



***Australian Society for Reproductive Biology.***

***Newsletter No 44 March 1999***

***From the Communications Officer – Jim Cummins***

I have made some minor changes to the ASRB Home Page on <http://numbat.murdoch.edu.au/spermatology/index.htm> that I hope will assist navigation. One change to be noted is the new contact and E-mail address for ACTS. Society affairs at ACTS are now handled by Julieanne Baker, whose E mail address is [asrb@ausconvservices.com.au](mailto:asrb@ausconvservices.com.au).

Please note in Marilyn Renfree's Chairman's Report below that ASRB and the Fertility Society of Australia are taking active steps to see if amalgamation of the two societies would be possible or desirable. Those of you new to the Society are probably not aware that the FSA started as a set of clinical parallel sessions of ASRB back in the early 70's. They split off and formed their own society in the early 80's when the advent of IVF meant that infertility treatment finally had moved away from ovulation induction and artificial insemination. As a member of both societies I welcome this move. Reproductive sciences in Australia and New Zealand need input from the clinical disciplines just as much as from the basic sciences. I'll even stick my neck out and suggest a name for the new arrangement that reflects geopolitical reality – how about the **Australasian Society for Reproduction, Fertility and Development?** This would also reflect the fact that RFD is indeed our journal (see the article by Camilla Myers, below).

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## **CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

There are four Committee vacancies that need to be filled at the 1999 Annual General Meeting:

- Deputy Chair,
- Secretary
- 2 Ordinary Committee members

A nomination form is attached to this newsletter.

Please forward these forms to Robin Tervit, AgResearch Ruakura Research Centre, PB 3123, Hamilton, New Zealand **BEFORE JULY 2 1999**.

### ***Secretary's Report – Jeremy Thompson***

On behalf of the Society I would like to thank Graham Jenkin for accepting the role as ad hoc Executive Committee member, to fill the vacancy created when Mark Bradley resigned. Thanks also to Mark for his service to the Society.

I would like to remind members that there will be four members of the current Executive that will be stepping down after this year's AGM in Melbourne: Lyn Hinds (Deputy-Chair), Jeremy Thompson (Secretary) and Mark Hedger. Mark Bradley was due to step down as well, and his position on the board will need to be filled by election. Mark Hedger is not eligible for re-election. The Society's Returning Officer is Robin Tervit (AgResearch Ruakura Research Centre, PB 3123, Hamilton, New Zealand). Please if you want to be nominated, then find someone who will second your nomination. The form is attached to this Newsletter.

I'm really looking forward to this year's conference in Melbourne. Look forward to seeing you all then.

Best wishes - Jeremy Thompson Secretary ASRB

## ***Chairman's Report from Marilyn Renfree***

I am pleased to say that our discussions are progressing with the FSA. We have been advised by the FSA secretary, Dr Rob McLachlan, that the Council of FSA have appointed a sub-committee to have an initial meeting to discuss our possible amalgamation.

They have appointed Rob, Gayle Jones (Embryologist) Karin Hammarberg (Nurse) Roger Cook (Counsellor) and Kim Matthews (Obstetrician & Gynaecologist) to their sub-committee. We have appointed Jeremy Thompson (ex officio), Jill Shaw, Mark Hedger, Graham Jenkin and myself, and have asked Jock Findlay to represent our views at the FSA meeting. This combined committee will be meeting in the next couple of weeks.

The Secretary of FSA has also extended an invitation to me to attend their next Council meeting, which will be held in Sydney in May during the IVF conference to discuss the issue. The Executive of ASRB is pleased to have this invitation, and I will attend the meeting. I am delighted that things are progressing and am optimistic that we will have a favourable outcome. I believe that both Societies have much to gain from our proposed association, and I am looking forward to our joint meeting in Canberra in May 2000. I hope that as many members as possible will attend this meeting, which promises to be a good one. See you in Melbourne in September!

## ***Treasurer's Report from Mark Harvey***

### ***Perth Meeting Financial Outcome***

A loss of \$2400 was incurred with the annual meeting in Perth. The main factors contributing to this loss was the high travel costs to Perth of the invited speakers and the absence of sponsorship for an invited speaker this year.

### ***Student Travel Grants***

This is the first and only announcement for student travel grants to assist student members of the society to attend the annual scientific meeting in Melbourne. These grants are only for students who are the presenting author of an abstract submitted and subsequently accepted for the meeting. Students and supervisors should pay particular attention to the declaration relating to eligibility on the application form.

Application forms are available from

<http://numbat.murdoch.edu.au/spermatology/asrb99.html> **Please note the closing date: Friday, May 14**

or from the ASRB Treasurer (m.harvey@qut.edu.au)

## ***Report from the 1999 LOC Chair - Mark Hedger***

Organisation for the Annual Conference is now well under way. I remind everyone that it will be a joint Meeting with the ESA at the Hilton on the Park, from Sunday 26 to Wednesday 29 September. Full details are included in the registration circular and call for abstracts that accompany this newsletter. Additional copies of the circular can be obtained from ACTS. We have kept the registration fees as close to last year's as possible, and there are special discount rates for early registration and for students.

The Hilton is located in a marvellous position, just a short walk through some of Melbourne's many gardens to the central business and shopping district, right on key rail and tramway routes, and a drop-kick away from the MCG and other major sports venues. A great social program is planned, with the Annual Conference Dinner to be held at the Powerhouse on Albert Park lake, and a fun student night at Bridie O'Reilly's on famous Chapel Street.

Please remember that the AFL Grand Final is to be held at the MCG on the Saturday just before the Conference. Accommodation at most Melbourne Hotels will be at a premium on Friday and Saturday, particularly in the unlikely event that one or more interstate teams are involved in the Grand Final. Consequently, the Conference Secretariat can only offer conference accommodation rates and booking service from the Sunday night onwards. Anyone who wishes to arrive early to do some sightseeing, visiting or to take advantage of special airfares will need to make their own accommodation arrangements as soon as possible.

## ***Report from the 1999 POC Chair – David Phillips and call for abstracts***

After consultation with the ASRB executive, we have almost finalized the major elements of the program for the 1999 meeting in Melbourne. The Society is very privileged to have Professor Ian Wilmut of 'Dolly' fame to present the 1999 Founders Lecture. To complement this plenary session, there will be a symposium that Professor Wilmut will chair on, '**From Gamete to Embryo: new horizons**', featuring eminent speakers from within the Society. Our other special plenary speaker will be Dr. Graham Mitchell of Foursight, who will talk about taking research to the marketplace.

Following on from last year's Sunday afternoon symposium, we will again hold a technology session in this timeslot, this year broadening the topic to deal with other techniques such as confocal microscopy and microarray technology. Other symposia in the main body of the meeting, will be '**Immune regulators in reproductive biology**' and a joint symposium with ESA on '**Pregnancy and parturition**'. To round out the program we will of course have the Junior Scientist Finalists giving oral presentations, and the usual sessions of miniposter and oral format based on miniposter submissions.

This year submissions will need to be submitted by **Friday May 14**, and may be sent to the POC in traditional hardcopy format or as an email attachment. Detailed instructions for the production and submission of miniposters are supplied in the printed registration circular. They are also available on the ASRB 1999 conference website (<http://numbat.murdoch.edu.au/spermatology/asrb99.html>). Note that the procedures for submitting by E mail have changed slightly from last year. The form is available for direct down-load by pointing your browser at:  
<http://numbat.murdoch.edu.au/spermatology/abstract.rtf>

This year's program promises to be a very full and exciting one and I hope that you are already making plans not only to attend but to contribute to the excellent science we have come to expect by submitting miniposters for the meeting.

Mail to Dr. David J. Phillips Chair ASRB POC, 1999  
Institute of Reproduction & Development,  
Monash Medical Centre,  
246 Clayton Road, Clayton VIC 3168  
Tel: (+61 3) 9594 7126  
Fax: (+61 3) 9594 7112  
E mail David.Phillips@med.monash.edu.au

### ***Australian Journals of Scientific Research. – From Hugh Tyndale-Biscoe***

A new agreement was signed a year ago between the Australian Academy of Science and CSIRO for the management and publishing of the AJSR for a further five years. At the first meeting of the new Board of Standards, that comprises the Chairs of the Advisory Committees of the 12 Journals, there was considerable discussion on the role of the Committees vis-a-vis CSIRO Publishing. Much of this related to the requirement that the journals operate according to business best practice and some strong views were expressed about the purposes of the journals.

At the close of that meeting Hugh Tyndale-Biscoe became the Chair of the Board of Standards, replacing Tom Spurling. Hugh is also a member of the Board of CSIRO Publishing as the Academy's nominee. He has taken up the concerns expressed at the Board of Standards meeting last year with the other members of the Board.

At the meeting on 17 February, the Board of CSIRO Publishing decided to hold a 2-day meeting at the Academy of Science in Canberra on 10--12 August 1999. The aim is to discuss the role of the AJSR in scientific communication, and the opportunities that electronic publishing now offers for their future. The main participants will be the Chairs, or their deputies, of the 12 Journals, the Managing Editors of the journals other members of the Board of Standards and of CSIRO Publishing. Several guest speakers will address aspects of electronic publishing, the future of scientific journals and the

costs of publication. There will be open sessions. It is hoped that the meeting will foster a better awareness of the role of the Australian Journals in international science publishing and help them to be competitive in the new arena of electronic publication.

### ***Reproduction, Fertility and Development by Camilla Myers, Managing Editor***

The official journal of the ASRB

My aim is to make this journal as relevant, useful and interesting as possible for our readers and to provide the best possible service to our authors. At a recent meeting of the Editorial Advisory Committee it was decided that we would encourage papers on particular key areas of research. As a result, I am now actively seeking papers in the following research areas:

- ◆ Reproduction in wildlife, including wildlife management
- ◆ Human reproduction
- ◆ Assisted reproduction in domestic animals
- ◆ Reproductive immunology
- ◆ Gametogenesis
- ◆ Embryogenesis and early embryo development
- ◆ Fetal physiology

I welcome all submissions to the Journal, and if you have a paper in any of these areas, why not submit it to *Reproduction, Fertility and Development*? Our refereeing times are now 4–8 weeks, and time from acceptance to publication has been reduced to 8–10 weeks. We can also guarantee worldwide exposure for your paper, with 79% of subscriptions from outside Australia and New Zealand, and 80% of those in North America and Europe. Submissions should be sent to me at the address below.

Electronic delivery of *RFD* via our web site continues to be improved, and I am delighted to announce that *free* on-line access to the latest volumes of *RFD* has been extended to July 1999.

Upcoming articles of interest include:

- a paper by David Wells and his group in New Zealand on the use of cloning technology to reproduce the last surviving cow of the rare Enderby Island breed (adapted to sub-Antarctic conditions),
- and a review article on assisted reproductive technologies for efficient production of buffalo embryos.

There have been some recent changes to the Editorial Advisory Committee of *RFD* and the current membership is as follows:

**W.M.C. Maxwell** (Chair, University of Sydney), **L. Hinds** (CSIRO Division of Wildlife and Ecology), **G. Jenkin** (Monash University), **Sir Graham C. Liggins** (National Women's Hospital, Auckland), **G.B. Martin** (University of Western Australia), **R.I. McLachlan** (Prince Henry's Institute of Medical Research), and **R.G. Wales** (Murdoch University).

### **Submission of papers**

I welcome submission of research papers, short communications, review articles and viewpoint articles. Our Instructions to Authors are published in the first issue of each volume and can be found at the Journal's Home Page or obtained from:

The Managing Editor.

#### **Reproduction, Fertility and Development**

CSIRO Publishing

PO Box 1139

Collingwood

Victoria 3066

Tel: (03) 9662 7629 Fax: (03) 9662 7611

Email: [camilla.myers@publish.csiro.au](mailto:camilla.myers@publish.csiro.au)

**Home page:** <http://www.publish.csiro.au/journals/rfd/>

### **Conferences**

**The 1999 ASRB meeting** will be in Melbourne, Victoria, at the Hilton on the Park from Sunday 26 September to Wednesday 29 September - contact Mark Hedger, chair of the LOC on [mark.hedger@med.monash.edu.au](mailto:mark.hedger@med.monash.edu.au)

**The 2000 ASRB meeting** will be in Canberra, April 26-28, at the Hyatt, in conjunction with the Fertility Society of Australia, that meets Thursday 27 - Sunday 30 April. On Thursday 27 April will be a Serono Symposium on genetic engineering. Contact Lynn Hinds on [Lyn.Hinds@dwe.csiro.au](mailto:Lyn.Hinds@dwe.csiro.au), or Martyn Stafford-Bell Tel 02 6285 2966 Fax 02 6285 2746

Future Meetings of ESA

**Endocrine Society of Australia 1999 March/April Postgraduate Seminar Meeting, Adelaide**

Organizer: Dr. Gary Wittert, Royal Adelaide Hospital.  
Phone: 08 222 4000 pager 1792

**Endocrine Society of Australia 1999 Annual Scientific Meeting, Melbourne**

Information ACTS GPO Box 2200 Braddon ACT, 2601  
Phone: 06 257 3299 Fax: 06 257 3256 email: ACTS@OZMAIL.COM.AU

**14th International Congress on Animal Reproduction**

Stockholm, Sweden, 2-6 July 2000  
Contact: Congrex (Secretariat), PO Box 5619, S-114 86 Stockholm, Sweden;  
Fax: +46 8 661 9125  
Email: [icar@congrex.se](mailto:icar@congrex.se)  
<http://www.congrex.se/icar/3.html>

**ICAR Satellite Meeting: Reproduction in Small Ruminants**

Sandnes, Norway, 30 June - 1 July 2000  
Contact: VESO, PO Box 8109 Dep., 0032 Oslo, Norway  
Fax: +47 2256 6254  
Email: [astrid.fure@veso.no](mailto:astrid.fure@veso.no)

**ICAR Satellite Meeting: Advances in Dog, Cat & Exotic Carnivore Reproduction**

Oslo, Norway, 29 June - 1 July 2000  
Contact: Wensche Farstad, Dept. Reproduction & Forensic Medicine,  
Norwegian School of Veterinary Science,  
P.O.P. Box 8146 DEP, N-0033 Oslo, Norway  
Fax: 47 22 59 70 81  
Email: [Wenche.Farstad@veths.no](mailto:Wenche.Farstad@veths.no)  
<http://oslovet.veths.no/veso/ICAR2000/>

**The 11th International Congress of Endocrinology (ICE 2000) Sydney Meeting** has a Website on <http://www.icmsaust.com.au/ice2000/> Further information can be obtained from the ICE 2000 Congress Secretariat, Tel (02) 9241-1478, Fax (02) 9251-3552, or by E mail: [ice2000@icmsaust.com.au](mailto:ice2000@icmsaust.com.au)

The **7<sup>th</sup> Annual symposium of Prince Henry's Institute of Medical Research entitled :Cancers of Women**" will be held on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> and Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October 1999, in the main Lecture Theatre, Monash Medical Centre, Clayton, Victoria. Keynote speakers will be Professor Richard Santen, from the University of Virginia Health Sciences Center, speaking on 'Oestrogen biosynthesis and breast cancer' and Professor Lynn Matrisian, from Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee speaking on 'Matrix metalloproteases and cancer'.

A Public Lecture will be given by Professor Richard Santen, on Wednesday evening 27<sup>th</sup> October, 1999 '**New Hormonal Therapies for Breast Cancer**'

Further information from Professor Henry Burger on  
[Henry.Burger@med.monash.edu.au](mailto:Henry.Burger@med.monash.edu.au)

**Alpha Congress: "ART, Science and Fiction", Copenhagen, September 16-19,**

**1999.** Contact: e-mail [alpha.gbg@goteborg.mail.telia.com](mailto:alpha.gbg@goteborg.mail.telia.com) or fax: (Kersti Lundin) + 46 31 3421974.

**International Embryo Transfer Society Annual Conference: 8-12 January 2000,**

Maastricht, The Netherlands

Contact: IETS Business Office, 1111 Nth. Dunlap Ave. Savoy, Illinois 61874 USA.  
(<http://www.iets.uiuc.edu>)

***Positions advertised***  
**THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE**

**SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOW/SENIOR LECTURER IN HUMAN EMBRYOLOGY,  
HEAD OF THE GAMETE LABORATORIES IN THE REPRODUCTIVE MEDICINE  
UNIT**

(Ref: 3995)

Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology

Salary \$59,332 - \$68,415

The Reproductive Medicine Unit located at The Queen Elizabeth Hospital, provides services in the area of reproductive medicine, including in vitro fertilisation. A position is being offered to applicants with outstanding administrative and research skills in the area of reproductive biology relating to embryology and gametes. The successful applicant should have a proven track record in research, including evidence of excellence and leadership, and should have extensive experience in human or animal embryology programmes. The successful applicant will lead the gamete laboratories (IVF and Andrology) and provide the interaction with the clinical services of a unit with an international reputation.

You should have:

- a PhD in a relevant discipline
- research and management experience in an embryology laboratory, preferably but not necessarily with a human background
- in the case of a Senior Lecturer, some teaching may be required in Reproductive Biology subjects taught by the Department

The position is available immediately for twelve months with ongoing renewal, subject to satisfactory performance. Further information concerning the duties of the position including the selection criteria may be obtained from Professor R Norman telephone: (08) 8222 6788, fax: (08) 8222 7521 or Professor JS Robinson telephone: (08) 8303 5100 or fax: (08) 8303 4099.

APPLICATIONS IN DUPLICATE addressing the selection criteria and quoting the reference number should include names, addresses, fax numbers and/or email details of three referees to the General Manager, Human Resources, University of Adelaide, Australia 5005, by **9 April 1999**.

**<http://www.adelaide.edu.au/HR/advpos.htm>**

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## **COMMITTEE AND OTHER LINKS1998**

### **Secretariat**

Australian Convention and Travel  
Services, GPO Box 2200,  
Canberra A.C.T. 2601  
Phone: (02) 6257 3299  
Fax: (02) 6257 3256  
E mail

[asrb@ausconvservices.com.au](mailto:asrb@ausconvservices.com.au)

### **Chairperson**

Professor Marilyn Renfree. Department  
of Zoology, University of Melbourne  
Parkville, Vic. 3053  
Phone: (03) 9344 6259  
Fax: (03) 9344 7909  
E mail

[m.renfree@zoology.unimelb.edu.au](mailto:m.renfree@zoology.unimelb.edu.au)

### **Deputy Chairperson**

Dr Lyn Hinds, Vertebrate Biocontrol  
Cooperative Research Centre (CRC),  
CSIRO, Division of Wildlife and Ecology,  
PO Box 84, Lyneham A.C.T. 2602  
Phone (02) 6242 1729  
Fax (02) 6242 9242  
E mail [Lyn.Hinds@dwe.csiro.au](mailto:Lyn.Hinds@dwe.csiro.au)

### **Honorary Secretary**

Dr Jeremy Thompson, AgResearch,  
Ruakura Research Centre, Private Bag  
3123, Hamilton, New Zealand  
Phone (0011 64) 7838 5546  
Fax (0011 64) 7838 5536  
E mail

[THOMPSONJ@agresearch.cri.nz](mailto:THOMPSONJ@agresearch.cri.nz)

### **Honorary Treasurer**

Dr Mark Harvey Queensland University  
of Technology School of Life Sciences  
Gardens Point Rd Brisbane, QLD 4001  
Phone (07) 3864-2342  
Fax (07) 3864-1534  
E mail [m.harvey@qut.edu.au](mailto:m.harvey@qut.edu.au)

### **Communication officer/webmaster**

Dr Jim Cummins, Division of Veterinary  
and Biomedical Sciences, Murdoch  
University, Murdoch WA 6150 Phone  
(08) 9360 2668  
Fax (08) 93104144  
E-mail

[cummins@central.murdoch.edu.au](mailto:cummins@central.murdoch.edu.au)

### **Ordinary Committee Members:**

Dr Jon Curlewis, Department of  
Physiology and Pharmacology,  
University of Queensland, St Lucia  
QLD 4072  
Phone (07) 3365 3120  
Fax (07) 3365 1766  
E mail [j.curlewis@mailbox.uq.oz.au](mailto:j.curlewis@mailbox.uq.oz.au)

Dr Mark Hedger, Institute of  
Reproduction and Development,  
Monash Medical Centre, 246 Clayton  
Road Clayton VIC 3168  
Phone (03) 9550 3570  
Fax (03) 9550 3584  
E mail

[mark.hedger@med.monash.edu.au](mailto:mark.hedger@med.monash.edu.au)

### **Committee (contd)**

Dr Jill Shaw, Institute of Reproduction and Development Monash Medical Centre, 246 Clayton Road Clayton, Vic, 3168  
Phone (03)-9550 5372  
Fax (03)-9550 5554  
E mail [Jill.Shaw@med.monash.edu.au](mailto:Jill.Shaw@med.monash.edu.au)

### **Postgraduate Student Representative**

Anthony Preshaw, Department of Animal Science, RMC Gunn Building B19, University of Sydney, Camperdown, NSW 2006  
Phone (02) 9351 2461  
Fax (02) 9351 3957  
E mail  
[apreshaw@doolittle.vetsci.su.oz.au](mailto:apreshaw@doolittle.vetsci.su.oz.au)

### **Chairman, Junior Scientist Award**

**Committee** Dr Graeme Martin, Faculty of Agriculture (Animal Science), The University of Western Australia, Nedlands, WA 6009  
Phone (08) 9380 2518  
Fax 9380 1040  
E mail [gmartin@agric.uwa.edu.au](mailto:gmartin@agric.uwa.edu.au)

### **Program Organising Committee 1999**

Dr David Phillips, Institute of Reproduction & Development, Monash Medical Centre, 246 Clayton Road, Clayton VIC 3168  
Phone (03) 9550 3175  
Fax (03) 9550 3584  
E mail  
[david.phillips@med.monash.edu.au](mailto:david.phillips@med.monash.edu.au)

### **Reproduction, Fertility and Development**

Editor Dr Camilla Myers,  
PO Box 1139 Collingwood VIC 3066  
Phone (03) 9662 7629  
Fax (03) 9662 7611  
E mail  
[camilla.myers@publish.csiro.au](mailto:camilla.myers@publish.csiro.au)