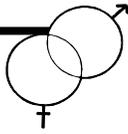


# SOCIETY *for the* STUDY OF REPRODUCTION



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**PRESIDENT**  
Joy L. Pate  
*Ohio State University*

October 6, 2004

**PRESIDENT-ELECT**  
William W. Thatcher  
*University of Florida*

Dear Member:

**PAST-PRESIDENT**  
Mary Hunzicker-Dunn  
*Northwestern University*

With this letter, you will find your membership renewal form for the Society for the Study of Reproduction. **Please renew your membership in SSR today!!** Obvious or not, the benefits of membership in SSR are numerous—in fact, the services provided to SSR members actually exceed the cost of membership. We are in an excellent financial position to provide these services, but we need your continued support.

**SECRETARY**  
Dale "Buck" Hales  
*University of Illinois  
at Chicago*

Despite a fragile economic environment in the United States, SSR remains financially strong. Thanks to our vigilant treasurer, Bruce Murphy, the SSR investments have outperformed the S&P 500 for the last 4 years. Generous individual contributions to SSR have made it possible to undertake special projects, but the daily operations of SSR depend on income generated from the annual meeting and membership dues. We operate in a deficit in the category of membership dues, and in recent years a slight reduction in membership has made this deficit more noticeable. Fortunately, we have a very active Development Committee whose members have worked tirelessly to solicit donations to help support our meeting and our Society. Currently, BOR is self-sustaining, supported by licensing agreements, subscriptions, and publication charges. However, as free public access to journal articles becomes more common, we are likely to lose some library and institutional subscriptions. To ensure a balanced budget, it is essential that we maintain or increase memberships.

**TREASURER**  
Bruce D. Murphy  
*University of Montreal*

**EDITORS-IN-CHIEF**  
John J. Eppig  
Mary Ann Handel  
*The Jackson Laboratory*

Under the inspired and dedicated leadership of Virendra Mahesh, Biology of Reproduction remains the number one rated research journal in Reproductive Biology (2003 Journal Citations Report, ISI). There was a dramatic increase in the Immediacy Factor, which was 0.735, for 2003, as compared to 0.523 for 2002. The impact factor for BOR remains very high, currently at 3.646. John Eppig and Mary Ann Handel assumed leadership of the journal as Editors-in-Chief on July 1, 2004. John and Mary Ann are committed to publication of the highest quality papers, and their goal is to drive the impact factor even higher: if you are engaged in reproductive biology research, you will want your papers to appear in Biology of Reproduction.

**DIRECTORS**  
E. Mitch Eddy  
Susan S. Suarez  
Patricia B. Hoyer  
Milo C. Wiltbank  
Andrew R. LaBarbera  
John H. Nilson

**TRAINEES**  
Ugur Salli  
Kimberly Barnett

The scope and importance of the annual meeting continues to grow, and the science that can be found there is outstanding! All of you who attended the 2004 meeting can attest to thought-provoking lectures and compelling presentations of data, framed by beautiful weather and spectacular views. John Nilson and the Program Committee must be commended for a stimulating scientific program. Marc-Andre Sirard and the 2005 Local Arrangements Committee are well underway in the planning of next year's meeting. The venue, a new convention center with plenty of space for all of our sessions, is a very short walk to the old part of Quebec City, which purports to be the oldest city in North America—you may want to plan to spend an extra day! The committee has reserved a waterfront location on the St. Lawrence for the barbecue/dance, which will also provide a chance for a stroll through the old city, with its numerous pubs, cafes, galleries and shops. Alan Johnson and his Program Committee are designing another wide-ranging, top-notch scientific program.

During this past year, Asgi Fazleabas and his superb committee developed a new Strategic Plan for SSR that will enhance the vitality of SSR as it moves into the future. The Strategic Plan addresses issues related to the journal, the annual meeting, public affairs, clinical outreach and finance—a number of major recommendations are already being implemented.

As a Society, we are actively engaged with our “Sister Societies” in reproductive biology and endocrinology. Collaboration among representatives from these societies increases our effectiveness in responding to issues that impact us, such as legislation on stem cell research, or funding for granting agencies. Their efforts may go unnoticed by most of our members, but SSR representatives are diligently working to increase funding for reproductive research. Our Public Affairs Committee monitors events in Washington, D.C., alerting members when there is a need for action.

Two very important groups of people in SSR deserve recognition: first, we have an exceptionally strong and involved group of Trainee members. This Society supports the trainees in innumerable ways, including travel grants to the annual meeting, opportunities to present research results, and inclusion on committees that drive SSR activities. Trainees are the future of SSR—we must continue to nurture them in every way that we can. If you have trainees in your laboratory who are not members of SSR, please encourage them to join today.

On the other end of the career spectrum, the experiences and collective wisdom of our growing number of Emeriti members are an inestimable strength. Two efforts are currently underway to recognize this group of members and learn from them: interviews of founding members and Past-Presidents recounting their experiences throughout the history of SSR will be used to produce a DVD (the world premier of which will occur at the 2005 meeting), and the Emeritus Committee has been reactivated. This committee, led by Fred Stormshak, hopes to provide presentations at the annual meetings on the history of findings that have shaped today’s reproductive biology.

I am proud to be a member of this truly great and strong Society, and I am honored to serve you as its President. I hope that you will join me in molding the present and future of the SSR. If JFK was a reproductive biologist, I feel he would enjoin you to ‘ask not what your Society can do for you; ask what you can do for your Society’.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joy". The signature is stylized with large, flowing loops.

Joy L. Pate  
SSR President

enc: Renewal Form