or controversial topics.

The symposium will highlight methodologic and research advances leading to evolving concepts on the neuroendocrine control of the pituitary gonadotropin surge that is essential for ovulation and corpus luteum function. Jon Levine (“When pulse comes to surge: new concepts on the control of gonadotropin surges in rodents”), Fred Karsch (“The preovulatory GnRH surge in sheep: its regulation and functional significance”), and Harold Spies (“Coital and estrogen signals: a contrast in the preovulatory neuroendocrine network”) will provide a comparative view arising from molecular to whole-animal studies in rats, rabbits, sheep, and nonhuman primates. The symposium will conclude with a panel discussion of unresolved issues, species similarities and differences, and future research directions.

Three State-of-the-Art lectures will highlight recent advances in different research fields. Glen Evans will open the meeting with a major address on the Human Genome Project; Diana Myles will present her recent research on sperm surface proteins and the mechanism(s) of sperm-egg interactions during fertilization (“Sperm-egg interactions during fertilization, or how to succeed in fusion without even trying”); and Douglas Stocco will describe his work leading to the discovery of steriodogenic acute regulatory (STAR) protein and its role in steroidogenesis (“A STAR search: implications in controlling steroidogenesis”).

In each of twelve mini-symposia (four each day), three speakers representing related areas of emerging interest will present their findings and discuss issues. The sessions and presiding chairs are: Androgen Action in the Male Reproductive Tract, Barry Zirkin; Gonadal Function: Novel Genes, JoAnne Richards; Development: Gene Expression in the Early Embryo, Barbara Hales; Cellular Remodeling in the Reproductive System, Eugene Albrecht; Cell Cycle and Metiosis in Gametogenesis, Mary Ann Handel; Paracrine Mediators in the Reproductive System, Robert Brenner; Immune Cells at the Fetal-Placental Interface, Joan Hunt; Toxicology and the Male Reproductive System, W. Steven Ward; Neuroendocrine Regulation of GnRH Secretion, Virendra Mahesh; New Insights in the Mechanism of Hormone Action, Gerald Pepe; Metalloproteinases in the Reproductive System, Kevin Osteen; and Genes and Early Development, S. K. Dey.

The Annual Meeting will also include a Science Outreach Forum, organized by Barbara Vanderhyden, to enhance public awareness of scientific research. The Trainee Forum, organized by Tamara Goetz, will feature Harold Papkoff and Robert Ryan and should prove stimulating to the younger investigators of SSR. Finally, a reception on Saturday evening, July 27, a banquet/barbecue and awards ceremony on the evening of July 29, and the business meeting on July 30 will provide opportunities to visit colleagues and to offer your input on Society affairs.

If you go to only one major meeting in 1996, make it the SSR Annual Meeting in July at the University of Western Ontario! ■

—Eugene Albrecht, Chair
Program Committee

SSR ON THE WEB

The Society is present on the World Wide Web at http://www.ssr.org/
Currently, the SSR Web site includes the text of the new SSR brochure; information on the 1996 Annual Meeting in London, Ontario; lists of the Society's officers, directors, and committee members; the text of the last two newsletters; and information regarding Biology of Reproduction, including tables of contents for the past several issues and instructions to authors, along with a directory of the journal's editors and editorial board members. The SSR homepage was created by Fraser Gurd.
Arrangements being set for Ontario meeting

Arrangements for accommodations, travel, and recreation for the 1996 SSR Annual Meeting July 27–30 at the University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, are being developed by the Local Arrangements Committee. Details will be included in the preregistration packet that will be mailed to SSR members in April. Updates and further information will be posted at the new SSR site on the World Wide Web (http://www.ssr.org/).

Accommodations

On campus: Housing on the UWO campus for persons attending the 1996 Annual Meeting will be available in Saugeen-Maitland Hall, which is located close to all the SSR activities. This is an air-conditioned high-rise residence with 1,240 beds. Rates are $47.00 CDN per person per night for single occupancy and $40.25 CDN per person per night for double occupancy. Prices include a full breakfast each day, access to the parking lot next to the residence, and taxes. Rooms will be available for early arrivals on July 25. For reservations in the residence, complete the on-campus housing form in the preregistration packet and return it with payment before June 24, 1996. Payment can be made by Visa, MasterCard, or institutional checks (payable to The University of Western Ontario). Personal checks will not be accepted.

Off campus: Blocks of rooms have been reserved at several hotels in London. Individuals must make their own reservations. Shuttle service will not be provided from the hotels to campus during the meeting. All hotels will release the block of rooms one month before the Annual Meeting, so book well in advance. Details will be found in your preregistration packet.

Travel

Air travel: Air travel into London Airport is via connecting commuter flights from three international airports: Toronto, Detroit, and Pittsburgh. Air Canada/Air Ontario, Canadian Airlines International/Canadian Partner, Northwest Airlines/Northwest Airlink, and USAir/USAir Express all serve the London Airport. Travel arrangements can be made with Conventions in America, the official travel agency for the 29th Annual Meeting. For reservations, call Conventions in America at 1-800-929-4242 and ask for Group #322.

Limousine service: Limousine transportation service is available from the London Airport to UWO and selected hotels by Checker Limousine Service at a discounted fare of $16.75 CDN per trip. You must mention that you are attending the SSR Annual Meeting to receive this rate.

Car rental: Car rental from London Airport is available through Budget (which will offer special low rates for the SSR meeting) as well as Avis, Hertz, and Tilden.

Airport transfers from Toronto and Detroit: Commercial ground transportation is available from Toronto International Airport (2 hours away) and Detroit Metropolitan Airport (2 hours away) to London. Details will be found in your preregistration packet.

Travel by train and bus: London is served by trains and buses from the United States and across Canada. For information on rail service to London, call Amtrak (from U.S. destinations) at 1-800-561-3949 or Via Rail (from Canadian destinations) at 1-800-872-7245. For information on bus service to London, contact Greyhound Bus Lines at 1-800-661-8747 (U.S. and Canada).

Travel by car: If you are planning to drive to the Annual Meeting, please consult the information in your preregistration packet or on SSR’s Web site for recommended routes.

Recreation

On campus: A 25-meter indoor pool is located in the University Community Centre for recreational swimming. Aerobic, step, and aquatic fitness classes are scheduled throughout the day. Volleyball, basketball, badminton, racquetball, squash, and tennis courts can be reserved in advance. Admission to the McIntosh Art Gallery on campus is free to all guests. UWO also has many excellent libraries, including the Weldon Library and specialized libraries for science, medicine, engineering, and music.

Off campus: A wide variety of activities are available in the London area. The city’s public art gallery is located downtown. Other points of interest include the Banting Museum, Museum of Archaeology, and, for children, Fanshawe Pioneer Village, Storybook Gardens, and Wally World, a wonderful water park. London is surrounded by numerous public golf courses. Campgrounds close to London include Fanshawe Park, which is the closest to campus. You will also find some lovely provincial parks on the shores of Lake Erie and Lake Huron.

(continued on page 4)
Trainee news

The Trainee Affairs Committee would like to thank those who responded to our membership invitation letters. We would also like to urge others to join soon to qualify for the outstanding benefits of an SSR Trainee membership. Trainee dues are very inexpensive compared with those of other scientific societies. Membership entitles you to three newsletters a year, monthly issues of *Biology of Reproduction*, and reduced registration fees for the Annual Meeting.

The Annual Meeting is host to many Trainee activities and services sponsored by the SSR and organized by the Trainee Affairs Committee. Travel awards are distributed from the Larry Ewing Memorial Trainee Travel Fund to help with travel to the Annual Meeting. You must be a current member, present an abstract, and demonstrate financial need. Applications for travel awards are mailed in the spring.

During the Trainee Forum at the Annual Meeting, invited speakers present issues of interest to Trainees. The Trainee-Faculty Luncheon at the meeting is an excellent opportunity to visit informally with faculty representing most areas of reproductive biology. A list of the approximately 25 faculty members who participate is provided with your preregistration materials. The groups are kept very small to ensure ample time for all Trainees and faculty to visit.

Finally, it is important to realize that the Trainee Affairs Committee consists of Trainees elected to represent the Trainee members of the Society. Two Trainee representatives serve 2-year terms. I encourage you to run for election to this position. As a Trainee representative, you become intimately involved with the Society and spend two very rewarding years serving the Trainee members of the Society.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or Lynn Janulis with questions, concerns, or suggestions.

—Tamara Goetz, Chair
Trainee Affairs Committee
e-mail: goetz@wsuvm1.csc.wsu.edu

—Lynn Janulis, Trainee Representative
Northwestern University
Medical School/Dept. of Urology
Tarry Bldg., 11-715
Chicago, IL 60611
312-908-7963/Fax: 312-908-7275

(continued from page 3)

About 45 minutes from London is the lovely Victorian city of Stratford, on the banks of the Avon River. Stratford is world-renowned for its Stratford Festival Theatres. This year's productions include *Amadeus*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *King Lear*, *The Music Man*, *As You Like It*, and six others. In addition, southwestern Ontario has a high concentration of professional summer theatres, many of which are located in small towns within about an hour's drive from London.

Please check the SSR Web site for links to the homepages of UWO; London, Ontario; Stratford, Ontario; and southwestern Ontario.

—Dave Pomerantz, Chair
Local Arrangements Committee

SSR needs you!

The members of the Society for the Study of Reproduction who serve on the numerous committees ensure that our Society serves us well and fulfills the expectations of its members as much as possible. As President-Elect, I am responsible for providing a slate of committee members to serve the SSR from August 1996 through July 1997. I urge you to increase your participation in the SSR by volunteering to serve on one of the SSR Committees. There are standing committees for Membership, Program, Publications, Awards, Bylaws, Education, Public Affairs, Animal Care, Nominating, and Student and Minority Affairs. There are also *ad hoc* committees for Development and Endowment, Future Meeting Sites, Local Arrangements, and Trainee Affairs. A description of committees is printed in the September 1994 SSR Membership Directory (pages 95-96). Please contact me and let me know if you wish to serve on a committee and the committee of your preference. I look forward to hearing from you.

—Fuller W. Bazer
President-Elect
442 Kleberg Center
Department of Animal Science
Texas A&M University
College Station, TX 77843-2471
Telephone: 409-862-2659
Fax: 409-862-2662
e-mail: FBazer@vetmed.tamu.edu
New Members

Regular

Anzar, Muhammad
Aurich, Jorg E
Bhatnager, Piyush R
Billig, Hakan
Campbell, Steven
Chen, Tong J
Chou, Karen
Colonna, Rosella
Cooney, Austin J
Coy, Pilar
Donoghue, Ann M
Fisher, Susan J
Fujiwara, Hiroshi
Gimeno, Martha AF
Gomez, Emilio
Hirsch, Klaus-Dieter
Hsiao, Shyh-Min
Jimenez, Clement
Ko, Jung-Jae
Loveland, Kate L
Maruyama, Tetsuo
Minami, Naojiro
Musicki, Biljana
Nagy, Zsolt P
Nebel, Raymond L
Onishi, Akira
Piferre, Francesc
Richardson, Laura L
Rosselli, Marinella
Rui, Salvador
Sinowitz, Fred
Soltes, Barbara
Su, Jyan-Gwo
Suzuki, Hiroshi
Torr, Donald S
Vince, Gill
Whitehead, Saffron A
Yasuda, Katsuhiko

Trainee

Abeydeera, Lalantha R
Bailey, Michael T
Bechert, Ursula
Biensen, Nina J
Butler, Christopher
Cargill, Shelley
Chamberlin, Raeanne
Cushman, Robert A
El-Banna, Moustafa K
Fanua, Sione P
Garrett, Wesley M
Geiger, Tammy
Green, Mike L
Han, Sou W
Hay, Margery A
Hernandez-Fonseca, Hugo
Hess, Karla Ann
Holman, Darryl J
Huang, Zhi H
Hung-Chang, Yao
Imig-Fenton, Jennifer
Jensen, Thomas
Kawarsky, Sheldon J
Kell, Dawn A
Kim, J Julie
Lavery, Karen S
Lay, Melissa F
Lim, Jeong-Mook
Machaty, Zoltan
McLean, Derek J
Miller, Monica
N’Diaye, Mamadou R
Nagano, Reiko
Oncin, Karine
Porter, Dale A
Propst, Sandra
Reed, William A
Reed, Karen L
Ricke, William A
Sayre, Brian L
Setiawan, Tommy
Sitzmann, Brandon
Spindler, Rebecca E
Stephenson, Lisa Ann
Suter, Kelly
Takahashi, Yuji
Tao, Ya-Xiong
Valdivia, Martha E
Wang, Wei
Waters Dippel, Wendy
Wilson, Matthew E
Yang, Shu-Ping

Associate

Borkowski, Anne E
Butners, Viktor Y
Clark, Gary F
Darden, Alik
Hong, Longsheng
Liebermann, Jurgen
Ottosen, Jan
Pomeroy, Kimball O
Tsai, Mei-Ling

Change of status

Moenter, Sue
Morbeck, Dean E
Tucker, Kathleen E
White, Tacey
Winn, Robert J

Contributors to the SSR Endowment Fund

The Society gratefully acknowledges these contributors to the Endowment Fund since January 1, 1995.

Silver

($1,000–2,499)
Stouffer R L
Strauss J F
Suter D
Williams R F

Bazer F W
Mahesh V B
Rothchild I

Bronze

($250–999)
Fujinaga H
Hagen D R
Hirshfield A N
Knickrocker J J
Koering M J
Ling N
Roberts R M
Shimada K

Stouffer R L
Strauss J F
Suter D
Williams R F

Atran R F
Bae I-H
Bahr J M
Boatman D E
Brackett B G
Brenner R M
Bustillo M
Cardamakis E
Chedrese J
Coronel C E

Crabo B G
Crisp T M
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Enders G C
Eppig J J
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Ford J J
Fortune J
Fujita J
Glasser S R
Greenwald G
Heyner S
Hubbard G M
Humphrey R R
Hunt J S
Hunt P A
Inazu N
Kawashima S
Keyes P L
Kiessling A A
Kniewald Z
Labarbera A R
Lee T M
Lobotsky J
Lytle C R
May J V
Meidan R
Miyachi F
Mori J
Nakai M
Nakano M
Nass T E
Nishimune Y
Niwa K
Ogawa S
Okuda K
Orly J
Orwig K
Otto B J S
Papoff H
Perreault S D
Richards J S
Ripps B A
Ryan K D
Ryan P L
Sanborn B M
Sato E
Sawyer C H
Schwarzenberger F
Sharp D
Slob A K
Sobrero A J
Spies H G
Steinmetz B G
Stocco D M
Stormshak F
Taka K
Takehara Y
Terranova P F
Thatcher S S
Thiery J-C
Tobet S A
Villalpando Fierro I
Wakuda K
Wang M-W
Wang W-H
Weems Y S
Weick R F
Whittingham D G
Yanagimachi R
Yasuo H

FEBRUARY 1996 • 5
What Are You Waiting For?

"Do not wait for leaders, do it alone, person-to-person."—Mother Teresa

It is my experience that clinicians and scientists explain their reluctance to become personally involved in advocacy for medical research on the basis of one or more of the following rationalizations: "My efforts won't make any difference." "I don't know how." "I don't have time, and besides, it's not seemly to do so." Rarely do I hear that advocacy isn't necessary, least of all in these times of unprecedented threats to funding of the National Institutes of Health, but advocacy is usually regarded as somebody else's job. If indeed it were ever true that advocacy is the exclusive purview of only a few (Deans, Presidents, society leaders, voluntary health organizations), that system is not working any more! If we don't all become comfortable with the fact that advocacy is part of our jobs now, funding will drop, clinicians will have fewer new tools and strategies at their disposal, the public will feel shortchanged, and scientists won't have their own jobs anymore, much less the ability to assign advocacy for maintaining that job to someone else.

There are two ways to act as an advocate for research. The first is to do your own advocacy; the second, which will be effective only if you are comfortable doing the first, is to stimulate advocacy among members of the public. The first thing an advocate needs to know is that the public believes that medical research should be a higher national priority; in fact, nearly three out of four Americans are willing to pay higher taxes in order to support more research, and this level of support has remained solid as recently as June 1995. Young people (18–30) are more likely to be supportive of research that those who are older; nonwhites are more likely to be supportive than whites; and women are more likely than men to rank medical research as the number one research priority in the nation.

Research!America's public opinion polls and focus groups indicate that the public is not only strongly supportive of medical research but wants to hear more about it—especially from its practitioners. Yet, a large majority report that they do not hear about research very often from their health care professionals. It is evident that the stakeholder community—clinicians and researchers—are not meeting the need for information adequately, and because of this is missing an opportunity to empower concerned citizens as advocates for research.

People who are interested in the future of health care by definition care about research. They are astonished to learn that only three cents of every health care dollar is spent on research; that only about 2 of 10 approved grant proposals can be funded; and that these dismal percentages are about to get worse unless more voices demand that medical research be given a much higher national priority. When spending on research is put into a context (what some call "social math"), people are often flabbergasted at the relatively low level of priority we give it. For example, consider that the actor Dustin Hoffman will receive more money for his role in the movie "Outbreak" than the $7.7 million annual budget provides for the new and emerging diseases program of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Or, consider that, in 1975, approximately the same amount of money (all sources combined, public and private) was spent on medical research as was spent on the prison system in the nation, $5 billion. Twenty years later, in 1995, about $30 billion will be spent on medical research, while $300 billion will be spent on prisons.

If everyone in the stakeholder community were to take just a little time to meet the public's information needs about research, and then suggest advocacy opportunities, such as calling or writing an elected official or writing a letter to the editor of the local newspaper, I believe that we would be pursuing research today at the level of scientific opportunity instead of according to short-term economics that have little regard for the future of either the health or the financial stability of this nation.

Physicians and scientists are among the very most respected professionals in our society and people want to hear more from them; why not seize this opportunity to "friend-raise" for research? As any good development professional will tell you, friend-raising is an important precondition to fund-raising. Clinicians and researchers should be friend-raising for research every day among the general population (especially with
patients, employees, family, and friends), and should also be friend-raising among highly influential members of the community, the media, and elected representatives. If members of the editorial board of your local newspaper, local and state officials, your Representative and Senators in Congress, recognize you by sight, you are probably functioning as a friend-raiser for research. If they don’t know you, you ought to remedy this!

To encourage others to become involved in and supportive of research and to do so yourself will inevitably lead some to the kind of advocacy that is technically defined as lobbying. This is worth anticipating, since underlying many scientists’ reluctance to get involved in this kind of direct advocacy may be a personal choice, reinforced by cultural norms in science, to eschew the political. John H. Gibbons, Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, recently addressed this issue eloquently:

There are those who believe that scientists should stay out of politics. This is not a luxury we have; in truth, it is a luxury we never had. Each of us needs to be a partisan for science, to embrace a partisanship born of hope for the future. It is not partisanship based on party ideology but on concern over the possibility that the work of generations that has put us at the forefront of world science and technology could be undone in a few budget cycles. It is a personal partisanship based on conviction, and such partisanship is the moral calling of every citizen in a democracy.

But whether or not you take the plunge and become outright political in your advocacy, it is important to get on with it and not wait for others to lead the way. Friend-raising for research needn’t take much time—you might allot four hours a month to it and set intermediate goals if you’re just getting started as an advocate. Putting out brochures or information sheets in a waiting room or clinic is a quick way to get a message across. Writing a letter to the editor of the local paper or an op-ed piece for an alumni magazine won’t take too much longer. Volunteering to give a talk at a senior center, church, or Rotary Club is a good friend-raising activity if you enjoy engaging the public in this way; alternatively, participating in discussion groups via the Internet makes it easy to ration your time and still make a contribution. Finally, getting to know key individuals personally may take a little more time, but has the potential for tremendous payoff.

The public wants research to succeed. You already serve the public by pursuing a life-enhancing profession. Now is the time to step forward and help fulfill the public’s mandate by becoming an outspoken advocate for the future of research. What are you waiting for?

Mary Woolley, President
Research!America
1522 King Street
2nd Floor
Alexandria, VA 22314-2717


BOR Editorial Office report

Beginning with the first issue of 1996, Biology of Reproduction includes a categorical table of contents. The categories include:

- Behavior
- Embryo/Pregnancy
- Environment/Toxicology
- Female Reproductive Tract
- Gamete Biology
- Immunology
- Male Reproductive Tract
- Mechanisms of Hormone Action
- Neuroendocrinology/Pituitary
- Ovary
- Reproductive Technology
- Testis

In 1995, BOR received 614 manuscripts, the highest number in the past 7 years. While the number of submissions from the United States has remained relatively stable (about 325) in recent years, submissions from outside the U.S. have risen dramatically, reaching 269 last year, or more than double the 1990 total.

The number of pages published in 1995 reached 3040, breaking the 3000-page level for the first time. Each monthly issue of BOR now contains an average of 30 articles.

These high numbers mean that we need more help in reviewing manuscripts. Please contact the Editorial Office if you are interested in becoming a BOR reviewer.

—Gordon Niswender
Editor-in-Chief

February 1996 ■ 7
Science resources on the World Wide Web

Some 20 million of us access the World Wide Web (WWW) daily. Scientists the world over are tapping the resources of the Internet for research purposes as routinely now as we once used the paper versions of *Current Contents* or the card catalog at the library. In fact, Internet resources are an invaluable tool for the conduct of science. Starting with this issue, the *SSR Newsletter* will feature a regular column about Internet resources for science and contain pointers to useful Web sites. The electronic version of this article, in the on-line edition of the newsletter, will have links to these sites. The list below of some of my favorite sites and resources is by no means intended to be all-inclusive, and please forgive the initial bias toward male reproduction. Please help to update this list by submitting your favorite Web sites to the *SSR Newsletter* at ssr@ssr.org or to me at dbhale@uic.edu. Please note: All of these sites are easily accessed by visiting my homepage at http://www.uic.edu/~dbhale/

Molecular biology sites:

**National Center for Biotechnology Information**
The master resource for all molecular biology and protein databases. Includes search engines for National Library of Medicine bibliographic databases.

**Pedro's Research Tools**
http://www.public.iastate.edu/~pedro/research_tools.html
The best biotechnology/molecular biology database resource with links to virtually every other molecular biology database.

**Hopkin's BioInformatics Homepage**
http://www.gdb.org/boppins.html
A useful page with good links and helpful resources.

**Genes of Interest to Endocrinology and Reproductive Biology**
http://www.siumed.edu/ob/obdata.html
From Southern Illinois University School of Medicine, molecular biology databases organized by species for reproductive sciences.

**Cytochrome P450 Homepage**
http://base.icgeb.trieste.it/p450/
Compendium and links to all known P450-related molecular biology resources.

Physiology sites:

**Physiology On-line**
http://physiology.cup.cam.ac.uk/
On-line directory of the Physiology Society with links to most physiology resources.

**Andrology Society of America Homepage**
http://godot.urol.uic.edu/~androlog/
ASA newsletters, meetings, member information, etc.

**Spermatology Homepage**
From Murdoch University by Jim Cummins, with everything you wanted to know about spermatology

**World Health Organization (WHO)**
http://www.who.org/
Index and guide to WHO programs, offices, employment opportunities, and the guide to precautions and vaccinations for international travel at:
http://www.who.org/TravelAndHealth/TravelAndHealth_Home.html

**Rodent Homepage**
http://www.cco.caltech.edu/~mercer/htmls/rodent_page.html
A compendium of Internet resources for investigators who use mice and rats in their research.

Other resources:

**Biology of Reproduction On-line**
http://www.ssr.org/bor/
Table of contents and abstracts for BOR.

**Journal of Biological Chemistry On-line**
http://www.jbc.stanford.edu/jbc/
Fully electronic version of JBC, on line before you get your printed version.

**Immunology Today On-line**
http://www.elsevier.nl:80/section/clinmed/immuno/itowww.htm
Fully electronic version of *Immunology Today* with links to other immunology resources.

**WWW virtual library**
http://www.w3.org/hypertext/DataSources/bySubject/Overview.html
Yahoo-like catalog of science and biotechnology resources on the WWW.

—Dale Buck Hales
Newsletter Editor
Reproductive biology e-mail lists

Web browsers are powerful tools for retrieving text, pictures, and sounds from computers connected to the Internet. However, e-mail is the common denominator of Internet users and offers an excellent way to circulate text-based information. E-mail lists allow individuals to join a worldwide collection of colleagues with similar interests. Below is a list of e-mail lists of potential interest to SSR members, along with subscription information. Some of these, such as SSREPRO, are only for distributing information to subscribers. Others are for questions and discussions on specified topics.

Andrology
androlog@uic.edu
Research on male reproduction and treatment of infertility.
 mail: e-mail message with subscription request
to: andolog@uic.edu
(Note: This list is moderated and subscription is by request.)

Biocomplexity
bcmplxty@list.nih.gov
Discussion of complexity theory, particularly as it relates to biologic processes.
 mail: subscribe bcmplxty <first name> <surname>
to: listserv@list.nih.gov
(Note: Do not include <> symbols with your name.)

Cell-cycle
cell-cycle@mailbase.ac.uk
Dedicated to all aspects of cell-cycle biology.
 mail: join cell-cycle <first name> <surname>
to: mailbase@mailbase.ac.uk

Embryology
embryo-l@ggpl.arsusda.gov
Devoted to all aspects of mammalian embryology.
 mail: an e-mail message with your full name, snail-mail (postal) address, phone and fax numbers, and some keywords describing your scientific interests
to: Embryo-L@ggpl.arsusda.gov
(Note: This list is moderated and subscription is by request.)

Mouse Genome Informatics
mgi-list@informatics.jax.org
Questions and answers about mouse genetics.
 mail: subscribe mgi-list
to: listserver@informatics.jax.org

NIH Guide Table of Contents
Electronic version of the NIH Guide table of contents.
 mail: subscribe nihtoc-l <first name> <surname>
to: listserv@list.nih.gov

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Society for the Study of Reproduction
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Electronic distribution of information to SSR members.
 mail: subscribe ssrepro
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(Note: This list was created using the e-mail addresses from the SSR member database. If you are not receiving e-mail from SSREPRO, the SSR Business Office may not have a working e-mail address.)

SperMail
spermail@cleo.murdoch.edu.au
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Some common etiquette should be observed when using e-mail lists. Postings to a list should include a succinct (<50 characters) and descriptive subject line. Most e-mail readers will automatically display Re: <previous subject heading> in the subject line of a reply. Be careful when sending a personal response to someone who has posted to the list. Most e-mail readers automatically use the list address for the response. This will cause extra work for the list moderator, and in the worst case your personal message will be sent to all list subscribers.

—Rich Rohan
rrrohan@world.std.com
Equine Reproduction VI contains 85 research reports and 4 review papers that were presented at the Sixth International Symposium on Equine Reproduction held in Caxambu, Brazil, in August of 1994. Every four years, equine practitioners and scientists representing more than 20 countries assemble to discuss and debate the problems and science of horse breeding. The papers published in this hardcover book represent the best of the clinical and basic research results reported at the 1994 meeting. Each paper was submitted to rigorous peer review before it was accepted for publication in this volume.

Equine Reproduction VI is the debut volume of the new Biology of Reproduction Monograph Series published by the Society for the Study of Reproduction. Equine Reproduction VI is a companion to the five volumes of the Equine Reproduction series published by the Journals of Reproduction and Fertility, which report the proceedings of the previous five symposia.

The papers in Equine Reproduction VI are grouped into four categories: Perinatology, Pregnant Mare, Nonpregnant Mare, and Stallion, with a review article prefacing each section. The Perinatology section includes papers on fetal endocrinology and the early postpartum foal. The Pregnant Mare section covers embryo handling, embryo transfer, development and physiology of the placenta, and subfertility in mares. The Nonpregnant Mare section features reports on endocrine control of pituitary and ovarian hormones, uterine physiology, and seasonality. The Stallion section includes studies on behavior, assessment of seminal and endocrine characteristics, and semen handling techniques. An extensive subject index completes the volume. The Table of Contents of Equine Reproduction VI is can be found on the SSR's website (http://www.ssr.org).

Cost of the volume is US $125.00, plus shipping and handling. All orders must be prepaid. To order, contact:

Society for the Study of Reproduction
1526 Jefferson Street
Madison, WI 53711-2106 USA
Telephone: 608-256-2777
Fax: 608-256-4610
e-mail: ssr@ssr.org
Elections coming up

SR's Nominating Committee received eight nominations for President-Elect and sixteen nominations for director. Those nominations were evaluated by our committee and submitted to the Board of Directors for consideration at the Midwinter Board Meeting. A ballot will be constructed in February or March and mailed to the membership early in April. Be ready to return your ballot because your vote helps determine the future of our Society.

—Ed Grotjan, Chair
Nominating Committee

Forum, workshop planned

Considerable concern has been expressed recently about the need to increase public awareness and appreciation for science as one way by which we can ensure continued visibility and support for public funding of research. This concern has helped to foster the current swell in the number of science outreach programs. To inform you about outreach programs that are particularly feasible and successful, and to provide ideas for establishing similar programs in your communities, the Education Committee is planning a forum on science outreach programs during the SSR Annual Meeting. Scheduled for Tuesday, July 30, the forum will include brief presentations by individuals who participate in outreach programs, with ample opportunity for discussion. If you participate in a science outreach program, we would like to include you in the forum. Please contact me soon at 613-247-6895, fax 613-247-6897, or e-mail bvanderh@labsun1.med.uottawa.ca to ensure that your outreach program is included in the forum.

The Education Committee is also organizing a Techniques in Reproductive Biology workshop at this year's Annual Meeting in London, Ontario. The program includes presentations on methodologies and applications of flow cytometry (Howard Shapiro) and techniques for investigating signal transduction pathways that use calcium (Malcolm Whitman) or kinases (Ed Moore). The workshop, scheduled for Saturday, July 27, will include question-and-answer periods as well as a panel discussion, followed by a luncheon for all participants.

—Barbara Vanderhyden, Chair
Education Committee

FROM THE BUSINESS OFFICE

Here are five reasons to keep your SSR membership up-to-date.

- You won't miss an issue of BOR (or an abstract packet, or registration material, etc.).
- Your name, address, and other crucial information will be listed correctly in the membership directory.
- The Membership Committee won't send you a survey asking why you didn't renew last year.
- The registration staff at the Annual Meeting won't give you a funny look when you try to register as a member and your dues are not paid.
- Our postal carrier, Mr. Rockwell, won't demand $0.50 for bringing us a late address change for you from the Post Office (when we could have heard directly from you with your new address).

Please contact the Business Office at 608-256-2777 (e-mail: ssr@ssr.org) if you need to update the information we have about you in our database. We appreciate hearing from you.

MEMORIAL FUND ANNOUNCED

Contributions are being accepted in the memory of Kalman T. Szabo, an active member of SSR who died last year at age 74 after a lengthy illness. Donations may be made to:

Lymphoma Research Fund (Carlo M. Circe, M.D.)
Thomas Jefferson University Development Office
Benjamin Franklin House
834 Chestnut Street, Suite 314
Philadelphia, PA 19107
Recent skirmishes on the animal-rights front

The Federation for Biomedical Research (FBR) and the National Association for Biomedical Research (NABR) now have homepages on the World Wide Web (http://www.fiesta.com/nabr/ and http://www.fiesta.com/fbr/). NABR was founded in 1979 and, according to its Web site, "is the only national, nonprofit organization dedicated solely to advocating sound public policy that recognizes the vital role of humane animal use in biomedical research, higher education and product safety testing." It "provides a unified voice for the scientific community on legislative and regulatory matters affecting laboratory animal research." The sister organization, FBR, "educate[s] the public concerning the threat posed by the animal rights movement and the need for increased support for biomedical research." Included in the NABR site is a list of NABR/FBR publications, and the FBR site has a link to related topics.

At a press conference in November, the National Consumers League (NCL) raised concerns regarding the not-tested-on-animals claims made by manufacturers of health and beauty products. Linda F. Golodner, NCL president, stated that "consumers are being misled and deceived" by such claims. A national survey conducted by NCL revealed that many consumers thought the claims "not tested on animals" or "cruelty free" meant that neither the product nor the ingredients were tested on animals, and that these claims did influence consumer purchases. NCL has sent letters to the Federal Trade Commission and the Food and Drug Administration requesting that the agencies "adopt clear and consistent voluntary guidelines for not tested on animals statements."

Some grade school teachers are encouraging students to write hateful letters regarding use of animals in product safety testing, according to an article in the September 3, 1995, issue of the Wall Street Journal. One sixth grader wrote, "If you hurt another animal...I'll bomb your company. P.S. Watch your back." Another student's letter equated a company's use of animals in product testing, as required by the FDA and the Consumer Product Safety Commission, with treatment of the Jews by the Nazis in World War II. Animal rights groups such as PETA distribute "colorful MTV-like magazines" advertising "mystery prizes" like T-shirts and CDs that children can win by spreading the word about "nasty" testing on animals.

Students at the Northwestern School of Law at Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Oregon, have published the first law journal dedicated to animal issues. The fact that funding for the publication is provided by The Animal League Defense Fund (ALDF) clearly suggests a bias toward an animal rights agenda.

The Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine (PCRM) has targeted medical schools that still rely on the use of live animals in their curricula. The PCRM claims that such practices are obsolete and serve no useful purpose. However, a study conducted by the University of Indiana School of Medicine, reported in the January 1995 issue of Academic Medicine, found that most students still thought that live-animal laboratory experience was beneficial to their education. In addition, a 1994 survey by the Association of American Medical Colleges found that, at 43 medical schools which offered both live-animal and nonanimal alternatives, 91 percent of students chose to learn by using a live animal.

The items in this report are excerpts from NABR Update and FBR News. For further information, contact NABR, telephone 202-857-0540, or Karen McDowell, telephone 606-257-2874, e-mail kmcd@ukcc.uky.edu.

—Karen McDowell, Chair
Animal Care Committee

**OVARIAN WORKSHOP**

The XIth Ovarian Workshop, chaired by Jennifer Dorrington and Joy Pate, is scheduled for the Convention Centre in London, Ontario, July 24–26, 1996, just before the SSR Annual Meeting. The deadline for submitting abstracts is April 19. For information about the program, registration, and abstract forms, contact:

Leslie Nies, Serono Symposia USA, Inc.
100 Longwater Circle, Norwell, MA 02061
Telephone: 800-283-8088; Fax: 617-982-9481

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