



Society for Reproductive Biology

Newsletter No 54 November 2005

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President

Lois Salamonsen

I am pleased to report that the Society is thriving, with increased activities and services to members and to our discipline. These are exciting times for Reproductive Biology, with its invigoration world-wide, due in part to the genomics and proteomics eras driving important advances in our field. Many of the specific objectives set by Council for the present triennium have been achieved, largely due to their collegial approach.

In particular, we report:

- a record number of members (308)
- a record number of abstracts for our Annual Meeting (112)
- a record number of students (44) attending the meeting-achieved at least in part by strong support from our colleagues in Western Australia
- the financial status of the Society is very strong
- our meeting program is of extremely high quality, reflecting the innovative work in our discipline world-wide
- increased support by the Society for our developing scientists
- planning for an International Reproductive Biology Congress now underway

Policy and Advisory activity SRB continues as an active member of the Federation of Australian Scientific and Technical Societies providing input to their policy formulation as appropriate. Two SRB representatives, Darryl Russell and Marie Pantaleon, attended 'Science meets Parliament' during 2005.

Linkages National The Society continues to have close relationships with ESA and with ANZPRA, with whom we hold our Annual meetings. Following the success of our Symposium at the 2004 Australian Health and Medical Research Congress, we called for suggestions for Symposia for the next AHMR Congress to be held in Melbourne in 2006. A Symposium under the title "Inflammation and immunity: the oft-forgotten challenge to reproductive health", to be convened by Mark Hedger, was selected from three very innovative topics put forward. We particularly thank the three members who suggested topics and were prepared to act as Convener for this Symposium.

International Darryl Russell and I met with the Executive of SSR during their Annual meeting in July. We are delighted to report that the two Societies (along with SRF) are proposing to hold the 1st International Congress of Reproductive Biology, in Hawaii during either 2007 or 2008. This will be in addition to the Annual meetings of each Society, and will primarily consist of symposia highlighting the most exciting advances in our discipline. There will however, be space allocated for posters, to enable participants to access travel funds. Encouragement will be given for Satellite Symposia. Numbers will be limited, probably to around 1000 delegates, to facilitate planning. A major challenge will be obtaining financial support for the meeting and suggestions from SRB members will be welcome. Please contact Marie Pantaleon or Caroline Gargett with such suggestions.

Publications The partnership between the Society and our journal, Reproduction, Fertility and Development, is continuing strongly under the Editorship of Vancouver-based Sharon Mortimer with whom I met recently at the SSR meeting. RFD Manager, Jennifer Henry will report to you at this meeting. I urge you all to support our journal by submission of articles and suggestions for special features and special issues.

Society Awards The Society thanks its sponsors: Serono for support (increased this year) of the Young Investigator Award, and Meat Livestock Australia, for its award for the best young Investigator working with domestic animals. The pre-eminent award of the Society, the Founders Lecture, is supported from Society funds and this year is made to John Eppig.

External Awards In line with policy, the Society contributed to the nomination of W.W Walters for his award of Membership of the Order of Australia in recognition of his contribution to reproductive medicine as an educator and researcher, and to human bioethics, particularly in the area of in vitro fertilization. SRB sent congratulations on your behalf to Professor Walters. We have also contributed to other award applications, unfortunately without success, but urge members to contact the Society Executive if they would like SRB support in such applications. Our policy is to be proactive in nominating members for awards, as a means to promote our discipline.

New Website In conjunction with the change of Secretariat (see Secretary's report), the comprehensive Society website will now be run by ASN. However, Melinda Jasper will continue to be the SRB member handling

contributions or notices for circulation. My thanks are due to Melinda who has handled this transition efficiently for us.

Life Members Life Membership of our Society is for retiring or retired members who have contributed substantially to the Society and/or to our discipline. This had fallen into abeyance for some years but we developed a set of guidelines and called for nominations this year. I am pleased to move at the close of this report that nominations for 5 new life members be accepted. The list of nominations is provided separately.

Support for our developing scientists Council continues to seek opportunities to promote our younger scientists. Many are included in our meeting program as Symposium speakers or Session chairs. We also provided a session on Scientific Writing in the Program and will continue to provide such training workshops in our program where possible. A new initiative this year, suggested and implemented by Julia Young and Mai Sarraj with the strong support of Council, was the Postdocs meeting, held immediately before the student function and that we hope will help our post-docs build their networks.

Thanks Particular thanks are due to the SRB members of the LOC in Perth, Dominique Blache and Peter Mark and to the members of the POC with Sarah Robertson as Chair. Jim McFarlane has resigned from Council and Amanda Sfferruzzi-Perri is standing down as student representative: we thank them for their service to the Society. I also want to thank Caroline Gargett as Secretary, Kate Loveland as Treasurer, Sarah Robertson as vice-President, the other members of Council, Darryl Russell, Marie Pantaleon and Chris Scott and co-opted member, Melinda Jasper and to NZ Student Rep, Janette Quennell. Also special thanks to Peter Kaye and his New Investigator Award committee and to the State members of the Membership subcommittee.

SRB Committee 2005/2006

Elected Members		Co-opted Members	
President	Lois Salamonsen	Aust Student Rep	Tu'he Kaitu
Vice President (POC chair)	Sarah Robertson	NZ Student Rep	Janette Quennell
Secretary	Caroline Gargett	RFD Rep	Jennifer Henry
Treasurer	Kate Loveland	RFD Editor	Sharon Mortimer
Ordinary Member (publicity)	Darryl Russell	Communications	Melinda Jasper
Ordinary Member (sponsorship)	Marie Pantaleon		
Ordinary Member (membership)	Chris Scott		
Ordinary Member	Jean Fleming		

Secretary

Caroline Gargett

New Secretariat

A new Secretariat to the Society has been appointed and we welcome Australian Science Network Pty Ltd (ASN) and its Director, Mike Pickford, to this position. The transition from the previous Secretariat, ACTS, has been smooth and we are now seeing the benefits of the change, such as more efficient delegate services and financial gains due to ASN's financial management structure and their role as conference Secretariat. Part of ASN's service is to manage a new comprehensive Website and members can now look forward to on line membership renewals and improved information access.

SRB Committee 2005/2006

Jim McFarlane tendered his resignation from Council earlier this year and an election was held to fill the vacancy. Jean Fleming was elected unopposed as Ordinary Member. Marie Pantaleon took on the Sponsorship portfolio, Chris Scott took over the

Membership portfolio from Darryl Russell who took on Publicity. Amanda Sfferruzzi-Perri completes her 3 year term and we look forward to working with a new Australian student representative. Council congratulate Darryl Russell who has accepted nomination to act as POC Chair for 2007-9.

2006 Founders Lecturer

Nominations are now open for an Australian/New Zealander 2006 Founders Lecturer. Please send nominations together with a brief CV by email to the SRB Secretary.

Future Meetings

Year	Meeting	Location	Dates	POC Chair
2006	SRB/ESA	Gold Coast	20-23 rd Aug	Grant Montgomery
2006	AHMRC Symposium	Melbourne	26 th Nov-1 st Dec	Mark Hedger
2007	SRB/ESA	Christchurch	2-5 th Sept	
2008	SRB/ESA	Melbourne	25-28 th Aug	
2008	1 st International Reproductive Biology Conference	Hawaii	Spring or Autumn	Lois Salamonsen
2009	SRB/ESA	Adelaide		

AHMRC Symposium Convener

Symposium suggestions have been called for the previous 2 and the upcoming 2006 AHMRC Symposia and the successful nominator acts as SRB representative for the AHMRC POC. To allow for continuity and to streamline the process of putting together these symposia, Council recommends that nominations for a Convener be called for at the time of the conclusion of the AHMRC Symposium, who would then serve for the next 2 years on the AHMRC POC and would put together the SRB Symposium program.

SRB History

Brian Setchell's article "History of the Australian Society for Reproductive Biology 1968-1994" published in RFD 1995, 7:961-966 is now available as a free download pdf file via the SRB website. We thank RFD for making this history accessible to all members.

Treasurer

Kate Loveland

Transfer of Society Secretariat Services from ACTS to ASN Events

Council was notified by ACTS in December 2004 of the need to locate another Secretariat for our Society. In light of the excellent tender supplied to the SRB from ASN Events Pty Ltd, Council ASN as the new SRB Secretariat. The Council Executive would like to acknowledge the generous and professional assistance of both Michael New (formerly of ACTS) and of Mike Pickford and his team at ASN Events in this time of transition.

Finances

The 2004/2005 audits have been completed and approved. A profit for 2004/2005 of \$22,066 was reported. Highlights for *income and expenditures* in 2004/2005 include allocation to SRB of \$12,700 profit from ASN for the 2004 Annual Conference. This is in addition to sponsorship paid directly to SRB of \$15,000. Sponsorship for the 2005 annual conference is in excess of \$10,000. Sponsorship at an increased level has been provided from Serono for the New Investigator Award. In addition, a second year of support from Meat & Livestock Australia was provided for a keynote speaker at the Annual Scientific Conference (Ken McNatty) and for the MLA New Scientist Award to support overseas conference or laboratory work by a promising new investigator. The CRC for Innovative Dairy Research has provided substantial sponsorship, and CSIRO Publishing, on behalf of our Society's journal, *Reproduction, Fertility and Development*, has once again supported the Founder's Lecturer.

Student Travel Grant Awards were made to 44 students for the 2005 annual conference. Partial support towards this cost (\$2,700) has come from the Western Australian Government in the form of our proportion of a grant to the Conference. In addition, the Society provided support for attendance by two

SRB delegates (Marie Pantaleon and Darryl Russell) to Science Meets Parliament.

Membership Fees

Membership fees for 2004/2005 are recommended to stand for 2005/2006. This cost includes a \$5 per member payment towards full membership in FASTS.

Membership

Chris Scott

The total SRB membership has grown in 2004-2005, which is encouraging. Unfortunately there has been an increase in the number of members who have not paid their membership dues. These people are being contacted to remind them since, for many, the lack of payment may simply be an oversight. The current numbers, updated since the recent AGM, are as follows:

Group	2005	2004
Total members paid & short term	311	287
unfinancial		
Members who have paid until 2005	200	192
Members who have paid until 2006	25	10
Members who have paid until 2007	16	0
Unfinancial	111 ^a	95
New members	32 ^b	48
Number of people who are new to the books but did not apply for membership	23	
Financial members who had been unfinancial in 2004	15	

^aincludes 69 who are one year unfinancial and 42 who have not paid membership dues since 2003.

^bthis includes 7 people who were already on our books as financial members.

A membership drive was conducted at the time of the membership renewal, where those on the 2003/2004 unfinancial list were contacted and encouraged to maintain their full membership of the Society. This was effective in both seeing recently lapsed members renewing their membership, as well as improving the accuracy of our records. Indeed a great deal of effort has been undertaken to update and improve the accuracy of our membership database, since it appears that in recent times a number of seemingly active members of the Society have disappeared from the membership list. Efforts have been made to rectify this situation. Nonetheless, if any readers are aware of anyone who anyone who has been formerly associated with the SRB any may be interested in future involvement, but is currently not receiving SRB correspondence, I would appreciate being informed.

Recently the Society for the Study of Reproduction (SSR) offered members of SRB the opportunity to become affiliate members of SSR, with some but not all of the privileges of full membership (including electronic access to *Biology of Reproduction*, & member rates to the annual meeting). Full details are available on the SRB website and have recently been sent to members. SRB is offering a similar deal for SSR members.

We are planning to set up an on-line membership renewal system, currently being developed by our secretariat, ASN Events. We anticipate the next round of membership renewals to commence early in the New Year.

Program Organising Committee Chair

Sarah Robertson

The program at the recent 36th Annual Conference of the SRB was larger than ever before with 112 abstracts accepted for presentation as oral free communication, as well as the following highlights:

- Symposium: Cell Fate Decisions: Driving Growth and Differentiation
- Symposium: New Frontiers in Reproductive Biology and Cloning
- Symposium: Molecular Communication in the Ovary and Testes
- SRB-ANZPRA Symposium: Healthy Start to Life: Pregnancy and Parturition
- Joint ESA-SRB Symposium: The Genome-Environment Interaction in Determining Life Course
- Founders' Lecturer, John Eppig
- Meat Livestock Australia Plenary Lecturer, Ken McNatty
- Sero New Investigator Award
- Meat Livestock Australia New Scientist Award
- ANZPRA New Investigator Award
- Joint SRB/ESA Male Reproduction and Female Reproduction Sessions
- Workshop on Scientific Writing
- Student Roundtable with Founders' Lecturer

Thank you to the members of the POC and the SRB Committee for their helpful support, and to all speakers and chairs for their contribution to the success of the 2005 program.

The committee is now seeking suggestions from Society members on potential program content for Brisbane 2006. Please contact me on sarah.robertson@adelaide.edu.au.

SRB-Serono New Investigator Award 2005

Peter Kaye

Selection of the twenty-sixth SRB-Serono NIA was as usual a difficult task for the committee complicated by the added responsibility of deciding the winner of the second SRB-MLA NIA and for many of the committee selection of the ANZPRA Award winner. Nevertheless it is always a pleasant task to carefully assess such excellent reproductive science. Competition continues to increase with 42 applicants from all round Australia and New Zealand for this year's SRB-Serono NIA. The committee assessment of abstracts yielded a group of seven finalists selected to present in the SRB NIA session on Tuesday afternoon. These were:

- Muren Herrid, Reproductive Technology Centre, CSIRO Livestock Industries, Armidale, NSW
- Theresa Hickey, Research Centre for Reproductive Health, OB & GYN, University of Adelaide
- Kijana Schwab, Centre for Women's Health Research, Monash Institute of Medical Research

- Lisa Walter, Centre for Women's Health Research, Monash Institute of Medical Research
- John Bromfield, Research Centre for Reproductive Health, Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, University of Adelaide
- Damien Hewitt, School of Anatomy and Human Biology, The University of Western Australia
- Ambika Singh, Liggins Institute, University of Auckland

Congratulations to you all on excellent presentations.

However the winners were:

SRB-Serono NIA: Theresa Hickey wins the award and \$2500 (courtesy of Serono) for her paper with D. L. Marrocco, F. Amato, L. J. Ritter, R. J. Norman, R. B. Gilchrist, D. T. Armstrong, entitled *Androgens augment the mitogenic effects of oocyte-secreted factors and growth differentiation factor 9 on porcine granulosa cells*.

SRB-MLA NIA: Muren Herrid wins the award and \$2000 (courtesy of MLA) for his paper with R. Davey, S. Vignarajan, K. Hutton, J. Hill, entitled *Optimal testicular size of donor and recipient for testicular germ cell transplantation in the bovine*

As usual the selection committee reviewed its activities for the year and as a result made recommendations to the SRB executive: that at the ASM, the SRB NIA session be solely the platform for selection of the SRB-Serono NIA (applicants must be no more than 3 years post-doctoral), that the SRB-MLA NIA conditions be expanded to encompass reproductive biologists in the next phase of their career ie up to 10 years post-doctoral and that the SRB-MLA committee chair be nominated to select a committee to decide the award, that the selection be based on the best presentation in the meeting on a livestock species. In view of the increasing number of multi-authored papers submitted, we have also decided to request that applicants for the SRB-Serono NIA submit along with their abstract a certificate describing their contribution to the submitted study.

Finally although they must traditionally remain anonymous I thank my colleagues on the selection panel for their help in this important part of the society's activities in fostering reproductive biology.

Postgraduate Student Representatives

Janette Quennell (NZ) and Tu'uhevaha Kaitu'u (Aust)

The SRB conference held this year in Perth, was again very successful, and allowed students the opportunity to present to, and receive feedback from, both national and some international experts in their fields.

The SRB workshop, "Writing scientific papers" given by David Lindsay as the first session of the conference, was well received by a number of students and other SRB members, and it is hoped that such workshops will continue in years to come. Once again a student luncheon roundtable discussion

was held with the Founder's lecturer, this year Professor John Eppig, who is also currently the editor of the scientific journal, *Biology of Reproduction*. Students attended the luncheon and utilized this opportunity to quiz Professor John Eppig on manuscript preparation and what he personally looks for in Postdoctoral candidates. The general feeling amongst students was that this opportunity is useful and should be continued in coming years. Following a suggestion at last year's student meeting, this year the student/supervisor BBQ was subsidized reducing the cost to \$20, which resulted in a sold out event. The location and style of this function was also less formal than previous years, which hopefully allowed students better opportunity for interaction with academics and one another. We encourage all students to attend this function at next year's conference and take advantage of the opportunity to indulge in some informal networking.

Student Meeting The annual student meeting provides an opportunity for all SRB students to voice their opinions and give their feedback about/to the society. For the second year running, travel grants were distributed at the student meeting. This year there were five main issues discussed, these being the scheduling of the Postdoctoral meeting, provision of information for new conference goers, conference presentation lengths, trade displays, and the appointment of a new Australian student representative.

During discussions, it was noted that final year students were keen to attend the postdoctoral meeting, however scheduling (it was the same time as the student meeting) prevented them from doing so. This matter was raised at council, and will be considered by the organizing committee in the future. New conference goers requested some basic information to orientate junior students as to what they should expect from an SRB conference. It is intended that this information will be posted on the student links page of the SRB website, and a note directing new conference goers to this information placed on registration forms. Due to an increase in the number of abstracts submitted, students canvassed their concerns about shortened presentations lengths. Students were not keen for presentations to run for less than 10 minutes, and did not want the society to revert to posters. At council meeting, committee members indicated that they held very similar views to students, and acknowledged the importance of oral presentations. This year students were not satisfied with the trade displays and lack of research based company representation. This matter was followed up, and it appears that such companies are invited, but choose not to attend the SRB conference. It is therefore suggested that students speak to visiting sales reps and pass on company details to the student SRB reps so they can be followed up before the next annual conference.

The final item discussed was the appointment of a new Australian student representative, as Amanda Sferruzzi-Perri had finished her appointment on the

council. Following a small election, Tu'uhevaha Kaitu'u from Prince Henry's Institute in Melbourne was elected to take on this position. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Amanda for her work throughout the past two years.

If students have any queries or suggestions, please feel free to contact Tu'uhe or Janette.
(tuuhevaha.kaituu@princehenrys.org)
(janette.quennell@anatomy.otago.ac.nz)

Early Career Researchers/Post-Doc Group

Julia Young & Mai Sarraj

This year marked the inaugural meeting of the Reproduction Post-docs Group within the SRB. The meeting was organised to provide an ongoing forum in which the more junior scientists in the reproductive biology field could meet, and to assist in forming the scientific networks that are crucial to a scientific career. The Group also has the potential to advocate for career enhancement opportunities through the Society (for example through seminar invitations and potentially the development of an awards category at future SRB meetings for Post-doctoral level scientists). Around thirty Post-doctoral scientists attended this first meeting, and senior research assistants were also very much welcomed to become part of the Group. All of the attendees gave a brief introduction to themselves and their (very varied!) research interests. There was also an initial garnering of ideas and suggestions for next year's event.

We would like to thank everyone who attended the Perth meeting, and we would encourage Post-docs and senior research assistants in both the SRB and ESA to contact us and join our mailing list for information updates.

Convenors:

Julia Young (julia.young@med.monash.edu.au)

Mai Sarraj (mai.sarraj@med.monash.edu.au)

Research Fellows

Conference Report

Graeme Martin

The Japanese Society of Animal Reproduction and the Society for Reproductive Biology (Australia) Joint Symposium 2005

Shizuoka, Japan

Theme: "Towards 'Clean, Green and Ethical' Animal Reproduction"

This was the first of what we hope will be a long series of joint meetings between our two societies. It got off the ground after discussions between Dr Hiroya Kadokawa and me, and was strongly supported (morally and financially) by the Japanese Society. It was also strongly supported by the Executive of SRB and I represented our Chair, Lois Salamonsen in the ceremonial parts of the

proceedings (she now owes me for several off-the-cuff speeches!). In addition to me, the Australia and New Zealand were represented by Jeremy Thompson Scott McDougall and we presented three papers in one-day the symposium, along with 3 of our Japanese colleagues.

Several factors drove us to organise this joint venture: the high calibre of the reproductive science and technology in Japan, the relative lack of exchange between us and a relatively near neighbour (on almost the same time zone as Perth!), and the difficulties that many Japanese scientists have in penetrating the modern world of science with its domination by the English language. By accident of birth, we Australians are not bothered by this and yet, I can tell you, a visit to Japan will give you a good understanding of how intimidating a language barrier can be. Even if you survive the coffee shops, you will be completely overwhelmed by having to operate at a professional level in a language that has symbols you can't even recognise.

The theme that Hiro Kadokawa and I chose for this conference struck a very strong and resonant chord in Japan. All over the world, our animal industries are becoming increasingly influenced by societal constraints that are inevitably leading to changes in the marketplace: consumers are beginning to demand products that are "clean, green and ethical". In Japan, for example, BSE, mouth-foot disease, and unscrupulous activities by Japanese meat processors have led consumers to question the practices of all members of all animal industries at all stages of the supply chain. With this symposium, we began with the producers and we focussed on dairy cattle and small ruminants. To be 'clean', the producers need to adopt practices that minimise the treatment of animals with hormones, drugs and chemicals. To be 'green', they need to ensure that their practices are environmentally sustainable. To be 'ethical', they need to avoid practices that compromise the welfare of their animals.

In many countries, regulatory authorities have already imposed these conditions on producers, importers and exporters. However, practices that are 'clean, green and ethical' need not be difficult or costly – they can be developed from a better understanding of the physiology and behaviour of the animals and they can improve productivity and profitability. To prepare for this future, our industries need a long-term vision with clear goals, supported by research and development programs that will lead to these goals. In this international seminar, we will be discussing new research that should promote the development of such a vision. There will be a focus on the management of reproduction because, to a large extent, the productivity and profitability of our meat and milk industries depend on reproductive performance.

The symposium will be published as a collection of papers in the Journal of the Japanese Society, the "Journal of Reproduction and Development". The first

paper (Martin and Kadokawa) outlined the fundamental reasons for the quest for 'clean, green, and ethical' animal production and then developed a detailed case study based on the reproductive management of sheep and goats. The second paper (Akio Miyamoto) concentrated on the latest developments in ultrasound, particularly the use of colour doppler to observed blood flow in the ovary. Ultrasound may not seem to fit preconceived ideas of a green technology, but it is non-invasive (ethical) and non-hormonal (green) and it is necessary for precise management of reproduction and research into the basic physiology of the reproductive process. Kadokawa began with the subject of leptin in postpartum dairy cattle and raised questions about the best way to measure body condition for the management of d postpartum anovulation, the value of extended lactation and the need to revise genetic selection indices. Jeremy Thompson then discussed the impact of nutrition of the oocyte and embryo on subsequent development in ruminants, and proposes that changes in glucose metabolism in these very early stages can have profound 'programming' effects on the productivity of the offspring. Ken Nakada focussed specifically on the need to reduce the use of medicines in the management of dairy cattle in Japan and to focus more on the relationships between changes in nutrition, immunology, and reproduction during late lactation. The final paper (Scott McDougall) described issues in reproduction of dairy cattle and drew a contrast between the intensive system in Japan and the seasonal, pasture-based system in New Zealand.

At the end of our symposium, we advertised the next SRB meeting (Gold Coast), with its links to the Ruminant Reproduction Symposium in NZ, and the joint meeting with SSR in Hawaii (2007). There was a lot of interest in continuing the Japan-Australia-NZ Symposia and my feeling is that we should strive to do this at at both events, but especially the Gold Coast. No theme has been set there is interest in reproductive biotechnology, and in neuroendocrinology, areas of strength in both countries. As Chair of the Editorial Board of "Reproduction, Fertility and Development", I would also like us to explore close collaboration with their journal. Hiro Kadokawa will be spending the next 6 months in Perth with me, so we have a good opportunity to develop these plans.

Conference Announcements

The Australian Society for Medical Research (ASMR) 44th National Scientific Conference 2005 HORMONES, FERTILITY AND CANCER"

Here is your chance to hear some of the leaders in the field of fertility, its regulation and dysregulation in the form of cancer. This is a fantastic program composed to 12 international speakers and some of Australia's finest. It is guaranteed to excite and facilitate your research.

All presentations will be given in a workshop style format and there will be ample opportunity for discussion and interaction.

We strongly encourage anyone with an interest in fertility, reproductive or hormone regulated cancers to attend. The full program and registration details are available at: <http://www.asmr-nsc.org.au/>
20-23rd November 2005, Couran Cove, Stradbroke Island

Human Reproductive Health Through The Ages A Womb To Tomb Congress Adelaide Convention Centre 7-10 MARCH 2006

The congress will be of great interest to all clinicians and scientists working in the fields reproductive health and it will be integrated with the 2006 Adelaide Festival of Arts to make this a memorable celebration.

The art of Reproductive Medicine will be presented by a host of international and national doyens.
The full programme is now available from bronwen.paine@adelaide.edu.au

Congress Chairman Alastair MacLennan.
Congress organised by The Departments of O & G, The University of Adelaide and Flinders University in co-operation with RANZCOG(SA).
Register now.

The 8th International Conference on the Extracellular Matrix of the Female Reproductive Tract will be held November 11, 12, 13, 2006 at the Sheraton Maui, Kaanapoli Beach, Maui, Hawaii.
Submission of scientific abstracts are encouraged and will be due September 15, 2006.

This is the first announcement and others will follow with further details. PLEASE SAVE THE DATES; NOVEMBER 11, 12, 13, 2006
Aust contact, Lois Salamonsen

Recent Awards

John Bromfield has been awarded the DSL-Young Scientist Award at the 32nd International Fetal and Neonatal Physiology Society Conference for his abstract entitled "Male seminal factors influence fetal and placental development, postnatal growth and adult onset obesity in mice"

Amanda Sferruzzi-Perri has been awarded a New Scientist Award for her oral abstract entitled "The effect of hypoxia to promote human cytotrophoblast outgrowth is mediated by insulin-like growth factor-II." FNPS.

Rachel Chan, final year PhD student in the Centre for Women's Health Research, MIMR, was awarded the Schering 75th Anniversary Research Grant from the Royal Australian and NZ College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG) for 2006 for a project entitled "Epithelial and stromal stem cell niche in human endometrium and endometrial cancer".

Jacqui Donoghue, PhD student in the Centre for Women's Health Research, MIMR was awarded the

Australian and NZ Microcirculation Young Investigator Award for 2005 at their 12th conference in Terrigal, NSW for her presentation entitled "Lymphatic characteristics of normal and progesterin treated human endometrium" by JF Donoghue, CJ McGavigan, FL Lederman, L Cann, JE Girling and PAW Rogers.

Caroline Gargett was awarded the Established Investigator Award at the 21st European Society for Human Reproduction and Embryology (ESHRE) meeting in Copenhagen in June 2005 for a presentation entitled "Characterising the stem cell activity of human endometrial cells" by Gargett C, Zillwood R, Schwab K.

RFD Journal Manager

Jennifer Henry

Attention all authors:
Online submission is now possible!

RFD is pleased to announce that manuscripts may now be submitted online via our new submission and peer-review service 'OSPREY'. Please log in at <http://www.publish.csiro.au/journals/rfd> and follow the OSPREY links to submit your manuscript even faster. OSPREY enables authors to track the progress of their manuscripts at any time.

Positions Available

PhD Scholarship in emu and ostrich embryology

The avian embryo begins its development in the upper oviduct and continues throughout egg formation until the egg is laid. The embryonic development becomes "arrested" after oviposition as the egg cools down and awaits incubation. Naturally, however, as the clutch accumulates over time the eggs are exposed to variable environmental conditions, which can affect embryo development and hatchability. The duration and temperature of pre-incubation storage of eggs are critical. The project will focus on early stages in the emu and ostrich embryo development in relation to hatchability and chick viability. This research will contribute to the understanding of factors affecting early embryo development and to improvement in the hatchability of ostrich and emu eggs on commercial farms.

Research will be conducted at UWA and will involve collaborating farms and institution in Australia and abroad. The scholarship will be available to a successful candidate who will gain the University of Western Australia Postgraduate Award. Applications for this award close with the UWA Scholarships office on 31 October 2005.

Interested applicants should complete the Candidature and Scholarship application form which can be downloaded from the Scholarships website at: http://www.scholarships.uwa.edu.au/home/postgrad/general/australian_postgraduate_awards
Eligibility

Applicants must be Australian Citizens or Permanent Residents, or New Zealand citizens, who have (or expect to receive) an honours degree of at least 2A or better and are acceptable for candidature in the relevant degree at The University of Western Australia.

Stipend

The scholarship provides a living allowance of \$18,837 p.a. (full-time) in 2005. The award is tax exempt and indexed annually.

For further information please contact:

Dr Irek Malecki
School of Animal Biology
University of Western Australia, Crawley 6009 WA
email: imalecki@animals.uwa.edu.au

Communications

Melinda Jasper

For information about the newsletter, website or SRB news maillist.

melinda.jasper@adelaide.edu.au

Website

The website hosting was re-located with ASN earlier this year as part of the change in secretariat.

Links now added to the site include:

1. SRB Objectives & Mission Statement
2. RFD journal have given us free access to a pdf file of an article written by Brian Setchell on the history of the SRB. A link has been placed on the website to this article.
3. Several new additions to 'Many Paths for a Career in Reproductive Research' have been added to the student page.

Plans for on-line renewal are in position, and also as requested by members, access to a secure full membership list/contact details could be implement before the end of this year.

SRB news email

In addition to the site relocation, the email list function was also shut down and re-located. News items can be sent directly to melinda.jasper@adelaide.edu.au

Reminder

The next newsletter will be published in February 2006.

All members of the society are invited to submit articles, information on awards they have received or their students have received, vacant positions and conference/satellite symposium information. Please forward to before **1st February 2006** to be included in the next newsletter.