



Society for Reproductive Biology Inc. Newsletter No 49, May 2002

From the Communications Office – Jim Cummins .

This newsletter will also be available as an Acrobat (.pdf) file from our News Page - <http://numbat.murdoch.edu.au/spermatology/asrbnews.html> and those of you on our E mail list "asrbmail" will receive notification. To be placed on this list please send a request to me on cummins@central.murdoch.edu.au, or send the message "subscribe asrbmail" followed by your E mail address to: majordomo@cleo.murdoch.edu.au

Please note the Society's Home Page on <http://numbat.murdoch.edu.au/spermatology/index.htm>

This will be my last newsletter, as Michael Sinosich will be taking over as communications officer.

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Chairman's Report

From John Hearn E mail John.hearn@anu.edu.au

Dear Members of SRB,

Your Committee has met three times since the AGM (twice by teleconference) in order to progress the business of the Society. In the last newsletter, I summarized the issues and directions for the Society during 2001-2003, which had been adopted at the AGM. All of them are getting attention including the following.

1. **Scientific meetings.** The Adelaide meeting, joint with ESA is shaping up to be outstanding. Thanks to the efforts of Kate Loveland and the Program Organizing Committee and of Ray Rodgers and the local Organizing Committee, we will have a feast of science and a great social program. I hope that all members will do their best to participate – details are presented later in this newsletter.
2. **SRB Committee.** On behalf of all of us, I thank those who have now completed their term on the Committee and those who have taken up the responsibilities as reported in the Secretary's Report. In particular, I thank Tina Lavranos for her dedicated service and Rob Gilchrist for taking on the appointment as Secretary. I thank Jim Cummins for his long and effective service as Communications Officer and Michael Sinosich for taking on that important role.
3. **Membership.** One of the key objectives adopted by the Society is to expand its membership over the next two years. The Adelaide meeting is a good opportunity to attract new members, including student members. I ask each of us to consider who might be recruited to join the Society over the next six months. Please circulate details of the meetings to your colleagues and friends.
4. **Publication.** We are doing everything possible to support and synergise with our Journal, *Reproduction, Fertility and Development*. The Society sponsored publication of "From Elephants to Aids", the excellent Symposium in honour of Roger Short. This appeared in record time in volume 13(7,8) 2001 and I congratulate Camilla Myers for editing this landmark volume.
5. **Communications.** The Society is taking a stronger role in National debates, on our own and through joining FASTS. Society members were active in briefing Ministers and the Prime Minister on the science, ethics and regulation of cloning and stem cell biology. Others are briefing Ministers on bioscience and biotechnology.

I hope that you are all enjoying a productive year in your research and teaching. I look forward to seeing you in Adelaide.

Regards, John Hearn, Chairman

Report from SRB Secretary

From Robert Gilchrist, E-mail: robert.gilchrist@adelaide.edu.au

Secretary's Position

Dr Tina Lavranos held the position of Honorary Secretary of SRB until the end of last year when she took up a new job in the US. I have been acting Secretary since then and will remain in this capacity until after this year's AGM. This position will be open for re-election toward the end of this year and a call for nominations will go out at the AGM.

Out-going Officers

There are a number of new officers within the society/committee. The new faces are:

- Dr Alan Tilbrook (Monash University) is the new Chairman of the Junior Scientist Award (JSA)
- A/Prof Michael Sinosich (Royal North Shore Hospital) is the new Communications Officer
- Ms Christine White (Monash University) is the new Post-Graduate Student Representative.

On behalf of the SRB, I would like to thank the out-going officers Graeme Martin (Chair JSA), Jim Cummins (Communications) and Kara Britt (Post-Grad Rep) for their outstanding contributions to the society over the past years.

SRB is now a member of FASTS

The Federation of Australian Scientific and Technological Societies (FASTS) is a body representing Australian scientists and technologists, promoting their views on a wide range of policy issues to Government, industry and bureaucracy. As such, FASTS plays an important role in the direction of science policy, for example, FASTS helped bring on the Prime Minister's Science Innovation Statement. SRB is now a full member of FASTS. This means that through FASTS as a lobbying body, we have a louder voice to influence the direction of science policy in Australia. Chris O'Neill has negotiated a great deal with FASTS—currently membership of FASTS costs us \$2.50/member, which is added to the subscription fees of full SRB members. Occasional news items from FASTS relevant to SRB will be posted on SRBMail.

Future SRB Annual Scientific Meetings

- 2002 meeting: is of course in Adelaide, 22nd – 25th September jointly with ESA
- 2003 meeting: will be in Melbourne, 14th – 17th September jointly with ESA
- 2004 meeting: is yet to be decided. We could meet jointly with ESA in Canberra or with FSA in Adelaide.

Student News

Christine White – SRB Postgraduate Student Representative 2002

This year sees the addition of a new face on the executive committee who is committed to making the Society for Reproductive Biology and its annual meetings informative and exciting for all student members. Christine White is now the Postgraduate Student Representative for SRB, so should you have any questions, comments about your membership, the society or the Annual Scientific Meeting please feel free to contact her at:

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All our thanks go to Kara Britt, SRB Postgraduate Student Representative 2001, for her hard work and enthusiasm in promoting SRB to students and ensuring that their views were represented to and acted upon by the SRB Executive Committee. We wish her all the best with her research and future endeavours.

Student views are important

In response to student concerns, we have arranged with the local and program-organizing committees to have more appropriately priced, student-friendly accommodation available at this year's Annual Scientific Meeting. The cost of the student function has also been reduced, making it great value and affordable for all students to attend.

Student events at the AGM, Adelaide 2000

Student Lunch Lecture

SRB 2002 Founders Lecturer, Professor Alan Trounson, will be the Student Lunch speaker at this year's conference in Adelaide. One of the most internationally recognized scientists at present, Professor Trounson understands what it's like to be a student in research, and will be available at our round table discussion to answer any questions you may have on his inspirations, experiences and plans for the future.

Student Function – BBQ and Annual Meeting

The Student Function will be held at the University of Adelaide Staff Club this year, within easy walking distance of the Adelaide Convention Centre. All students attending the conference are encouraged to come along, for what is shaping up to be a great night. We will be having our annual Student Meeting at the beginning of the function; so you will all have the opportunity to voice any concerns or opinions on how we can improve your experience of SRB student membership

Abstracts are due on Monday May 13th, so keep this deadline in mind and don't forget to apply for a Student Travel Grant. Applications can be downloaded from <http://numbat.murdoch.edu.au/spermatology/asrbtraf.html>)

Junior Scientist Award (JSA) 2002

From Alan Tilbrook Email Alan.Tilbrook@med.monash.edu.au

If you are a PhD student or early in your postdoctoral years, then you should consider nominating your paper for the JSA. After an initial judging of the abstracts, finalists will be selected for a special session of the SRB/ESA annual scientific meeting in Adelaide in September this year where they will also be judged on the quality of the oral presentation. In addition to the prestige associated with the competition, all finalists get a free ticket to the conference dinner and a chance at the big prize, a travel grant worth \$1500. The travel grant is provided by Serono.

In brief, the guidelines for the JSA are:

- a) A candidate must be enrolled as a postgraduate student, or be within three years of completion of such enrolment; candidates may enter as many times as they wish (though only once per year) until they win, after which they are no longer eligible; there is no age limit;
- b) Candidates should be members of the SRB, or have applied to become a member;
- c) Honours students are not encouraged to nominate for the JSA;
- d) The Award will be judged on the basis of the written abstract and an oral presentation, including responses to questions;
- e) The Award is judged on quality of the science, the quality of both presentations, and the knowledge of the candidate; particular concern is paid to hypothesis development, experimental methodology, data analysis and interpretation of the results;
- f) The Award is judged by a JSA Committee (only the chairman of the JSA Committee is officially recognized, the others remain 'unknown') that includes experts in a wide range of areas of reproductive biology.

RFD Travel Award

From Camilla Myers

Managing Editor Reproduction, Fertility and Development

Email: camilla.myers@publish.csiro.au

www.publish.csiro.au/journals/rfd

The RFD Travel Award for 2002 is now open for applications and all PhD student and postdoctoral members of SRB are encouraged to apply. The award is judged on the best paper submitted to or published in the Journal during the 12 months prior to 31 March 2002. So, if you wish to have a chance to win \$1000 to attend either the SSR or SSF meeting, make sure you submit your paper to the Journal and put in your application before March 2002.

For further details of the award and to obtain the application form, visit the RFD website: www.publish.csiro.au/journals/rfd/travel.cfm

I look forward to your applications!

Conference news

Annual Scientific Meeting, Society for Reproductive Biology and the Endocrine Society of Australia 22-23rd September, 2002 Adelaide

From Ray Rodgers, convener E-mail ray.rodgers@adelaide.edu.au. On behalf of the Local Organizing Committee

The planning for the Annual Scientific meeting in Adelaide is progressing smoothly. You will have seen that advertising for the meeting involves the meetings of all the societies, as does the registration. We believe this will enhance the profile for all societies. It should also help attract more sponsorship and support by the trade. The web site (<http://www.asnevents.net.au/esa/>) is up and functioning and please visit it very soon if you have not done so. The BBQ will be affordable this year, and the dinner will be at the Stamford Grand. We have few surprises that we hope will lift the enjoyment of the meeting for you. We feel very pressured to keep up the high standard of the entertainment at the social functions. Every meeting of the committee seems to be dominated by discussion about which bands we will have. I hope after all this the function will be enjoyed by all. Remember also that the University Games are being held in Adelaide the same week as our meeting. As a suggestion, please make some advance bookings for travel; both Virgin and Qantas fly to Adelaide. The accommodation is also slightly higher because of the Games: that said, Adelaide is cheaper than most other cities anyway. So, think about coming to the meeting, and on plan on having a good time as well. See you here soon.

Ray Rodgers

Report from the Program Organizing Committee Chair – Kate Loveland

The Annual Scientific Conference will be held in conjunction with the Endocrine Society of Australia (ESA) on 22-25 September 2002 at the new Adelaide Convention Centre. We are delighted to announce that the Society's major plenary speaker, the Founders' Lecturer, will be Professor Alan Trounson of the Monash Institute of Reproduction and Development.

Symposia include "Transplantation and Reproduction", "Signalling and Reproduction", "Stem Cells", and "Hormones in Reproduction" (jointly with ESA). The opening symposium, "New Horizons in Reproductive Biology", will feature talks on Epigenetics, Nanotechnology, and Wine Making.

The Junior Scientist Award finalist session will again feature in the 2002 conference.

A "Late-Breaking Science" session will again be held jointly with ESA on Wednesday afternoon. This is a chance to present your up-to-the-minute exciting work that is not presented elsewhere in the meeting. Abstract submissions for this session will be accepted for joint consideration by the Chairs of the SRB and ESA Program Organising Committees (POCs) Thursday September 12. Abstract notification will

occur on September Thursday 19. Submit your abstract directly to Kate Loveland (kate.loveland@med.monash.edu.au) with a covering note explaining why your abstract is suitable for presentation in this session. Presentations are limited to 7 minutes.

NEW FOR 2002

Sessions on Male Reproduction and Female Reproduction will be held jointly with ESA. Presenters for these oral sessions will be selected by representatives of both POCs.

Submissions will be by abstract only this year. Please read the instructions for preparation carefully.

Call for Abstracts

The abstract deadline is MONDAY MAY 13th. There will be no hardcopy submissions. In addition to sending your abstract by email, you must also complete and submit the proforma, as indicated on the Conference website (<http://www.asnevents.net.au/esa/>). The POC will review all abstracts for scientific merit and presentation format. Acceptance notification dates are posted on the website.

Travel Grants

Applications are called for student travel grants to the Annual Scientific Meeting 2002.

These grants are intended to assist junior members of the Society to attend. An application form outlining the application process is available through the SRB website (<http://numbat.murdoch.edu.au/spermatology/asrbtrav.html>)



**Melbourne Convention Centre
25th-29th November 2002**

The first Australian Health & Medical Research (AH&MR) Congress will be held in November 2002 in Melbourne. Recent increases in both federal and state government spending on medical research, together with expanding industry involvement, have spawned a rapidly developing biotechnology industry. Modelled on congress style US meetings, the AH&MR Congress will develop the momentum medical research is currently experiencing in Australia.

An essential element for success in scientific endeavour is the exchange of information and ideas across disciplines. Conferences traditionally provide this opportunity, but are so numerous and distant, that financial and time constraints have limited exchange in this country. The synergy and size of the AH&MR Congress will help to redress this in an environment which will promote cross-pollination between disciplines.

Twenty-five Australian societies have committed as stakeholders in the project. Eight of these are bringing their annual conferences within the Congress structure and the others are involved in integrated symposia, spanning multiple disciplines. Combined membership of these exceeds 30,000 Australian researchers, clinicians and educators.

The five-day Congress program will cover a broad cross section of topical areas in a thematic structure. Eminent international and local scientists will be invited to present their latest work in plenary sessions and integrated multi-society symposia. In addition, the Congress will provide a framework for free oral and poster communications and a host of smaller focused meetings. The level and diversity of participation is anticipated to encourage a large trade presence. The facilities of the Melbourne Congress Centre will provide an ideal environment for scientific exchange. All the ingredients exist for the first AH&MR Congress to set a new benchmark in meeting excellence.

Dr Bronwyn Kingwell
AH&MRC Convenor
ASMR National Director
Baker Medical Research Institute

Stress & Reproduction Symposium

The Society for Reproductive Biology (SRB) and the Fertility Society of Australia (FSA) are holding a joint symposium on "Stress & Reproduction" at the AH&MR Congress. The symposium will be held on Tuesday 26th November from 0830-1300.

Confirmed Symposium Speakers

The following confirmed speakers will present at the symposium:

International Speaker

Fred Karsch, University of Michigan, USA

National Speakers

Kim Bennell, University of Melbourne
Roger Cook, Mercy Hospital for Women
Debbie Jeffrey, ACCESS
Mandy Katz, Monash IRD
Kay Oke, Melbourne IVF
Penny Pitt, Royal Women's Hospital
Peter Temple-Smith, Royal Melbourne Zoo
Anne Turner, Monash University
Refer to the website for the latest speaker listings

Further information

A registration brochure will be mailed to all SRB members shortly. In the meanwhile, more information can be found on the web site at www.ahmrcongress2002.conf.au

Ninth International Spermatology Symposium, Cape Town, October 6-12, 2002

From Professor Gerhard Van der Horst
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<http://www.uwc.ac.za> See
<http://numbat.murdoch.edu.au/spermatology/inv2002.htm>

Third EVSSAR Congress on Reproduction in Companion, Exotic and Laboratory Animals

Palais des Congrès Liège Belgium 10-12 May 2002

In May 2002 the EVSSAR will organize the third EVSSAR Congress in association with the University of Liège, the Belgian Veterinarian Association and the Belgian breeding association "Société Royal Saint Hubert". The congress will take place in the centre of Liège, close to the historical and commercial centre. The three-day congress will include sessions on: Recent advances in physio-pathology of companion animal reproduction Biotechnology of reproduction in companion and exotic animals New advances in medical imaging including endoscopy, laparoscopy, MRI and petscan of the reproductive function and pregnancy Recent advances in surgery of reproduction Neonatology and perinatal care Epidemiology and treatment of reproductive cancers in companion animals Education and continuing education in small animal reproduction Ethics in small Animal Reproduction Practicals will be organised on related topics with the objective to present step- by- step procedures. Some of the practicals will be dedicated to surgical procedures and supportive

reproductive care for exotic companion animal species such as, ferrets, rabbits or other small mammals. During the congress, times will be dedicated for scientific and clinical papers presentation. For this reason, this first announcement is also a first call for paper presentation intent. A social program will be set up not only for participants but also for all accompanying persons. The objectives of the social activities will be to make this congress the best "souvenir" of your professional life! Finally, a pre-congress workshop will be organized the day prior to the start of the congress especially for breeders and individual non-veterinarians interested in small animal breeding and reproduction. Information and manifest of intent have to be sent, preferably by e-mail, to: Dr. J. Verstegen, responsible for the local organization of this symposium.

For information: J. Verstegen University of Liege Department of Clinical Sciences, Veterinary College Bd Colonster 20, B44B 4000 Liège Belgium Tel: + 3243664236 Fax: + 3243664231 E-mail: J.Verstegen@ulg.ac.be See <http://www.ulg.ac.be/fmv/EVSSAR/Meetingsfuture.htm>

Fifteenth International Congress on Animal Reproduction (ICAR)

Bahia Convention Center, Salvador, Bahia State, Brazil 8-12th August 2004
Congress Secretary: Dr Marc Henry
Brazilian College of Animal Reproduction (CBRA)
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Hamish Eaton,
Robert Gilchrist,
Wendy Ingman,
Tony Roberts,
Jeremy Thompson

ESA POC Chair: Leon Bach

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