



## ***Society for Reproductive Biology Inc. Newsletter No 47, April 2001***

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

Please note the new logo of the Society – redesigned by Graeme Martin to reflect the name change agreed at the last A.G.M.

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](mailto:cummins@central.murdoch.edu.au), or send the message "subscribe asrbmail" followed by your E mail address to: [majordomo@cleo.murdoch.edu.au](mailto:majordomo@cleo.murdoch.edu.au)

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

Note of interest to members: Developmental Biology is now freely accessible on-line for the remainder of 2001. Electronic access is through the DB homepage <http://www.academicpress.com/db>

#### ***Visitors***

From "Lois Salamonsen" [loiss@smtp.monash.edu.au](mailto:loiss@smtp.monash.edu.au)

Professor Tom Kennedy (University of Western Ontario, London) is currently on sabbatical leave at Prince Henry's Institute and will be here until about the end of May

## Chairman's Report, April 2001

Dear Members of SRB

Your Committee has met on three occasions in the last six months, by teleconference, to plan for the next two to three years. We have agreed the following three major priorities; with enhanced communication as a fourth.

1. **Scientific Meetings:** top quality science, in an excellent setting, with highly professional presentation and organization, is required by all of us. That is what we will get, thanks to Kate Loveland and the Program Organizing Committee, working with John Curlewis and the local organizing Committee. This year we meet jointly with the Endocrine Society of Australia from 9-13 September at the Gold Coast (see details in this newsletter). Next year we will meet, again with the ESA, in Adelaide from 22-25 September.
2. **Membership:** We are looking at ways to improve the membership benefits for full members and graduate student members. We need to maintain a strong recruitment effort for the SRB and we ask each member to recruit one or more new members in the next two years. We are reviewing all of our relevant activities to this purpose. We are following up lapsed members.
3. **Federation with other Societies:** We will continue to meet jointly with the ESA and FSA as the opportunity allows, including joint symposia or other activities in addition to our annual meeting. SRB and FSA will hold a one day Symposium in Melbourne from 25-29 November 2002 under the umbrella of the ASMR/H and MRC (see the note from Graham Jenkin, who represents us on that Committee). We are exploring links with COMBIO, the SSF(UK) and SSR(USA).
4. **Membership Questionnaire:** We are exploring a range of other options in building up our Society. Would you please complete and return the brief questionnaire circulated with this issue of SRB News. It is important to your Committee that we consult and receive views from as many members as possible. Your comments will be held in confidence, but a summary will be circulated and reported to the Annual General Meeting. This will help us in our action plan for 2001-2003.
5. **Roger Short Symposium:** This conference will be held in Port Douglas from 27-30 June, 2001. There are still a few places available. The Registration Form is attached to this newsletter (see below, Ed. – also available from <http://numbat.murdoch.edu.au/spermatology/Registration.pdf>) and should be returned (please) by 20 April. We will acknowledge the receipt of all applications as soon as possible. Please note that Australian and New Zealand registrants should send the form to Tenille Ryan at the Research School of Biological Sciences, Australian National University, Box 475, Canberra, ACT 2601 and fax a copy to Jan Wade in Newmarket, UK, Fax No: 44 1638 667 229 as soon as possible. The Scientific Program for the Symposium was circulated a month ago and I can send you a copy on request. The SRB is pleased to co-sponsor the publication of the conference "From Elephants to Aids", which will be published in JRFD.
6. **Acknowledgements:** On behalf of all of us, I thank Marilyn Renfree and the retiring members of the SRB Committee for their stewardship of the Society. I thank also all of our colleagues on the current Committee, and those on the POC

and LOC, for their hard work behind the scenes to ensure the success of our Society.

With best wishes,

John Hearn (John.hearn@anu.edu.au)

## **Student Representative Report**

From Kara Britt.

### **SRB Students**

The Society for Reproductive Biology values its student membership, they are after all the scientists and clinicians who will be at the forefront of Reproductive Biomedical research in years to come.

SRB includes a student representative within the executive committee to keep informed of the students perspective on issues facing the society. The society fosters students research opportunities, making it both financially possible and enjoyable for membership and conference attendance through reduced fees and registration and annual Travel Grants (SRB and RFD).

SRB encourages communication between student and full members concerning post doctoral employment via our web based jobs notice board. Our annual meeting rewards high achievers with a Junior Scientist Award. Each meeting will have an annual student night and brief student meeting, requesting your views on society matters. .Your membership will be a great way to meet and make collaborations with the experts and fellow students in your field of study.

(Ed: please note the form for applying for student travel assistance on <http://numbat.murdoch.edu.au/spermatology/asrbtraf.html>)

## **Junior Scientist Award**

From Graeme Martin

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 conference 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, a chance at the big prize, a travel grant worth \$1500.

Eligibility: Honours students are NOT encouraged to enter. One of our key assessment criteria is that the work should as far as possible reflect the intellectual input and output of the candidate. It is very rare indeed that an honours student independently conceives of a project, develops the hypothesis, carries out the work, analyses the data and interprets the results. A pedant might argue that none of us do this, and it is true that this cannot be an absolute criterion. However, we all expect an increasing degree of independence in postgraduate students as they develop. Ultimately, of course, they are expected to become a "self-starter" in research and this ability is one of the main points of focus of the JSA award. Consequently, the best candidates and most likely winners will come from the pool containing students who are nearing the end of their doctoral studies, or who have completed their studies and graduated (but are still less than 3 years postdoctoral). The JSA has this focus because we want to reward a junior "scientist", rather than a "student", and we want the candidates, especially in their oral presentation, to be able to demonstrate a more rounded view of their field of study than is usually possible in an abstract. Thus, one of the criteria that the judges use to assess the JSA is evidence of development in the project, that is development from previous studies and thus previous years. Our aim is to maintain the prestige that is currently attached to the JSA. Having said this, the rules are not hard and fast. We encourage all students (except Honours) to enter because the experience and discipline of preparing for the contest can only be valuable.



are members of Societies affiliated to FASTS were invited to take part, as participation was viewed by the Board as a benefit of membership.

The President of FASTS is a member of the Prime Minister's Science, Engineering and Innovation Council (PMSEIC). This body gives FASTS direct access the Prime Minister and seven of his cabinet colleagues with science-related portfolios, and is seen as an increasingly important avenue to the formulation of national policy. It provides an opportunity for FASTS to raise issues, such as the development of antibiotic resistance bacteria as a result of inappropriate use of antibiotics as growth stimulants in livestock. This was an issue brought to us some time ago by the Australian Society of Microbiology.

FASTS has developed its innovative and influential Forums at the National Press Club in Canberra. These give us incredible exposure and let us not only present our ideas, but to develop alliances with other organizations that seek to influence Government. The fact that powerful lobby groups like the Business Council of Australia and the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry are prepared to work with us is a clear signal that business sees the need for Government support for research. The nationally televised Press Club speeches by Ian Lowe, Tim Besley, John Niland and Terry Cutler have helped shape the agenda and keep our issues before Government.

The issuing of occasional papers on matters of importance is a new step for FASTS. Our biotechnology paper by Peter French helped build the pressures for a successful budget outcome in this area. The second occasional paper "Scientists commercializing their Research" was tabled at the Prime Minister's Science Council and provided a vital input into the Batterham Report and the subsequent Innovation Statement, which increased funding to the sector, by \$2.9 billion. The third paper "Mathematical Sciences in Australia" raised important issues about the decline of mathematics and the steady flight Australian mathematicians overseas. Member Societies have been invited to draft other occasional papers.

FASTS' policy is laid down in "Australian Science: an investment for the 21st Century". This 28 page booklet outlines our policies on matters ranging from investment in basic research and venture capital, to school science. It was launched at Parliament House, and all Member Societies of FASTS have an opportunity to comment on drafts of this policy document.

Against this backdrop of highlights, FASTS maintains a regular dialogue on science policy with government, the bureaucracy and other organizations. This includes:

- submissions to Government inquires and reviews
- giving evidence to Parliamentary committees
- meetings with Ministers on specific issues
- raising science issues in the media

Categories of Membership

A. Corporate Membership allows full participation in all FASTS' activities. Corporate Members can vote and stand for office. They attend Council and are represented by a Board member. The rate is \$5.00 for each full member of the Society: i.e. a society with 1000 members pays an annual subscription of \$5000

B. Associate Membership allows societies to trial membership for two years. They attend Council but are not represented by a Board member. The rate is \$2.50 for each member of the society i.e. a society with 1000 full members pays an annual subscription of \$2500. GST is applicable on all membership.

We would be happy to discuss your application for membership, and can arrange for a Board or Executive member to meet with your Executive or Council. Further information is available on the FASTS' web site at: [www.fastsof.org](http://www.fastsof.org)

Yours sincerely

Toss Gascoigne

Executive Director

## Conference news

### ***Annual Scientific Meeting, Jupiter's Casino, Gold Coast (9-12 September 2001)***

From Jon Curlewis, SRB LOC

The ESA and SRB Annual National Conference will be held at Jupiter's Casino on the Gold Coast from Sunday 9 to Wednesday 12 September. A preliminary announcement with web address for further details accompanies this newsletter. The joint ESA/SRB LOC is chaired by Judith Clements (ESA) and includes SRB representatives Jon Curlewis, Peter Kaye and Helen Massa. The conference secretariat is Australian Science Network with their Director, Mike Pickford, well on the way to finalizing plans for the meeting. Registration and submission of abstracts will be via the web so bookmark the following URL:

[www.esa-srb2001.conf.au](http://www.esa-srb2001.conf.au) which is where you will find all the important information for the meeting. **Note that you will not receive a hard copy of the registration form or any further details about the meeting.** So, if you are planning to attend the meeting, complete the expression of interest form, either on the website or accompanying this newsletter.

The overall format for the meeting will be similar to previous joint meetings with ESA. When organizing your flights, please note that there is a symposium on Sunday afternoon (3-5 pm), which is then followed by the Welcome Reception. Note also that the provisional program extends into Wednesday afternoon so don't plan to fly out too early. There will be a postgraduate student BBQ on the Monday evening. This is always a great opportunity for the newer members of the Society to get to know each other and to mix with other conference delegates. The conference dinner will be held at Jupiter's on Tuesday evening.

September is a great time of year in southeast Queensland with winter well and truly over and the days hot and sunny. For those from the southern states, this will be a great opportunity to get over the winter blues. Don't miss the opportunity to enjoy this superb conference venue and to sample some of the delights of the Gold Coast.

### **REPORT FROM THE 2001 POC**

From Kate Loveland

Organization of the 2001 conference is well underway. The Society is privileged to have **Professor David Albertini** from Tufts University School of Medicine, Boston, USA as the **Founder's Lecturer**. His research focus is on regulation of meiotic competence in mammalian oocytes, and he is known for using a wide-range of experimental approaches including cell cycle methods, studies of the cytoskeleton, gamete cryopreservation, and knockout mouse models.

The Sunday afternoon technology-based Symposium, ***Innovative Approaches to Reproductive Biology***, will cover areas such as stem cells, transplantation, real-time PCR and *in vitro* regulation of gene expression. The other Symposia feature coverage of

- ***Reproduction, Genetics and Development***
- ***Cell Cycle***
- ***Global Issues: Human, Pest Control, and Industry Perspectives***
- ***Extracellular Matrix*** (joint with ESA)

Students (and their supervisors!) are reminded that a highlight of this conference has always been the Junior Scientist Award finalists session. Please ensure that your miniposter submission includes your expression of interest to be considered for this prestigious award. The final Program will be rounded out with the usual excellent miniposter and oral presentation sessions.

The SRB Executive has introduced a number of important changes that you should consider as you prepare your miniposter for inclusion in the Conference Proceedings. The SRB miniposters will be posted on the SRB website prior to the conference and published electronically on the website of Reproduction, Fertility and Development after the Conference. You may elect to submit an abstract in lieu of your miniposter for electronic publication only. This must be clearly indicated at the time of submission, following the guidelines available on the Conference website on <http://numbat.murdoch.edu.au/spermatology/webinstruct1.rtf> (*a copy is attached to the end of this newsletter – Ed.*). All submissions must be in an electronic format and **must be received by Monday May 14<sup>th</sup>**.

The Program Organising Committee for the 2001 meeting has worked hard to ensure that we provide a stimulating platform of Symposia and high profile speakers. Your decision to attend and to present your own work through submission of a miniposter will enhance the value of this conference, reinforcing the excellent track record this meeting affords for networking with our scientific colleagues.

The 2001 SRB POC members are: Ann Drummond, Andrew Sinclair, Lois Salamonsen, David Phillips, Anne Turner, Andrew French, and Kate Loveland

## **ASMR H&MRC**

For those of you not yet in the loop, this stands for the **Australian Society for Medical Research Health and Medical Research Congress** to be held at the Melbourne Exhibition Centre on **25<sup>th</sup> –29<sup>th</sup> November 2002**.

The aim of the congress is to bring together as many Australian societies as possible with an interest in health and medical research, to meet at one venue, at the same time, to promote cross-fertilization and to showcase HMR in Australia. Dr Bronwyn Kingwell, of ASMR chairs the organizing committee, and Graham Jenkin is the SRB representative.

A number of societies will hold their annual meeting as part of the congress, while others have expressed interest in being involved at varying other levels ( symposia/workshops etc). SRB proposes to hold a one-day symposium at the congress in conjunction with the FSA. The Perinatal Society of Australia and New Zealand (PSANZ) has expressed interest in joining us. ESA has decided not to be involved at this stage.

Your committee has suggested that “***Stress and Reproduction***” might be an appropriate uniting theme. The APPS has, however, recently approached us with a proposal to combine with PSANZ and, among others, the Australian Society for the Study of Hypertension in Pregnancy to develop a symposium on “***The Fetal Origins of Adult Disease***”.

The committee wishes to canvass the opinion of members of the society regarding possible symposium themes. Suggestions should not be limited to those proposed above. Expressions of interest in convening a symposium are also requested. Any proposals should be relayed to [Graham.Jenkin@med.monash.edu.au](mailto:Graham.Jenkin@med.monash.edu.au) before 11<sup>th</sup> April so that Graham can present a proposal to the next ASMR H&MRC committee meeting.

ASMR hopes that the H&MRC will become an enduring forum to foster multi-disciplinary medical research in Australia and the committee believes that it is worthy of our full support, so put the dates in your 2002 diary now.

Graham Jenkin

(Ed. Further information from Bronwyn Kingwell)

**Australian Health and Medical Research Congress 2002**

**Melbourne Conference and Exhibition Centre**

**November 25th-29<sup>th</sup> 2002**

Planning for the Australian Health and Medical Research Congress is progressing well. Currently four societies in addition to ASMR will hold their annual meeting as part of the Congress while another 19 societies have indicated that they will conduct workshops and/or symposiums (see below). Focus is now on creating an integrated program and selection of high profile international and national speakers to facilitate this process. For further details, please contact Bronwyn Kingwell.

**Annual Meeting**

- ◆ APPS Aust Physiol and Pharmacol Soc
- ◆ ASCEPT Aust Soc of Clin and Exp Pharmacol Toxicol
- ◆ HBPRC High Blood Press Res Council of Aust
- ◆ ASSO Aust Soc for the Stud of Obesity
- ◆ ASMR Australian Society for Medical Research

**Symposia workshops**

- ◆ AAS Atherosclerosis Society
- ◆ ASHM A'asian Soc for HIV Med
- ◆ ASID A'asian Soc for Infect Disease
- ◆ ANZSN Aust & NZ Soc of Nephrol
- ◆ ASRB Aust Soc for Rep Biol
- ◆ ADS Aust Diabetes Soc
- ◆ ARS Aust Rheumatol Ass
- ◆ AVBS Aust Vascular Biol Ass
- ◆ CSANZ Cardiac Soc of Aust & NZ
- ◆ FSA Fertility Soc of Aust
- ◆ HGSA Human Genetics Soc of A'asia
- ◆ ISHR International Soc for Heart Res
- ◆ MBAA Matrix Biol Ass of Aust
- ◆ NARF National Ass Research Fellows
- ◆ PSA Perinatal Soc of Aust
- ◆ SCIL Society for Cytokines Inflammation and Leukocytes
- ◆ SFRR Society for Free Rad Res
- ◆ TrSANZ Transplantation Soc of Aust & NZ
- ◆ ThSANZ Thoracic Society of Aust & NZ

*Dr Bronwyn Kingwell*  
*Head, Clinical Physiology*  
*Baker Medical Research Institute*  
*PO Box 6492, St Kilda Rd Central*  
*Melbourne 8008*  
**AUSTRALIA**  
*Tel 61 3 9276 3261*  
*Fax 61 3 9276 2495*  
*Email b.kingwell@alfred.org.au*

***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)  
Alameda das Princesas, 1275 CEP 31275-180  
Belo Horizonte-MG BRAZIL  
Phone: 55(31)491-7122 Fax: 55(31)491-7025

Email: [cbra@cbra.org.br](mailto:cbra@cbra.org.br) - [www.cbra.org.br](http://www.cbra.org.br)

*(Notes below from Gareth Evans – E-mail [garethe@vetsci.usyd.edu.au](mailto:garethe@vetsci.usyd.edu.au))*

The 14th International Congress on Animal Reproduction (ICAR) was held in Stockholm on 2nd to 6th of July 2000. Australia and New Zealand was well represented by at least 46 antipodean residents and some other Australasian expats, which is a noteworthy and laudable contribution to the total registration of 765. Anne Turner, as the first recipient of the TJ Robinson Travel Award, was among the throng. Most presented posters and we had our fair share of SRB members on the plenary and symposia program. The meeting, which was held at the Stockholm International Fairs Conference Centre, was judged a success from a scientific and social viewpoint. Particularly memorable was the reception held at the magnificent City Hall, where the Nobel Prizes are awarded. There were also a number of highly successful specialist satellite meetings held in neighbouring Nordic countries, including a moveable feast of horse reproduction, which started in Stockholm and finished half way up Finland!

Australia's representatives to the ICAR Standing Committee continue to be Gareth Evans, Chis Maxell and Pat Wright, and John Smith now joins Lindsay Burton as a New Zealand representative. Jock Macmillan retired from the Standing Committee after many years of sterling service. Gareth Evans was re-elected Secretary General of ICAR for another 4 years at the meeting. At the Standing Committee meeting to set the next venue, Brazil won the bid to stage the 15th ICAR in 2004 by a comfortable majority over a strong field of bids from Canada, Israel, Italy and Japan (details in Future Meetings). Somewhat regrettably, for those with University teaching commitments, the dates have been set for 8-12 August, but this has been done to coincide with low season fares and hotel prices in the northern Brazilian seaside resort town of Salvador, which should suit everyone else. Start planning early for what promises to be one of the biggest and most exciting ICAR meetings!

## ***Roger Short Symposium (see Chairman's report, above)***

This will be held at the Sheraton Mirage Hotel, (SeaWorld Drive - Main Beach, Port Douglas, Queensland 4017) from Wednesday 27 June to Sunday 1 July (Core program 28-30 June).

The Symposium, "From Elephants to AIDS", is sponsored by the Havemeyer Foundation. It marks the 70th birthday of Roger Short and should be a landmark scientific event. There will be a limit of 100 participants in addition to speakers, including those from the USA and UK.

Registration: SRB members who wish to attend the conference or to receive additional information should register with the Conference organizer Ms. Jan Wade whose e-mail contact is: [rw.publications@btinternet.com](mailto:rw.publications@btinternet.com). Attendance will be on a first come basis. A registration form is attached to this newsletter and can be downloaded in Acrobat (pdf) format from <http://numbat.murdoch.edu.au/spermatology/Registration.pdf>

When registration is accepted, participants will need to make their own reservations in Port Douglas.

**2-4 May 2001 Science at the Shine Dome.** Canberra, ACT. Research across disciplinary boundaries, opportunities for questions and discussion. Program includes New Fellows seminar, Awards and admission of new Fellows, Cracking the code-using the code: The Human Genome Project and its applications *Public Symposium*

Registration details at [www.science.org.au/sats](http://www.science.org.au/sats) or email [aas@science.org.au](mailto:aas@science.org.au)

**23-24 August 2001 International Ovarian Workshop.** Wallaceville Animal Research Centre, Upper Hutt, New Zealand. Check details at

<http://www.agre-search.cri.nz/conference/ovary>

**30 September - 4 October 2001, ComBio2001.** Canberra, ACT. Incorporates the Annual Meeting for the Australian New Zealand Society for Cell and Developmental Biology. Check details at [www.asbmb.org.au/combio2001](http://www.asbmb.org.au/combio2001)

**25-30 Nov 2001, the 17<sup>th</sup> World Congress on Fertility and Sterility.** Incorporating the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Fertility Society of Australia, Melbourne Victoria. Check details at [www.iffs2001.com](http://www.iffs2001.com)

## ***Australian Academy of Science Boden Conference on Reproductive Immunology***

This conference took place from February 19-21 in Lorne, Victoria, and was attended by over 60 local and overseas reproductive biologists, immunologists and clinicians. The conference was held under the auspices of the Australian Academy of Science, but was jointly sponsored by the Society for Reproductive Biology, the Fertility Society of Australia and the Australasian Society for Immunology. Additional support was provided by the Pest Animal Control CRC, the Reproductive Medicine Unit of Adelaide University, and the Monash Institute of Reproduction and Development.

The conference was a great success, scientifically and socially. The venue, Erskine House, looked after us extremely well, and even the weather conspired to ensure that everyone would remember their three days spent down on the beach discussing current concepts in reproductive immunology. Of the international participants, Andrew Mellor (Georgia) spoke on the mechanisms of immune deviation at the maternal-foetal interface, and Anne Croy (Guelph) presented recent data regarding the role of natural killer cells in pregnancy. Deborah Anderson and Alison Quayle (Boston) spoke about the impact of infection and HIV, in particular, on the reproductive tract. Buck Hales (Chicago) outlined how immune responses impact upon steroid hormone production and actions in the male. Rodney Kelly (Edinburgh) explained the role of inflammatory regulators in endometrial and cervical development, Mats Brannstrom (Goteborg) spoke about the role of inflammatory cells in ovarian function and ovulation, while Larry Chamley (Auckland) brought everyone up to date with recent developments in the contentious field of anti-phospholipid antibodies. In addition, there were many equally exciting presentations from Australian scientists and clinicians, and the meeting was attended by a number of enthusiastic students. For those of you who couldn't make it, be assured that the conference established that the field of Reproductive Immunology is alive and well in Australia, and this won't be the last meeting of it's kind.

The organizers were Mark Hedger (Melbourne), Mike Holland (Canberra) and Sarah Roberston (Adelaide), with the superb administrative assistance of Belinda Dew.

Mark Hedger, for the organizing committee. E mail  
[mark.hedger@med.monash.edu.au](mailto:mark.hedger@med.monash.edu.au)

## **Positions available**

### ***Research Assistant/Research Fellow***

#### **MONASH INSTITUTE OF REPRODUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT**

#### **MONASH UNIVERSITY, AUSTRALIA**

The animal biotechnology group is seeking an expression of interest from people keen to participate in a new Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) for Innovative Dairy Products involving collaboration with both government and private industry. The CRC is aimed at the development of innovative products using genomic technologies and will commence July 2001.

Several Research Assistant/Research Fellow positions will be available at the Monash Institute of Reproduction to support research and development on the production of elite cattle using cloning technologies. The group is interested in hearing from people with skills in the following areas: - embryology, embryo manipulation, gene expression, chromatin structure, nuclear remodelling, proteome and microarray analysis. The positions will be located at the Monash Institute of Reproduction and Development (Monash University), a purpose built research facility on the grounds of the Monash Medical Centre. Salary will relate to experience and qualifications. Both Australian and International candidates are encouraged.

While the group's main research interest is with cattle, the successful applicant will be expected to interact with current research and development programs involving cloning of laboratory and other domestic animals as well as with the rest of the research groups at the Monash Institute. The Institute has an international reputation in several key activities including early human development, animal conservation research, stem cell biology, functional genomics, men's health and fertility and birth and neonatal health.

If you seek any further information, please contact:

Centre for Early Human Development  
Monash Institute of Reproduction and Development  
Monash University, c/- Monash Medical Centre  
246 Clayton Rd, Clayton, Victoria, 3164, Australia  
Tel (03) 9594 7300  
Fax (03) 9594 7311

Prof. Alan Trounson

E mail: [Jillian.McFadyean@med.monash.edu.au](mailto:Jillian.McFadyean@med.monash.edu.au)

Dr Andrew French

E mail: [Andrew.French@med.monash.edu.au](mailto:Andrew.French@med.monash.edu.au)

Dr Ian Lewis

E mail: [Ian.Lewis@med.monash.edu.au](mailto:Ian.Lewis@med.monash.edu.au)

## ***Lecturer in Zoology (Reproductive & Developmental Biology)***

Department of Zoology, University of Melbourne

The University of Melbourne is an internationally recognized teaching and research institution. Commitment to excellence is demonstrated by innovative academic programs and its record as Australia's largest recipient of competitive research funding

The Department: The Department is a major contributor to the Faculty of Science's Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Biomedical Science and the Environmental Science program. It has a vigorous teaching and research program ranging from classical zoology to biomedical research.

**The Position:** This continuing position is available from 1st July, 2001. The lecturer will participate in undergraduate and postgraduate teaching programs in reproductive physiology and developmental biology. The applicant is expected to initiate and maintain an active research program that will attract postgraduate students, international exchanges and external research funding from national and competitive research bodies as well as collaboration with industry.

**The Person:** The appointee will have a PhD or equivalent qualifications or experience, and have established a reputation for innovative and productive research in reproductive and developmental biology. We are seeking a person with a demonstrated expertise in molecular biology and research interests in fields that complement those of existing research groups within the department. We welcome applications from candidates with interests and expertise in biomedical or biotechnological research. The appointee will have excellent teaching skills and have an interest in undergraduate course development. The appointee will be required to supervise research projects undertaken by Honours and Postgraduate students.

**The Benefits:** Salary \$51,518 – \$61,176 p.a. Lecturer (Level B) plus employer superannuation contributions (17%) and salary packaging options.

**Contact:** Further information and position description is available on our web site at <http://www.zoology.unimelb.edu.au> or contact the Head of Department, email: head@zoology.unimelb.edu.au; Fax +61 3 93481719; Tel: +61 3 8344 6259.

**Applications to:** Director, Human Resources, The University of Melbourne, Victoria 3010. Australia; Fax +61 3 8344 4694 by 27th April 2001. Quote Position number Y0010130 and include the names (with email address and phone and facsimile numbers) of at least three referees in your application.

## **Postdoctoral Scientist**

**DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY,  
THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE**

**The Position:** This project involves a unique collaboration between The Zoology department at the University of Melbourne and Prince Henry's Institute, and the successful applicants time will be divided between the two institutions. The aim of the project is to use evolutionary changes in the ATRX gene to deduce how this gene functions in the human sex differentiation pathway. You will analyse the role and action of the marsupial homologues to the human sex reversing ATRX gene during marsupial sexual differentiation, at both the gene and protein level. The position will involve extensive molecular analyses of the X and Y linked homologues with a focus on identifying the promoter regions responsible for their expression. This will also include extensive protein studies to identify binding domains within the gene and its promoter and to identify the factors that bind these sites.

**The Person:** You will have a Bachelor of Science (Honours) and a PhD in Genetics, Biochemistry or other related field. Previous experience in molecular genetics and/or protein biochemistry will be of advantage. You will be a committed enthusiastic team member, a good communicator and an independent worker.

**The Benefits:** Salary Research Fellow Grade 1 (Level 6)

**Employment Type:** This is a fixed-term (Research) position available for three years.

**Contact:** For further information and a position description visit our web site at <http://www.zoology.unimelb.edu.au>

**Applications To:** Director, Human Resources, The University of Melbourne, Victoria 3010. Australia; Fax +61 3 8344 4694 by 20th April 2001. Quote Position number Y0010204 and include the names (with email address and phone and facsimile numbers) of at least three referees in your application.

**Applications close:** 30/4/2001

***An equal opportunity employer***

## **Committee and other links 2001**

### **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)

### **Chairman**

Professor John P. Hearn  
Director, Research School of Biological Sciences,  
Deputy CEO, Pest Animal Control CRC,  
Australian National University, GPO Box 475,  
Canberra, ACT 2601  
(02) 6249 3841 Fax 02 6249 0758  
Email [hearn@rsbs.anu.edu.au](mailto:hearn@rsbs.anu.edu.au)

### **Honorary Secretary**

Dr Tina Lavranos  
Department of Medicine,  
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## SOCIETY FOR REPRODUCTIVE BIOLOGY CALL FOR MINIPOSTER SUBMISSIONS

Miniposter submissions are called for the 2001 Annual Conference of the SRB at Conrad Jupiter Hotel from September 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>. The submission deadline is **no later than Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2001**.

The Program Organizing Committee (Kate Loveland, Ann Drummond, Andrew French, David Phillips, Lois Salamonsen, Andrew Sinclair and Anne Turner) reserves the right, on behalf of the SRB, to accept miniposters and then allocate them to either a miniposter or oral presentation. No conventional poster presentations will be available for SRB sessions. Miniposters must include sufficient original data for the Program Organizing Committee to determine the scientific merit of the study.

### **Please note the following important departures from previous years:**

- 1) Prior to the meeting, miniposters will be posted on the SRB website.
- 2) The Conference Proceedings containing the miniposters will be distributed as a hard copy only at the conference. This year, distribution will be only to those who register to attend the SRB conference.
- 3) The miniposters will be placed on the website of Reproduction, Fertility and Development as an electronic supplement to the journal after the Conference. **You have the option of choosing to submit an abstract for electronic publication in addition your miniposter that will be published only in the Conference Proceedings and serve as your submission for presentation at the 2001 SRB Conference.**

### 1. MINIPOSTER PREPARATION

#### **GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS**

SRB miniposters will be posted on the website of *Reproduction, Fertility and Development* and published in the Society's Proceedings. It is imperative, therefore, that the following instructions be followed precisely. Failure to observe these could result in the miniposter being deemed unacceptable. **You have the option of choosing to submit an abstract (instructions below) for electronic publication in addition to your miniposter that will then be published only in the Conference Proceedings.**

Miniposters accepted for presentation at the Annual Conference will not be edited by the Society, but will be reproduced exactly as submitted. Responsibility for the accuracy of the communication rests with the authors. The Committee may require the presenting author to modify a miniposter before acceptance. Miniposter and abstract submission will only be through the conference website: <http://www.asnevents.net.au/esa/>. If you are unclear about any of the formatting requirements outlined below please contact the Conference Organisers, Australian Science Network, Mike Pickford ph 03 5983 2400 or email [mp@asnevents.net.au](mailto:mp@asnevents.net.au) **before submission.**

Miniposters must include sufficient original data for the Committee to judge the scientific merit of the study and should contain a statement of the aims of the study, a

brief outline of methods, the results obtained in sufficient detail to justify the conclusions reached, and the conclusions. Statements such as 'the results will be discussed' are not acceptable. Miniposters must be written using English and **not** American spelling.

Title, Authors' Names, and addresses should be centered on successive lines. Indicate the presenting author by underlining that name.

Abbreviations introduced by the authors must be given in full the first time in the text. Systeme Internationale (SI) units are preferred. Footnotes are identified by lower case letters in parentheses beginning (a).

Generic names of drugs should be used in the text followed in parentheses by the proprietary name and supplier. Identify literature references by consecutive numbers in parentheses in the text and list them sequentially at the end of the miniposter, eg:

1. Jubb KV, Kennedy PC (1970) Pathology of domestic animals. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edn, Vol 2, p 353. Academic Press.
2. Casare APE, Kendrick JW, Kennedy PC (1971) *Am J Vet Res* 32:1543-1562.

## MINIPOSTER FORMAT

Miniposters will be reproduced from the file supplied by the authors for the Proceedings. Color reproductions are NOT possible. It is the authors' responsibility to ensure that the attachment is in a form readily retrieved. The file should be prepared so that the printout (ie. all material including text, references, tables and figures) fits within a box 18 cm wide by 26 cm high). Times New Roman font (minimum 10 point) or similar should be used. For both IBM and Mac users, any Microsoft-compatible software is suitable. Please do not use MS Word "styles" for formatting headings, etc. Miniposters submitted as an Adobe pdf file are also acceptable. A template is available from the ASRB website.

## 2. MINIPOSTER SUBMISSION

Miniposters should be sent as a single file via the conference website **no later than Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2001**. This must be accompanied by a completed 'pro-forma' for electronic submission, available from the ASRB website (<http://numbat.murdoch.edu.au/spermatology/asrb99.html>). If you wish to be considered for the Junior Scientist Award (JSA), please indicate this at the time of miniposter submission to ensure that your miniposter is forwarded to the JSA Committee for consideration.

## 3. ABSTRACT PREPARATION

Abstracts should conform to a standard format that includes an explanation of the aims/hypotheses to be tested, description of the main experimental procedures, results and conclusions. The requested font is Times Roman, and do not use any MS Word "styles" in formatting. The overall length of abstracts must not exceed 400 words, and the abstract must include the title, full authoring and institution designation. The presenting speaker's name should be underlined.

#### 4. ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Abstracts should be submitted as a single file via the conference website no later than Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2001. They must be accompanied by your miniposter and proforma, according to the instructions outlined above. Please ensure that your format for electronic publication is specified at the time of submission as indicated on the website.