SSR Society for the Study of Reproduction

"... promoting the study of human and animal reproduction, as it relates to medicine, agriculture, and basic biology."

2013 Election of Officers and Directors

Biographical sketches of candidates

Candidates for Vice President-Elect
Dale Buck Hales
Bruce D. Murphy

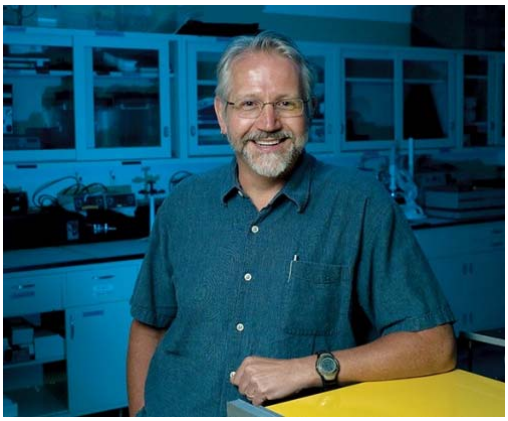
Candidates for Secretary
Andrea S. Cupp
Diane M. Duffy

Candidates for Directors (vote for two)
Ina Dobrinski
Kate Loveland
Michael J. Soares
Norihiro Sugino

The Nominating Committee and the Board of Directors request that you exercise your right to elect new leaders of our Society. Please take time now to participate in this important responsibility of membership.

Members of this year's Nominating Committee are Kyle Orwig (Chair), Joseph Cloud, Anne Croy, Asgerally Fazleabas, Mary Hunzicker-Dunn, Stuart Meyers, Sarah A. Robertson, Eduardo Roldan, Barbara Sanborn, Koji Sugiura, Richard M. Schultz (Board Liaison)

Biography of Dale Buck Hales



Dale Buck Hales, Ph.D., is Professor and Chair in the Department of Physiology at the School of Medicine in Carbondale, Illinois, with a joint appointment as Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the SIU School of Medicine in Springfield. He obtained his B.A. in Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology at the University of Colorado Boulder, and his Ph.D. in Biochemistry, Biophysics, and Genetics at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center in Denver in 1983. His thesis work, conducted in the laboratory of Dr. George Betz, utilized rodent testes preparations as a model system for studying the regulation and enzymology of steroid hormone biosynthesis. Dr. Hales did a two-year post-doctorate at the University of Colorado School of Pharmacy where he further explored the chemistry and biology of cytochrome P450 enzymes. Dr. Anita Payne published a landmark paper describing the induction of the P450 17-hydroxylase enzyme in Leydig cells in primary culture; it was the first demonstration of an inducible P450 activity in vitro. At the time very little was known about the mechanisms that regulated P450 expression due to the lack of cell culture models to study P450 induction. Dr. Hales was fortunate to be able to join the Payne laboratory in 1985. It was under the Dr. Payne's guidance that Dr. Hales found his way into reproductive biology, combining steroid biochemistry and reproductive physiology. He joined the faculty at University of Illinois College of Medicine at Chicago in 1989 where he rose through the ranks to Professor, before being recruited in July 2009 to his current position as Professor and Chair of the Department of Physiology, Southern Illinois University School of Medicine, in Carbondale. Dr. Hales's research examines immune-endocrine interactions and the role of inflammation and oxidative stress in hormonal carcinogenesis. Initially, the focus of the work from the Hales lab at UIC was to understand the role of the immune system in the control of male reproductive function—in particular, the inflammation-mediated regulation of Leydig cell steroidogenesis. These studies examined macrophage-Leydig cell interactions: inflammation, oxidative stress, and the role of the mitochondria in the acute regulation of steroid synthesis. In 2004, Dr. Hales began to examine the role of inflammation and oxidative stress in ovarian cancer. Currently Dr. Hales's research examines natural product intervention for the prevention and treatment of ovarian cancer. He is currently funded with two NIH grants, including an RO-1 from the NCCAM which supports research on the prevention and treatment of ovarian cancer with flaxseed-derived natural products.

Dr. Hales has published over 80 peer-reviewed journal articles, several book chapters, invited comments, and review articles. He served as Secretary for the Board of Directors of SSR 2004–2007 and has served on many SSR committees. These include the following: Trainee Affairs (1991–1993), Program Committee (1999–2010), Future Meeting Sites (Chair, 2001–2003), and Education Committee (1994–1999, Chair 1998–1999); he currently serves as SSR's representative on the FASEB Summer Research Conference Committee (2009–2014). Dr. Hales is an active member of the Endocrine Society, American Association for Cancer Research, Andrology Society of America, and is past president of the SIU chapter of Sigma Xi. He is an active reviewer for different NIH study sections (most recently Chemo-Diet-Prevention), the Department of Defense Ovarian Cancer Research Program, NASA, NSF, March of Dimes, Lalor

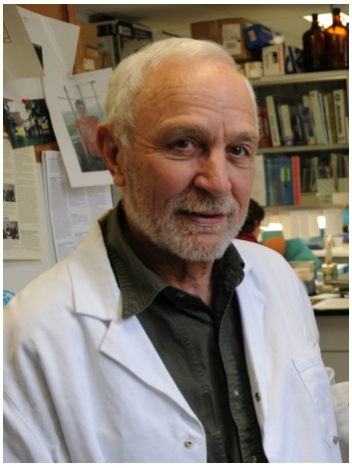
Foundation, Wellcome Trust, Veteran Affairs, and the American Cancer Society. He reviews for many journals and is on the Board of Reviewing Editors for *Biology of Reproduction* (*BOR*).

Personal Statement

SSR is my home society and if I can go to only one meeting a year it would be to the SSR annual meeting, which I have attended continuously since 1986. Though I belong to other societies that address my research interests, their annual meetings are usually anonymous, overwhelmingly busy, very expensive, and have only a small percentage of their content on topics critical to my research. The first time I gave a talk at a national meeting was at the Cornell SSR meeting in 1986. It was a watershed occasion. After delivering my talk, I was asked a very challenging question by a world-renowned scientist and realized that he had uncovered a serious flaw in my approach. Though it was a difficult moment, the famous scientist was non-confrontational and kindly suggested a better approach that I could take. Even though I was a trainee I felt like I was treated like a peer and with respect. This experience epitomizes the SSR ethos. It is a trainee-driven, colleague-embodied organization that recognizes our students and trainees as our peers and treats them accordingly. Indeed, many of the trainees back then have since been President of SSR, been awarded many of the society's highest honors, and continue to participate with the same vigor and enthusiasm they did when they were themselves trainees. Today's trainees are tomorrow's leaders. No other society appreciates the importance of trainees who are the very lifeblood, and future, of the SSR. As President of SSR my mission will be to serve as the steward of this great tradition to ensure SSR remains trainee-driven and fosters the development of the next generation of leaders in the reproductive sciences.

In order for the basic science of reproductive biology to remain viable, vibrant, and fundable, translational insight and applicability need to be embraced. Spanning the range from large animal comparative endocrinology to mouse genetics, significance and impact relevant to human health needs to be considered. SSR's alliance with other reproductive societies, ASRM, and other clinically oriented societies provides the opportunity for multidisciplinary collaborations that span the basic to the clinical. As basic scientists, we need to be nimble and adaptable to the funding climate and SSR can help foster the interdisciplinary networks necessary for our members to continue to thrive. The mission statement of the SSR, set forth by the 2009 Strategic Planning Committee includes 1) assuring that SSR remains financially sound; 2) engaging SSR members in assuring the scientific excellence of our Annual Meeting and *BOR*; 3) working to maintain the high profile of reproductive science to government, other funding agencies, and research decision makers; and 4) providing a welcoming and intellectually challenging Society to members from all reproductive disciplines, countries, and stages of their research careers. If chosen to serve, I will endeavor to advance the mission of the Society. Moreover, I intend to work with *BOR* to enhance digital delivery options of the journal; to promote science advocacy to help drive science policy and safeguard biomedical funding in these challenging times; and to continue to promote international outreach to further broaden our global impact. We are living in exciting times brimming with possibilities. I remain optimistic despite the dire predictions, and know that as a society of like-minded, forward-thinking scientists we will not only weather these turbulent times, but will grow stronger and continue to make fundamentally important contributions to the reproductive sciences and the health and well-being of our society.

Biography of Bruce D. Murphy



Bruce D. Murphy was awarded a B.Sc. and M.Sc. from Colorado State University and a Ph.D. from the University of Saskatchewan. His first academic appointment was at the University of Idaho in 1972, after which he was employed by the University of Saskatchewan from 1973–1991. There he was cross-appointed in the College of Arts and Science and the Western College of Veterinary Medicine. In 1985, he founded the University of Saskatchewan Reproductive Biology Research Unit in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, College of Medicine. In 1991, he was recruited to the post he currently holds, Director of the Centre de Recherche en Reproduction Animale, Faculté de Médecine Vétérinaire, Université de Montréal. He holds a joint appointment in the Département de Obstetrique-Gynecologie, Faculté de Médecine, at the same institution, and adjunct appointments at McGill and Dalhousie Universities. He has held visiting appointments at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, and at the Institute of Genetics, Cellular and Molecular Biology, Louis Pasteur University, Strasbourg, France.

In 2008, he founded the *Réseau Québécois en Reproduction* (Quebec Reproduction Network, RQR) that is currently funded (2011–2017) by federal and provincial grants. This network coordinates collaborations, sponsors symposia, and provides training funds to 80 researchers in the province of Quebec. The RQR is providing the organizational base for the local arrangements for the 2013 SSR Meeting in Montreal. Dr. Murphy has served on numerous granting committees, including service as the Scientific Officer, MRC Endocrinology Committee, and Chairmanship, NSERC Strategic Biotechnology Committee, and invited Chair, Endocrinology Committee CIHR. He completed four years on the NIH Reproductive Biology Study Section and a three-year term on the NSERC Animal Physiology grant panel. He has since served frequently as an ad hoc member of NIH and CIHR committees. He was founder of the Canadian Consortium in Reproductive Biology, and chaired of the Institute of Human Development Advisory Board and Standing Committee in Reproductive Biology. He has been a member of the FASEB Finance Committee since 2007 and currently serves on the FASEB ad hoc Subcommittee on Investments. He was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Frontiers in Reproduction Program and serves on the Main Panel, Research Assessment Framework, of the Higher Education Funding Council of England. He is currently on the editorial boards of five journals.

Dr. Murphy's laboratory has been continuously funded by the Canadian grant agencies: NSERC (1974–2018) for studies of embryo implantation, and by MRC and CIHR (1978–2018) for investigation of ovarian function and steroidogenesis. In addition, he has held NSERC Strategic Funding to study placental function and the interface between nutrition and reproduction, and investigation of genomic variation associated with reproductive success. He is author of more than 200 scientific publications, had has trained more than 50 graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. He has been a plenary and symposium lecturer at several international conferences, including Serono Symposia, Gordon Conferences, the International Conference on Epigenetics in Reproduction, Keystone Symposium, Frontiers in Reproduction, the International Adrenal Conference, the International Embryo Transfer Society, and the Annual Meetings of the SSR. He has received several awards, including the SSR Distinguished Service Award, the Pfizer

Award for Research Excellence, and the CFAS Award of Excellence in Reproductive Biology. He was elected to the Argentine Academy of Agricultural Science in 1988, and as a Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences in 2006. He is Laureate of the Fonds du Québec (2009).

In terms of his commitment to SSR, he has been a member of several committees, including the Publications, Awards, Nominating, and Public Affairs Committees, the Program Committee (ad hoc), and currently is Co-Chair of the Local Arrangements Committee for the 2013 SSR Annual Meeting. He has served as a member of the Editorial Board of *Biology of Reproduction*. He served three consecutive three-year terms as Treasurer of the Society (2000–2009). He is now Co-Editor-In-Chief of *Biology of Reproduction*, with a four-year mandate that will be completed in July 2013.

Personal Statement

In the final year of my graduate study, I was fortunate to be able to attend my first SSR Annual Meeting in E. Lansing, Michigan. There I met luminaries in the field of reproductive biology, whose names I had seen only in print. When I introduced myself to Dr. Armstrong and Dr. Greenwald, I was told, “My name is Dave,” and, “Call me Gil.” This openness and informality, along with the mass of new scientific information that was conveyed to me during the meeting, convinced me that I had found my scientific home. Indeed, I have attended nearly every SSR Annual Meeting since that first encounter with the Society.

The SSR is a vital and robust scientific society, with many active and dedicated members. During the years that I have been a member and ex-officio member of the SSR Board of Directors, I have become keenly aware of the multiple challenges that face the Society. As Treasurer of the SSR for nine years, I acquired an intimate understanding of the complexities of the nearly $2M annual budget and an understanding of the investment portfolio. A major issue facing the Society is declining membership, attributable—most probably—to the reduction in research funding that has occurred in recent years. The Membership Committee has committed extensive effort to stem the decline, with encouraging results. It is essential that the leadership of the Society ensure that this vigorous campaign to recruit new members and retain our current membership continues.

Membership, attendance at annual meetings, and our journal all contribute to the income of the Society. The recent strategic plan recommends a balanced budget, requiring the President to work with the Treasurer and the Board to ensure that the financial decisions taken will not compromise the fiscal health of the Society. In my view, the major challenge is in the publications envelope of the budget. We have seen seismic changes in scientific journal publication in recent years, from the abandonment of paper to the open access movement. The ramifications of these changes are numerous and include, among others, a decline in library subscriptions, increased competition for the best manuscripts, and the need for new journal delivery paradigms for mobile devices. Virtually all of the changes engendered by the revolution in publishing have an impact on the Society’s finances. The leadership of the Society must collaborate with the Publications Committee to meet the challenges of this brave new publication world.

The trainee-friendly Annual Meeting of the SSR is a strength of preeminent significance to the Society, and not only in a budgetary sense. The quality of the scientific program and the venue attract attendees and bring in new members. The program-venue combination has resulted in a record number of abstracts submitted for the 2013 Meeting. It is vital that that the leadership

of the SSR ensures that the science presented at the Annual Meeting is of high quality and at the forefront of discovery. It is necessary that those who attend the Annual Meeting depart with the sense of exposure to the best new results, ideas and approaches in reproductive biology, as I did from my first attendance as a graduate student, and have done many times since.

I am honored to have been nominated to enter the presidential chain as Vice-President Elect of the Society to which I am committed. If elected, I will continue to work vigorously to provide the leadership necessary to meet the challenges of increasing the membership, maintaining the quality of the Annual Meeting, addressing changes in the publication landscape, and preserving the fiscal health of the Society for the Study of Reproduction.

Biography of Andrea S. Cupp

Andrea S. Cupp is a Professor in the Department of Animal Science at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. She received her B.S. degree in Animal Sciences from Virginia Tech (1988) and her M.S. (1991) and Ph.D. (1994) in Reproductive Physiology/Endocrinology from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. She completed postdoctoral training in Cellular and Molecular Endocrinology at the University of California-San Francisco (1994–1996) and Washington State University (1996–1998). She held positions of research assistant professor and director of the Transgenic and Knockout Mouse Facility within the Center of Reproductive Biology at Washington State University (1998–2000) before joining the faculty in the Animal Science Department at the University of Nebraska as an Assistant Professor (2000).

Her research focuses on the role of Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor A (VEGFA) pro and antiangiogenic isoforms in gonadal development, function and fertility in both males and females. Her laboratory has developed a series of transgenic conditional knockout mice to understand the role of both types of VEGFA isoforms in spermatogonial stem cell homeostasis in the male and follicular progression and development in the female. Her laboratory in conjunction with other collaborators also is utilizing cows as potential models for understanding steroidogenesis and gaining a better understanding of steroidogenic excess disorders. Her research has been funded by NIH/NICHD, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, State of Nebraska Tobacco Settlement Funds, as well as USDA Multi-state, Animal Health and Hatch funds to Nebraska. Dr. Cupp has published over 60 peer-reviewed publications, including meeting proceedings and a book chapter.

Her awards include the University of Nebraska Young Scientist Award (2004), Midwest Section ASAS Outstanding Young Animal Scientist Research Award (2006), and Society for the Study of Reproduction Young Investigator Award (2006). Dr. Cupp has been a member of SSR since 1989 and has served on the Program, Awards, Public Affairs, and Membership committees as well as serving as the SSR Newsletter editor.

At the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, Dr. Cupp has served on the University-wide Research Advisory Board and on various ad hoc committees for the Life Sciences, is on an ADVANCE faculty committee, and serves on her department's promotion and tenure and internal advisory committees. She serves as reviewer for many different reproduction-related journals and has served on study sections for NIH, USDA, and NSF extramural grants programs. She is an active member of other scientific societies including American Society of Animal Science—where she has served as a Director on the ASAS board and has been a program committee chair and member for various physiology section programs at National and regional meetings. She is also a member of the American Society for Andrology, Endocrine Society, Gamma Sigma Delta, and AAAS. Dr. Cupp has presented invited talks at international and national meetings including ASAS, SSR, Society for Reproduction and Fertility, International Vascular Biology meetings, International Committee on Animal Reproduction (ICAR), and FASEB meetings.

Personal Statement

I have “grown up” professionally in SSR, joining as a grad student and progressing through to a scientist; so, the Society has been a big part of my professional life. I have appreciated the support, interaction, and great friendships cultivated while I have been a member of SSR. Now, I encourage my trainees to get involved in SSR and to take advantage of all of the opportunities that are presented to them. The support of trainees within SSR is truly unique and we must preserve our focus in that direction to ensure our future as a society. Furthermore, the Society for the Study of Reproduction has a unique mix of animal scientists, biomedical researchers, and educators from smaller institutions that we also need to preserve. As we move forward, we will need all of these groups to make new discoveries in the reproductive field, to translate these discoveries into application within both animal and human medicine, and to communicate these discoveries to students and the public at large. We all need to be better communicators about what we do and why it is important. I believe I bridge the gap on many different levels. I work at a land grant institution that needs to continually communicate with its clientele to explain the importance of their research and how it will help them in the future. My research encompasses both male and female basic reproduction that can be translatable to domestic livestock and human medicine. I teach undergraduates, graduate students, and veterinary students and must explain how scientific research has benefited us and how we might use what we learn to find solutions to problems pertaining to treatment of diseases or disorders. I also have served on our university-wide Research Advisory Board where decisions are made regarding budgeting research money wisely to enhance our investment. So I like to think of the position of Secretary within SSR as an extension of what I do every day—promoting science to enhance our ability to discover, apply the new knowledge, and prepare us for the future. I would be happy to serve in this capacity and am deeply honored by the nomination.

Biography of Diane M. Duffy

Diane M. Duffy received her B.A. in Biology from Reed College in Portland, Oregon (1984), and her Ph.D. in Endocrinology (1992) from the University of California at San Francisco. She then moved back to the Portland area as a Postdoctoral Fellow and later a Staff Scientist with Dr. Richard L. Stouffer at the Oregon National Primate Research Center. She joined the faculty of Eastern Virginia Medical School (EVMS) in Norfolk, Virginia, in 2001 as an Assistant Professor and currently holds the rank of Professor with tenure. She has been a member of SSR since 1992. Dr. Duffy's laboratory investigates endocrine and paracrine regulation of ovarian function. Current projects focus on how prostaglandins act at their specific receptors within the follicle to promote successful ovulation. Ovarian function is studied in non-human primates in vivo, as well as with monkey and human ovarian cells in vitro, to develop and test hypotheses relevant to women's health, fertility, and contraception. Research funding has come from a variety of sources, including NIH/NICHD, CONRAD, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and the Commonwealth Health Research Board of Virginia. She serves as an ad hoc grant reviewer for organizations including NIH, the Marsden Fund, and the Israel Science Foundation, and reviews manuscripts for journals including *Biology of Reproduction*, *Endocrinology*, *Human Reproduction*, and *Molecular and Cellular Endocrinology*. Education is an important component of Dr. Duffy's responsibilities at EVMS. She teaches endocrinology and reproduction for M.D. and Medical Masters students. She is also active in the Biomedical Sciences Ph.D./M.S. program, having served as Program Coordinator and on the Admissions Committee (Chair, 2005–2009) as well as teaching a variety of core courses and advanced electives. Students and technicians trained in the laboratory have gone on to do postdoctoral research, teach at the college level, and continue their education in Ph.D., M.D., Physician Assistant, and Veterinary Medicine programs. Dr. Duffy has served EVMS on a number of committees including Library (Chair, 2003–2008), Curriculum Integration, Benefits, Medical Science Complex Planning, and Research (Chair, 2011–present). She helped develop and align new faculty evaluation and promotion criteria and is currently a member of the Appointments and Promotions Committee. Service to SSR includes By-Laws (2001–2004; Chair, 2002–2003), Publications (2004–2006); Research Ethics Subcommittee (2006–2013; Chair, 2011–2012), Program (2009–2012), and Awards (2012–present).

Personal Statement

It is an honor to be nominated to serve SSR as Secretary. Our Society provides vital support for the work we do every day as scientists and educators. The Annual Meeting is a great place to interact with reproductive biologists and provides a supportive environment for our trainees to network and present their research. Our Society publishes an excellent journal, and our members are outstanding advocates for research in reproductive biology. Most importantly, it is the synergy between these activities that makes SSR great. We all know how working with bright students in the classroom and in the lab can inform us, enhance critical thinking, and stimulate creativity. We know that serving as a reviewer for grants and manuscripts improves how we communicate our own research. My interest in women's reproductive health and gender equality motivates me to pursue new targets for contraception and to communicate with scientists and

non-scientists about reproductive rights, the importance of both basic and clinical research, and the value of utilizing animals in research. My service on the SSR Research Ethics subcommittee coincided with my institution's need for a comprehensive approach to training in responsible conduct in science; this synergy enhanced both my ability to reinvigorate a graduate course and serve SSR. If chosen, I will embrace the opportunity to serve, to continue SSR's strong tradition of supporting trainees, and to encourage SSR and each member to advocate for funding, for legislation, and on legal issues which affect the work we do every day.

Biography of Ina Dobrinski

Ina Dobrinski, Dr. med. vet., M.V.Sc., Ph.D., Diplomate ACT, is Professor of Reproductive Biology and Head of the Department of Comparative Biology and Experimental Medicine at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Calgary, Calgary, AB, Canada. Dr. Dobrinski also holds an appointment in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology in the Faculty of Medicine at U of C, and she is a Scientist with Alberta Innovates–Health Solutions.

Dr. Dobrinski received her doctorate in veterinary medicine from Hannover School of Veterinary Medicine in Germany and completed a residency in bovine reproduction. Her thesis research in Hannover was on the role of endogenous opioids in neonatal adaptation. She then moved to the University of Saskatchewan where she completed another residency in large animal reproduction, received a Master in Veterinary Science degree and subsequently became board certified by the American College of Theriogenologists. Her Master's research focused on the effects of DNA condensation abnormalities on bovine sperm function. Dr. Dobrinski then moved to Cornell University where she received a Ph.D. in reproductive biology working on sperm oviduct interactions in horses. After completing her Ph.D. in 1997 she moved to the University of Pennsylvania, School of Veterinary Medicine, as an assistant professor of large animal reproduction. Until the completion of her own lab, she joined the laboratory of Dr. Ralph Brinster to work on spermatogonial stem cells in mammalian models. At Penn, she became the Director of the Center for Animal Transgenesis and Germ Cell Research and held the Robert George Jones and Marion Dilley Jones Chair in Animal Reproduction. She was promoted to full professor at Penn in 2008, before she left to join the newly established Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Calgary as a founding department head. At Calgary, she also founded a strategic priority research group in reproductive and regenerative medicine that has members from the faculties of medicine, veterinary medicine, and biomedical engineering. Dr. Dobrinski has an interest in further developing her academic leadership skills and is a recent graduate of the AAVMC's first leadership academy.

Dr. Dobrinski's research focuses on male germ line stem cells in mammalian models ranging from mice to men. Her group was first to establish germ cell transplantation in large animals as a strategy to create genetically modified large animal models for biomedical research and for the production of biopharmaceutical proteins in the milk of transgenic dairy animals. She also pioneered xenotransplantation of testis tissue and cells as a bioassay to study germ cells and testis function in non-rodent animal models. Her work has been continuously funded by federal and state/provincial agencies since 1998. To date she has published 75 peer-reviewed research papers, 14 book chapters, and 12 invited reviews. She has mentored 9 postdocs, 8 Ph.D. students, 1 Master's student, 7 veterinary students, 7 undergraduate students, and 3 clinical fellows in her program.

Dr. Dobrinski has served the scientific community on numerous committees and multiple scientific societies. She served on the executive board of the American Society for Andrology, as a program chair for the International Embryo Transfer Society, and on program committees for ASA, SSR, and IETS. She has been an ad-hoc reviewer and standing study section member for Comparative Medicine at the NIH, and served on panels for USDA and CIHR. She is on the editorial board of *Spermatogenesis* and a reviewing editor for *Biology of Reproduction*. She

joined SSR as a graduate student and has attended most annual meetings. She has participated in program committees and presented in minisymposia, and she encourages her trainees to join the society and present their work at the annual conferences.

Personal Statement

It is an honor to be nominated for the SSR Board of Directors. I have been involved in research in reproductive biology, clinical reproduction, and teaching of reproductive biology for my entire career. SSR is the preeminent professional society for scientists studying reproductive biology and its members are involved in all aspects ranging from basic to applied science. Given my background in animal reproduction, I have made it one of my goals to promote animal models research for reproductive and stem cell biology. I also strive to attract and train young scientists in reproductive biology and to work on improving their training environment through training grants and related training opportunities to provide them a broad perspective on professional career options. I can bring to the society a commitment to animal models research and research training as well as an international perspective, having now worked in academic settings in three different countries. I take every opportunity to advocate for biomedical research, especially in reproductive and regenerative medicine, and I see SSR at the forefront of these activities in North America and internationally.

Biography of Kate Loveland

Kate Loveland is a Professor and Laboratory Head in the Departments of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology and Anatomy & Developmental Biology in the School of Biomedical Sciences at Monash University in Melbourne, Australia. She obtained her Ph.D. in Cell and Molecular Biology from the Zoology Department of Duke University (USA) in 1987. She undertook postdoctoral training at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center and moved to Australia in 1989 where she joined Monash University. In 2000, she became an independent lab head. She currently holds a Senior Research Fellowship from the National Health and Research Council of Australia.

Dr. Loveland's research interest is the developmental biology of the male germ cell and what this knowledge can reveal about the etiology of testicular cancer and male infertility. Her research addresses the roles of signalling molecules in testis growth and germline development, with emphasis on activin, Wnt, and Hedgehog signalling. Her lab's pursuit of the key molecular switches in spermatogenesis underpins an additional research program investigating importin protein functions in nucleocytoplasmic transport, intracellular scaffolding, cellular stress responses, and gene transcription. These projects employ mouse models and clinical samples, and her lab has developed and applied a wide range of organ culture strategies to interrogate the cellular physiology of the testis and developing male gamete.

Dr. Loveland gave her first scientific talk as a Ph.D. student and SSR member at an SSR meeting in Laramie, Wyoming, in 1984. Since that time, she has trained 11 Ph.D., 8 Masters students, and 5 postdoctoral fellows and received the 2010 Vice Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Postgraduate Supervision. She has productive collaborations across the globe (USA, Denmark, Japan, Germany) as well as within Australia. She is the Australian Program Director for a collaborative Ph.D. training program: the International Research Training Group on the Pathogenesis of Male Reproduction held in partnership with Justus-Liebig University in Germany.

Dr. Loveland's current SSR service is as Chair of the International Liaison Subcommittee of the Membership Committee, and as a reviewing editor for *Biology of Reproduction*. She has served previously as Symposium Organiser (2006) and as Program Committee member (2007–2009) for the SSR annual meeting. Her participation in the Australia/New Zealand national Society for Reproductive Biology has included service as Program Chair (2001–2003), Treasurer (2003–2007), Special Awards Committee Chair (2007–2011) and as SRB representative on the 2014 World Congress of Reproductive Biology Organising Committee. She is active in the American Society for Andrology, serving on Nominating, Awards and Program Committee, as President of Women in Andrology (2009), Program co-Chair (2010), Basic Science Workshop Committee Chair (2010–ongoing), and as Executive Council Member (2011–2014). She is an Associate Editor for *Andrology*, and also serves as reviewing editor for *Reproduction* and *Spermatogenesis*, in addition to *BOR*.

Personal Statement

SSR activities are central to the development of our field. It provides many opportunities to individuals, and has the potential to define and enhance key areas of research need. This is reflected in how the meeting structure and focus changes over time, reflecting what SSR members want and need. This requires an effective ongoing dialogue between the SSR leadership and the Society's membership.

SSR membership spans all career stages and spans the globe. At least 30% of our members are non-North American researchers, which I believe is a strong testament to the international appreciation for the value of SSR activities. Several recent initiatives have been trialed which have extended the active involvement to reflect its international profile. All of these enhance the value of SSR membership and promote better research opportunities for SSR members by building an international research community.

As individuals and as a Society, we all need to be active in promoting the significance of our research outcomes to ensure that our work continues to be valued and understood by the general public. I am honored to be nominated to serve as an SSR Director, and would use this opportunity to further promote the capacity of our Society to be an international advocate for research and research training in Reproductive Biology.

Biography of Michael J. Soares

Michael J. Soares, Ph.D., is a University Distinguished Professor and Director of the Institute for Reproductive Health and Regenerative Medicine (IRHRM) at the University of Kansas Medical Center. He received his undergraduate training at California State University, Chico, where he received a B.A. degree in Psychology in 1976 and trained with Professors Michael J. Erpino and William D. Kalberer. In 1981, Dr. Soares completed his Ph.D. degree in Reproductive Biology at the University of Hawaii in the laboratory of Professor Joan C. Hoffmann. From 1981 to 1983, he received postdoctoral training in endocrinology at the University of California, Santa Cruz, under the guidance of Professor Frank Talamantes. Additional postdoctoral training in cell and developmental biology was obtained at Baylor College of Medicine under the direction of Professor Stanley R. Glasser. A National Research Service Award from the NIH supported Dr. Soares' postdoctoral training. In 1984, Professor Gilbert S. Greenwald recruited Dr. Soares to the Department of Physiology at the University of Kansas Medical Center. Dr. Soares progressed through the academic ranks and in 1993 was promoted to the position of Professor of Physiology. In 2002, Dr. Soares was appointed Director of the Institute of Maternal-Fetal Biology, a role he served until 2010. In 2004, Dr. Soares moved to the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine and served as Vice Chair and Director of the Division of Cancer & Developmental Biology from 2006 to 2011. In 2010, Dr. Soares was appointed Director of the IRHRM.

Dr. Soares' research focuses on the regulation of cell differentiation, especially as related to trophoblast stem cells, and signaling pathways controlling their developmental fate and their contributions to the hemochorial placenta, steroid hormone action in the establishment of pregnancy, and the involvement of the prolactin family in reproductive adaptations. Recently Dr. Soares' efforts have included establishing and characterizing mutant rat models. His group has used genome-editing strategies to generate rats with mutations in key genes regulating sex steroid hormone action. These animal models represent new tools for biomedical scientists in a range of disciplines. Research from Dr. Soares' laboratory has resulted in the generation of a number of valuable reagents that have been shared with the research community.

Dr. Soares' research program has been continuously supported by the NIH and has resulted in the publication of 188 peer-reviewed reports, 18 chapters, and three books. Dr. Soares has served as a member of editorial boards for *Biology of Reproduction, Trophoblast Research, Endocrinology, Journal of Endocrinology,* and *Placenta* and on an NIH Advisory panel in Human Embryology and Development. Dr. Soares served as a Senior Editor for the *Journal of Endocrinology* (2000–2005). He has been recognized for his research by the University of Kansas with a Faculty Research Award in 1989, by the University of Tokyo as a Distinguished Visiting Scientist in 1994, by the European Placental Group with the Adriana and Luisa Castellucci Award Lecture in 1995, with a lecture at the Presidential Symposium during the Annual Meeting of the SSR in 1997, and the University of Kansas Chancellor's Club Research Award in 2001, and Higuchi Research Achievement Award in 2004. Dr. Soares was appointed as a University Distinguished Professor of the University of Kansas in 2007.

Dr. Soares has supervised the training of thirty-three postdoctoral fellows, ten graduate students, and has mentored several junior faculty. Dr. Soares' trainees have been supported

through awards provided by the NIH, Lalor Foundation, Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, American Heart Association, Kansas Health Foundation, Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, and the Canadian Institutes for Health Research. A number of Dr. Soares' trainees have established their own independent research programs and are active members of our scientific community. Dr. Soares served as Director of an NIH-sponsored training program in Reproductive Biology (1996–2000) and served as Program Director of an NIH-supported BIRCWH K12 Faculty Development Program in women's health research (2005–2010).

Dr. Soares has been an active member of the SSR throughout his academic career. He has served two assignments on the editorial board of *Biology of Reproduction* (1990–1995 and 2005 to present) and has served on a number of SSR committees, including the Annual Program (1996–1998; 1999–2000, 2000–2001, 2001–2002; 2005–2006), Publication (2001–2002), Strategic Planning (2003), and Nominating committees (2005–2006; 2010–2011, Chair, 2011–2012).

Personal Statement

It is an honor to be nominated to serve on the Board of Directors of the Society for the Study of Reproduction. This organization of scientists is special. In addition to providing a forum for a high level of scientific exchange, the society has key responsibilities as advocates for research impacting reproductive health, our food supply, and for the preservation of the broad diversity of animal species on our planet, and importantly in nurturing future scientists. In 1980, I attended my first SSR meeting. I was a graduate student and the meeting was held on the campus of the University of Michigan. The meeting proved to be my introduction to a community of scientists that has helped guide and nurture me throughout my career. I am grateful for what I have received from the SSR and appreciate the nomination and opportunity to serve.

Biography of Norihiro Sugino

Norihiro Sugino, M.D., Ph.D., is Professor and Chairman of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Yamaguchi University Graduate School of Medicine, Japan. Dr. Sugino received his M.D. (1985) and Ph.D. (1991) from Yamaguchi University School of Medicine. He did his postdoctoral training in reproductive and molecular biology under Professor Geula Gibori in the Department of Physiology and Biophysics, University of Illinois at Chicago (1996–1998). He has researched as a scientist and worked as a gynecologist and obstetrician in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Yamaguchi University School of Medicine, Japan, and he was promoted to Professor and Chairman in 2003.

Dr. Sugino's research program focuses on ovarian physiology, particularly the molecular mechanisms involved in the formation and regression of the corpus luteum, and on decidualization and implantation in the human endometrium. He currently has a particular interest in the epigenetic mechanisms such as histone modifications in the regulation of gene expression during luteinization in the ovary and decidualization in the human endometrium. More recently he developed interests into epigenome analysis by genome-wide sequencing. In addition, he has been involved in a number of clinical research projects, particularly aberrant DNA methylation in uterine leiomyomas and endometriosis, melatonin as an antioxidant to improve oocyte quality in infertile women, and vitamin E to improve uterine blood flow and endometrial growth in infertile women. His research utilizes rodent animals and human materials and is funded by competitive grants from the Japanese government and pharmaceutical companies. He has published over 130 international scientific publications, invited reviews and book chapters.

Dr. Sugino joined SSR in 1996 during his postdoctoral training in University of Illinois at Chicago. He has served SSR as a member of several committees of SSR, including Development Committee (2012–present), Program Committee (2008–present), International Membership Committee (2009–2012), Publication Committee (2006–2008), and Membership Committee (2002–2006). He is also an active member of several other international scientific societies, including Endocrine Society, American Society of Reproductive Medicine (ASRM), and European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology (ESHRE). He has served on the editorial boards of *Journal of Reproduction and Development* (2003–present), *Journal of Ovarian Research* (2008–present), and *Human Reproduction*（2009–2013).

Personal Statement

It is a great honor for me to be considered for this leadership position within SSR. I will put my energy into growing junior scientists and further developing SSR into the outstanding international scientific society, which also leads to enhancing the excellence of *Biology of Reproduction*. SSR must keep *Biology of Reproduction* as the premier journal in the field of reproductive biology.

Most scientific societies related with reproduction do have funding problems, for example reduction in grants from the government. SSR needs to ensure financial stability by increasing external potential funding supports such as from pharmaceutical companies, IT companies, and private foundations in addition to the US government. SSR has promoted future research trends

relevant to reproduction such as stem cell biology, epigenetics, environmental toxicology, issues of gender biology, aging, etc. This is a time for SSR to take an aggressive research planning. One of my proposals is a translational research. Promoting translational research based on the solid basic research is important for improvement of human and animal health, and this may be an important key for SSR to become one of the most academic societies. A number of results from basic research have been translated to clinical applications in the field of reproductive medicine, and translational research has become critically important to our society. I believe that SSR should involve more clinical aspects of reproduction and extend communication and crosstalk with scientists from other fields to become a truly international society. Frankly speaking, it may be hard for me, a non-U.S. member, to contact the U.S. government, etc. However, I will be able to communicate a number of researchers in the world and develop SSR into further outstanding scientific society.

It is also critical to engage new trainees and junior scientists so that SSR continues to be a strong, collegial, and interactive society for future generations of reproductive biologists. I have made a number of friends from all over the world in the annual meeting of SSR, which has encouraged me to be an active researcher. SSR should continue to give such a wonderful opportunity with pleasant, supportive, and interactive environment, for all members, especially young generation. I believe that SSR can encourage junior members to serve on committees, provide nominations for awards, and provide a chance for platform presentation, and to be involved in the annual SSR meeting.

If elected as a Director on the board, I will work to meet these goals to strengthen SSR for present and future generations of reproductive biologists. I would be privileged to serve on the Board of Directors.