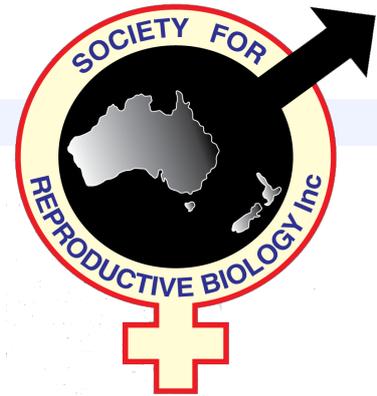


# Society for Reproductive Biology Newsletter

August 2012



## A Farewell message from the President

This will be my last Newsletter as President of the SRB, and I shall soon be leaving you in the very capable hands of the incoming President, Professor Eileen McLaughlin from Newcastle. For the past three years, Eileen has expertly served the Society in the heavy-lifting role of POC Co-chair, and she will be able to bring her deep experience and expertise to the much easier (I must confess) role of President.

The last three years seem to have gone by very quickly, but looking back they have been very full. Most notably, the Society has experienced an extended period of growth in membership and participation at the Annual Meeting, hosting of the 2<sup>nd</sup> World Congress of Reproduction in Cairns, establishment of the SRB Fellowships, and rejuvenation of the relationship with our official society journal, *Reproduction Fertility and Development*. Financially, the society is in excellent shape, having endured the GFC with only minor flesh wounds, and this has made it possible to create new initiatives to support our early career scientists and students, in particular. They are the bright future of our Society.

This month, we have a very full and exciting meeting on the Gold Coast planned, with our sister societies, the ESA and ANZPRA, with lots of the usual good science, training and networking activities. Later in the year, the SRB is hosting a symposium on Endometriosis at the AHMRC in Adelaide (see article in this newsletter), which I encourage all members to attend.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all the Councillors and members of the various POCs and LOCs who have served the Society during my tenure, and done most of the work. I especially wish to thank my Society Secretaries, Chris Grupen and Jane Girling. They have the toughest job in the Society, without question, and they made my job very easy. Thanks, Chris and Jane. I am also pleased to acknowledge and thank our many sponsors and supporters, past and present, and particularly *Reproduction Fertility and Development*, the Research Centre for Reproductive Health, the Centre for Reproduction and Genomics, the Centre for Reproduction and Development, Merck Serono, the ARC Centre of Excellence in Biotechnology



and Development, Meat and Livestock Australia, ANZPRA and Oozoa Biomedical. In closing, I wish to thank the entire membership for creating such a wonderful, dynamic and successful Society, and for giving me the opportunity to serve the Society in this role over the past three years. It has been an honour and a pleasure.

I wish the Society well, and look forward to going back to being a civilian, when I shall be able to enjoy SRB Annual Meetings without anxiety and constant meetings.

Kind regards

**Mark Hedger**



## A Call for Proceedings

Occasionally, the Society receives requests for past abstracts, which we often struggle to accommodate. More importantly, it is important to preserve the history and legacy of the Society. Accordingly, the Society is hoping to eventually digitise the Proceedings of all past Annual Conferences. This is not so difficult for the last few years, but the years before the digital age may be lost to us forever if we are not careful and do not act soon. What we are looking for are members of the Society who have partial or complete sets of the Proceedings from 1969 through to the 2000s that they could donate or loan to the Society for copying purposes. Please contact the SRB Secretary Jane Girling by email at: [societyreproductivebiology@gmail.com](mailto:societyreproductivebiology@gmail.com) or [jgirling@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:jgirling@unimelb.edu.au) if you can help us out.

The Annual Scientific Meeting of the Endocrine Society of Australia and the Society for Reproductive Biology 2012

gold coast convention and exhibition centre

26-29th August, 2012





# SRB Annual Scientific Meeting 26-29<sup>th</sup> August, 2012

## Award Lectures

This year's **SRB Founders Lecturer** is **John Carroll** - Professor of Reproductive Physiology and Head of the Division of Biosciences at UCL London. John has worked on oocyte and embryo development since taking on an undergraduate research project with Peter Kaye and Jim Cummins at the University of Queensland. His work has focussed on understanding how oocytes grow and develop the capacity to undergo fertilization and early development. More recent work has focussed on understanding the role of mitochondrial activity and dynamics, how the meiotic spindle polarizes the cortex to allow polar body extrusion and how the meiotic cell divisions are controlled.

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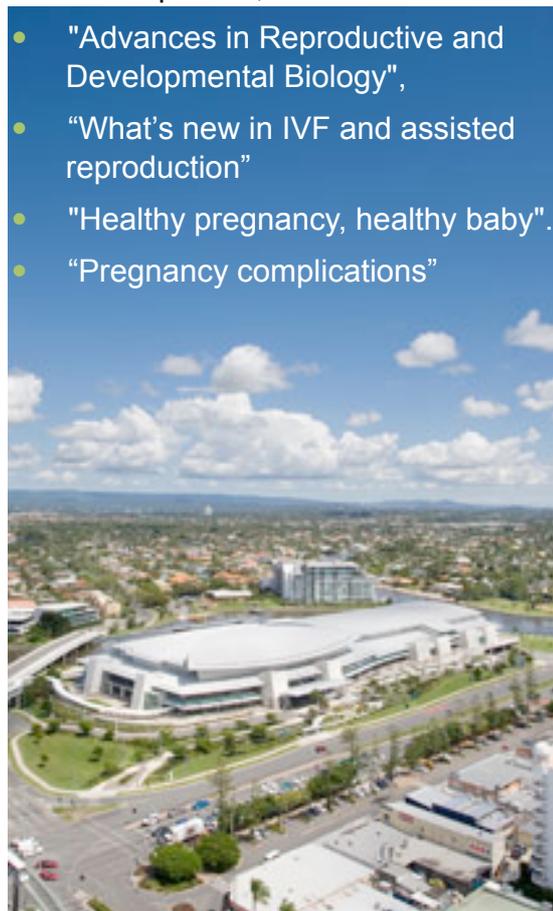
The **SRB Presidents Lecturer** is **Keith Jones** Professor of Human Physiology, University of Newcastle NSW) whose research employs fluorescent proteins to study the process of meiosis in real-time. His novel approach has led to significant insights into the understanding of how the meiotic divisions are regulated in oocytes. Chromosome imbalances are among the most common birth defects and Professor Jones lecture will focus on the chromosomal, metabolic, environmental, and hormonal factors which predispose human eggs to aneuploidy. Both plenaries are sponsored by Reproduction Fertility and Development.

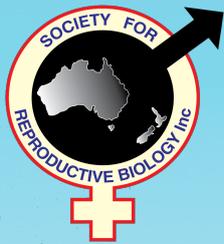
## Plenary Lectures

The committee of SRB Annual Scientific Meeting are also pleased to advise that finalised plenary and invited speaker list is now available on the website. The opening workshop is on:  
**"Breast Cancer Biology"**

### Symposium themes include:

- "Epigenetics and the modulation of gene expression in gonadal development",
- "Advances in Reproductive and Developmental Biology",
- "What's new in IVF and assisted reproduction"
- "Healthy pregnancy, healthy baby".
- "Pregnancy complications"





# SRB Annual Scientific Meeting 26-29<sup>th</sup> August, 2012

## Social Events

Eileen and Charles, the Program Organisers also strongly encourage you to attend "**The Meeting of Minds**" get together at this year's Meeting.

The informal setting of BBQ is a great opportunity for **students, early career researchers & chief investigators** alike to pick the brains of their peers and professors. Held at Kurrawa Surf Lifesaving Club on **Monday 27th August**.

[www.kurrawasurf.com.au](http://www.kurrawasurf.com.au)

The function includes a BBQ dinner, drinks & a DJ with dance floor.



All ESA-SRB Plenary and Symposia Speakers will be in attendance and at \$35 for students & \$55 for ECRs and CI's - a very reasonable priced option! To register please visit the conference website: [www.esa-srb.org.au](http://www.esa-srb.org.au)

### ESA-SRB Conference Dinner

7:00 PM – 11:30 PM

Foyer E

## Early Career Researchers

There will be several events at ESA-SRB 2012 of specific interest to ECRs.

These include the **ECR meeting** on Monday, 6:30pm-7:00pm, at which ECR registration subsidies will be presented (among other items on the agenda).

At 7:30pm that evening, the ESA/SRB "**Meeting of the Minds**" social event will take place at the Kurrawa Surf Club - right on the beach approximately a 10 minute walk from the convention centre - and I do encourage all of you to book your ticket for this if you haven't already done so. It promises to be a great night.

On Tuesday, grab your lunch and head in to the "**Meet the Professor**" session, beginning at 12:45pm. Professors John Carroll, Paul Thomas, Dagmar Wilhelm, and Peter Nathanielsz will give us some insight into their research and career paths, providing a great opportunity for you to question these luminaries in an informal setting. There's also **ESA's Career Development Breakfast** at 7am on Wednesday, which comes in two flavours (Basic or Clinical), and is again sure to be an enlightening session. Of course, I hope everyone's planning to attend the Welcome Function on Sunday evening (5:30-7pm) and the Conference Dinner on Wednesday (7-11:30pm), which are typically the social highlights of these meetings! I look forward to seeing you all on the Gold Coast in a few weeks time.

**Jonathan McGuane (ECR Rep)**



# SRB Annual Scientific Meeting 26-29<sup>th</sup> August, 2012

## Students

At this year's annual scientific meeting the fun starts on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> August at 7 pm with the awarding of **travel grants**. The student body will then nominate and elect the new SRB Student Representatives. Following our **election** we move onto the **student/scholar social function** at Kurrawa Surf Club where everyone has the opportunity to network with academics in a less formal setting and get to know your fellow students. Tuesday night we have the conference dinner and Wednesday lunch is our **Meet the Professor** session. This session allows all students to meet with leading academics in the field and ask them some of those basic questions you have. These may be from how to be a successful student and setup for that post-doc opportunity through to how our leaders have managed the various challenges they have faced in their career. This session is extremely helpful for getting a variety of perspectives from people who have successfully steered their academic careers. Don't forget to turn up and support your fellow students when they present and to catch the amazing speakers we have at this year's conference. I look forward to seeing everyone at the conference this year!

**Shane Sykes**  
(Australian Student Rep)

## Reproduction, Fertility & Development (RFD)

**Reproduction, Fertility and Development** is proud to be the official journal of the Society for Reproductive Biology. Published 8 times a year, the journal features internationally relevant research and reviews on all aspects of vertebrate reproduction & developmental biology, including assisted reproduction technologies in medicine, livestock production, wildlife conservation and pest management.



To find out more about the journal's scope, sign up to RSS feeds, submit an article or to learn more about the benefits of publishing in **Reproduction, Fertility and Development** – such as Online Early publication before print, free colour online and in PDFs, no page charges, and Open Access options for all authors – visit the journal's website at:

[www.publish.csiro.au/journals/rfd](http://www.publish.csiro.au/journals/rfd).

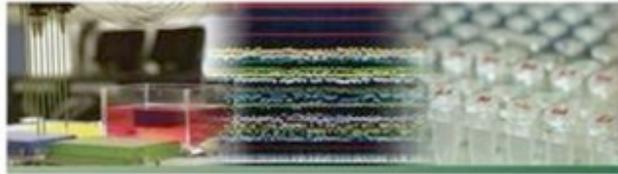
You can also visit our booth at the SRB's Annual Conference in Gold Coast to talk to publisher Caroline Hadley and Editor-in-Chief Tony Flint.



# SRB Endometriosis Symposium



The Australian  
Health & Medical  
Research Congress



25th - 28th November 2012, Adelaide Convention Centre

## The Society for Reproductive Biology is running a one-day symposium on 'Endometriosis' at the 2012 Australian Health and Medical Research Congress.

- The Congress will be held at the Adelaide Convention Centre from November 25<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>, and will involve 15 societies in total. The SRB Endometriosis Symposium will be held on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> November.
- In addition to the stellar symposium and plenary session speakers, the SRB will be accepting abstracts for oral presentation in a free communication session and for posters. The program will also include professional development sessions for early to mid-career researchers.
- Abstract submission deadline for oral presentations and the early bird registration rate is August 24<sup>th</sup>. Poster abstract submissions will be accepted until September 21<sup>st</sup>.
- The SRB will be awarding prizes for the best oral and best poster presentations.
- Please visit [www.ahmrcongress.org.au](http://www.ahmrcongress.org.au) for biographies and all program details. A summary of the symposium speakers is listed below.

We look forward to seeing you in Adelaide!

### **Symposium Program: Monday November 26**

#### *Endometriosis: Risk Factors, Impact and Diagnosis*

*Dr Bruce Lessey (University Medical Group, South Carolina, USA)*

*Dr Grant Montgomery (Queensland Institute of Medical Research)*

*Dr Susan Evans (Adelaide)*

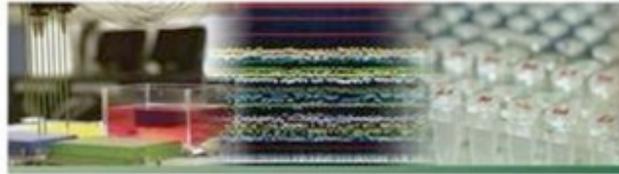
*Dr Louise Hull (University of Adelaide)*



# SRB Endometriosis Symposium



The Australian  
Health & Medical  
Research Congress



25th - 28th November 2012, Adelaide Convention Centre

## Endometriosis: Treatment, and Frontiers in Research

*Thierry Vancaillie (Women's Health and Research Institute of Australia)*

*Prof Peter Rogers (University of Melbourne)*

*Prof Ian Fraser (University of Sydney)*

*A/Prof Caroline Gargett (Monash University)*

### **Registration Subsidies**

The SRB will be providing registration subsidies of \$150 to eligible delegates. Applicants must be financial members of the SRB and either fulltime postgraduate or honours students, or early career researchers (within 8 years post-receipt of their doctorate). Applicants will need to have an abstract selected for presentation at the Endometriosis Symposium component of AHRMC (oral or poster).

Application form: please see the SRB website:

<http://www.srb.org.au/annual-scientific-conference/srb-endometriosis-symposium-at-the-ah-and-mrc-2012/>

Completed application forms must be submitted to A/Prof. Jeremy Thompson (address below) no later than the deadline for abstract submission (**21 September 2012**).

### **Travel subsidy forms to be sent to:**

A/Prof. Jeremy G. Thompson  
2nd Floor, Medical School South (DP521), Frome Road,  
The University of Adelaide,  
Adelaide, SA 5005,  
AUSTRALIA

Phone : +61 8 83038152 Fax : +61 8 83038177

Mob : 0408 849172 - preferred contact method

e-mail: [jeremy.thompson@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:jeremy.thompson@adelaide.edu.au)



# Highlights from ICAR 2012

by TJ Robinson Awardee Tamara Leahy

## **The 17th International Congress on Animal Reproduction (ICAR) Vancouver, Canada, 29 July – 2 August 2012**

In a few brief paragraphs I'll attempt to convey my experience at the recent ICAR congress in Vancouver as a recipient of the TJ Robinson Travel Award. Firstly, I would like to thank SRB and the local ICAR organising committee for making this award possible. It was an honour to be linked with the great work of Professor Robinson and to be given the chance to discuss some of my own research and that of my colleagues.

The conference kicked off with a fascinating journey, led by Professor Cobb, through the early discoveries of sperm and egg in 17th century, showing rare insight into both the well known, and more obscure, characters that shaped the field of reproduction. This was followed by an overview of recent research from Professor Aitken's lab. Together these presentations provided a strong contextual framework linking old and new which resonated throughout the rest of the conference.

The conference used multiple forms of communication including electronic posters, paper posters, symposiums and workshops that allowed many diverse topics to be discussed under quite intimate and informal circumstances. As the topic of my doctoral studies was "the effect of seminal plasma on sperm" a personal favourite of mine was the enthusiasm evident in the "seminal plasma" workshop. The identification of biomarkers of fertility (proteinaceous, fluorochromes, other) was a common theme across many research groups and presented some interesting correlations which highlighted the complexity of fertility as a single trait. Two notable examples which challenged conventional semen analysis included the positive correlation between oxidative damage (Gibb et al, poster 3054) and fertility in Thoroughbred stallions (due to higher metabolic rates) and capacitation markers (increased phosphotyrosine content and hyperactivated motility) and fertility of frozen-thawed bull sperm (Rajamanickam et al, poster 3002).

Finally, it was wonderful to meet up with old mates and form new friendships in the spectacular surroundings of Vancouver. The breathtaking mountains framing the city were a constant reminder you had left Australia far behind and short day trips from the city brought back many stories of bear and whale sightings. I strongly encourage ECR scientists to apply for this award in the future and help maintain a connection to this conference which hosts both basic and applied research from a diverse range of species.

For congress proceedings please see: Reproduction in Domestic Animals Special Issue: Proceedings of the 17th International Congress on Animal Reproduction (ICAR) [Volume 47, Issue Supplement s4, page 1, August 2012](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1439-0531.2012.02133.x/pdf)



## SRB Council

On behalf of the SRB membership we would like to extend an enormous thank you for the contributions of the outgoing President **Mark Hedger** and Treasurer **Rick Nicholson**, particularly over the last 3 years.

We would also like to take this opportunity to announce and welcome the incoming members to these roles, to commence following the AGM on the Gold Coast.

**Eileen McLaughlin** will be the new President (was president elect).

**Jeremy Thompson** will be our new treasurer

**Rebecca Robker** will be our new ordinary council member.

**Jonathan McGuane** now joins Ellen Menkhorst as the ECR representatives.

The new student reps will be voted for during the conference and we encourage all students to nominate suitable and enthusiastic candidates!

## Upcoming Meetings

**10th** International Congress of Andrology

**GLOBAL ANDROLOGY AND MEN'S HEALTH: Present Challenges For Future Generations**

**23-26 February 2013**

**MELBOURNE AUSTRALIA**

**10th International Congress of Andrology 2013**

23-26 February 2013

Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

[www.ica2013.com](http://www.ica2013.com)

E: [ica2013@wsm.com.au](mailto:ica2013@wsm.com.au)

**Want to include something in our next newsletter?**

Please email Kirsty Pringle: [kirsty.pringle@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:kirsty.pringle@newcastle.edu.au)

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