SOCIETY FOR

Reproductive Biology

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PLUS of the Photos of and dinner anty afterparty



President's Report

SRB is about to undergo a significant change. We've had the last of our August meetings and from 2020, SRB will hold its annual meeting in late October or early November. This change is a much better fit with University schedules so it will hopefully mean easier attendance and scientific diversity. As outlined below, the 2020 meeting will be held November 1-4 in Christchurch, New Zealand, in partnership with the Endocrine Society of Australia, the Australian Paediatric Endocrine Group and the New Zealand Society for Endocrinology Society. The scientific program is well advanced and looks outstanding. Of importance to SRB members in particular, the 2020 Founders' lecturer will be Professor Neil Gemmell (https://gemmelllab.otago.ac.nz/our-team/16-team/group-leader/12-professorneil-gemmell) from the University of Otago, and the President's lecturer will be Professor Bruce Murphy from the University of Montreal (https://www.rqr.umontreal.ca/en/teammembers/bruce-d-murphy-phd-2/). Both are leaders in their areas of research and outstanding communicators. We are honoured that they have accepted the invitation.

The holding of the annual meeting in New Zealand is an excellent opportunity to engage with and collaborate more with our New Zealand members. This does, however, come with some potential logistical challenges for the Australian-based members that we are doing our best to minimise. Because of changes in time zones between Australia and New Zealand (+3 hours *cf* Melbourne Summer time), SRB members will realistically need to arrive in Christchurch Saturday October 31st.

President's Report, cont'd

Given this, we have decided to start the program at 9am on Sunday November 1st and finish the meeting a few hours earlier on Wednesday the 4th so everyone can get home that night (if they want to). Regardless, while the airlines have indicated there will likely be more direct flights to-and-from Christchurch and Australia added in the next few months, I strongly recommend you book your flights early so as to minimise inconvenience. For those concerned about potential costs, the ECR and student travel support schemes will be in place for members, and I remind you that we'll be working in NZ\$ (Currently NZ\$1 = Aus\$0.94).



SRB committee members - the work behind the scene

I also want to take a few lines to reflect back on the 2019 annual meeting. It was a great success. There were 1,000 registrants for the combined meeting (an all time record) and the feedback was overwhelmingly good. Thank you to Prof. Andy Pask and Dr John Schjenken for delivering an outstanding scientific program. While the scientific quality of the conference was evident at the AGM, I am delighted to report that it was also a financial success with ~\$28k returned to SRB as profit. This is significantly more than anticipated and we thank ASN for their diligence in keeping the budget very tight and continuing to work in SRB's interest.

President's Report, cont'd

The other event that is on the SRB horizon is the World Congress of Reproductive Biology (https://wcrb2020.medmeeting.org/en. This will be held in Beijing September 16-18. The SRB member of the program organising committee is Prof. Eva Dimitriadis (University of Melbourne). While we are yet to receive the full program, the SRB speakers have been decided and include: Assoc. Prof. Pradeep Tanwar (University of Newcastle) as the SRB Plenary Lecturer; and Dr Jeremy Smith (University of Western Australia), Dr Karla Hutt (Monash University), Michael Garratt (University of Otago) and Dr Liz Bromfield (University of Newcastle and University of Utrecht) as symposium speakers. The abstract submission deadline is expected to be April 30 2020 so please check the website regularly. We will circulate information as it becomes available. We anticipate SRB will have a travel support scheme.

Lastly, I want to thank the entire membership for a successful 2019. I want to thank the entire SRB council (present and outgoing) for all the work they do on behalf of the membership. They are a pleasure to work with. I hope the funding agencies were generous to you and I wish you a joyous holiday season.

Prof Moira
O'Bryan

Next year's meeting



I am delighted to announce that the 2020 meeting will be held in Christchurch, New Zealand, November 1-4. This "Return to Christchurch" will be an important event for the society and a great way to demonstrate our respect and support for the exceptional reproduction research that happens in New Zealand. Members based in Australia, we can sometimes forget that it usually costs a little extra for your New Zealand members to attend the annual conference. We also suspect SRB is missing out on hearing about the great research that is happening across New Zealand. Please promote this opportunity to your friends and colleagues.

Christchurch, New Zealand, home of the SRB 2020 conference



More immediately, the society owes great thanks to Andrew Pask (University of Melbourne) and John Schjenken (recently moved to the University of Newcastle) as our Program Organising Committee co-chairs, who have pulled together an excellent program for the 2020 SRB meeting. The logistics are coming together well and it promises to be a great meeting. As always, it is a pleasure to work with ESA. *Moira O'Bryan*

Those who do us service



We warmly welcome Our New Fellows of the Society of Reproduction.

From left to right: Laura Parry, Stephen Johnston, Jane Girling and Evdokia Dimitriadis



We gratefully thank: Our outgoing committee members. From left to right: Elizabeth Bromfield, Mark Green, Patrick Western, Sarah Moody, Jo Bowles and John Schjenken.

Save the Date







Clinical Trial

COMMA is developing a Core Outcome Set for menopause, as part of the Core Outcomes in Effectiveness (COMET http://www.comet-initiative.org/) initiative. Until now, clinical trials in menopause have measured many different outcomes limiting our ability to compare treatments and combine data. COMMA is asking clinicians, researchers and women who have experienced menopause around the world to tell us which symptoms should be prioritised. This is a unique opportunity for you to improve research in menopause by telling us which measures should be included in the Core Outcome Set. COMMA is funded by the University of Melbourne and supported by menopause societies –internationally and the leading journals in menopause.

The survey can be accessed at https://delphimanager.liv.ac.uk/COMMA/. Please note, the survey is open for 2 weeks and any respondents will go into a draw for a \$200 Westfield youcher

Treasurer's Report



Accounts for the financial year 2018-2019

All is well on the SRB financial front! As at 30 September 2019, our equity totals \$481,169 (relative to \$422,170 at the same time last year).

Membership fees for 2019-2020

Don't forget to renew your membership fees! Why not invite a colleague to join as well?

And don't forget the exciting opportunity to get your Kiwi colleagues involved in the Society – SRB is offering free membership for all <u>new</u> New Zealand members for up to two years

New Regular SRB Membership - \$150

Renewal of Regular SRB Membership - \$130

Regular 3 Year SRB Membership - \$350

New Student SRB Membership - \$60

Renewal of Student Membership - \$45

Student 2 Year Membership - \$80

Student 3 Year Membership - \$120

New Professional Membership - \$120

Renewal of Professional Membership - \$105

Professional Member 3 Year Membership - \$310

Age-retired Membership - \$40

Age-retired 3 Year Membership - \$65

Overseas Membership (excludes New Zealand) - \$60

Ngā mihi Jane Girling Treasurer



Dr Jane Girling This year's ESA-SRB invited speaker

Hello fellow SRB students!



We hope you had a fantastic time soaking in all the reproductive science at SRB 2019 in Sydney! Congratulations to everyone who gave talks and posters this year, especially to those who received or were nominated for awards, it is always great to see how passionate our SRB student researchers are!

What's new:

Introducing our newly elected student representative - Meaghan Griffiths! We are super excited to be working together for the next year!

•A huge thank you to Sarah Moody for her time as student representative over the past two years! Your time, effort and enthusiasm has been greatly appreciated.



Meaghan Griffiths
The latest Student Representative

What happened at SRB 2019:

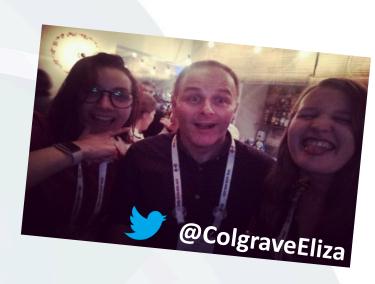
- •Dr Amy Winship and Dr Jacinta Martin joined our annual student meeting and gave us fantastic insights and advice about how to get funded post-PhD and what you can do during your PhD to improve your CV.
- Held a 'Selfie with a Scientist' competition! Thank you to everybody who got involved. Our winners were:

Emmalee Ford, Mary Mansilla and Eliza Colgrave!

For the Students







News for SRB 2020:

•SRB will be in Christchurch, New Zealand next year.



•The 2020 Student representative election will be held online! Keep your eye out for an email with more details about how to nominate!

As always, if you have any suggestions about how we can improve our student functions please contact us!



Saije Morosin



Meaghan Griffiths

Student Reps

Science meets Parliament



Science meets Parliament brings together decision makers and Australian STEM professionals, to promote the valuable part these sectors can play in politics and society. This year, SRB Council members, Dr Kelly Walton (Communications) and Dr Amy Winship (ECR) represented our Society in this valuable opportunity to communicate our key message, REPRODUCTION MATTERS! Kelly met with Labour MP, Bill Shorten (shadow minister for government services & disability) and Amy met with Greens MP, Adam Bandt (science, research and innovation portfolio). There were also informal opportunities to meet with MP Karen Andrews (Liberal science, industry & technology minister) and Dr Anne Kelso (NHMRC) to discuss the importance of reproductive research. Recurrent themes from the politicians were that scientists need louder voices, but also that they, as politicians, must listen. It was exciting to know our sector is respected and valued, but we still have a lot of work to do in putting medical research and in particular, reproductive research on the main agenda. The Politicians' job is to represent their electorate. So, as an SRB Member, communicating with your local MP in your electorate, about your research, its value and its impact can help.







Secretary's Report



This year saw the positions of Secretary and four ordinary council members up for election. I feel very fortunate to have been given the opportunity to serve the Society as SRB Secretary and am very much enjoying working with members of Council and our membership more broadly. I cannot thank our previous Secretary Mark Green enough for the wonderful job he has done during his time as Secretary, and for the extensive support he has provided me while transitioning into this role. I know I have some (VERY!) big shoes to fill but I am excited to have joined Council.

For the four ordinary Council positions, we welcome Dr Shaun Roman (Newcastle University) who has transitioned to the role of Fellows & Life Members / Plenary Lecturers Secretary, Dr Lisa Akison (University of Queensland) who has taken on the Communications Secretary portfolio, Dr Fiona Brownfoot (University of Melbourne) who has become Awards and Sponsorship Secretary and Dr Kylie Dunning (University of Adelaide) who has become our new Membership Secretary. On behalf of the Society we extend a very warm welcome to you all and look forward to working with you over the next 3 years.

We also extend a huge congratulations to Dr Dulama Richani (University of New South Wales) who has joined Dr Amy Winship as our ECR representatives as well as Meaghan Griffiths (Monash University) who has joined Saije Morosin as our Student Representatives.

The Society is also very, very grateful for Professor Jeremy Thompson's willingness to continue in the role of Public Officer for a further 12 months!

Secretary's Report



We are also indebted to those whose terms on Council have come to an end. These include Dr Mark Green (Secretary), Associate Professor Josephine Bowles (Membership Secretary), Associate Professor Patrick Western (Awards and Sponsorship Secretary), Dr Liz Bromfield (ECR Representative) and Sarah Moody (Student Representative). On behalf of the Society we wish to thank each of you for your outstanding contributions to Council over many years.

Well that's about all from me for the time being, but I would like to wish you all a happy and healthy holiday season and safe new year. See you all in 2020!

David Sharkey SRB Secretary



Conference Secretary

Society for Reproductive Biology

A/Prof Tu'uhevaha Kaitu'u-Lino

Thank you to everyone that visited the SRB booth in 2019! It was again THE place to be during breaks at the meeting! Hope to see you back at the booth for more fun and games in 2020 in Christchurch!

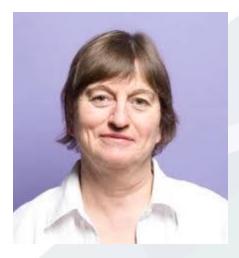
We thank RFD for sponsoring the Founders' Lecturer (Professor Linda Giudice) and President's Lecturer (Professor Brett Nixon) at the 2019 meeting and hope that some of you caught up with Jenny Foster and Graeme Martin at the meeting in Sydney. Thank you also for RFD's continued support of the meeting in 2020.

Our Equity, Diversity and Inclusion policy is online under the "Resources" section of our website (<u>www.srb.org.au</u>) – please visit and have a read. In addition, in 2020, we will have a code of conduct that will be included as part of registration for the annual meeting that you will be asked to read and agree to before registering.



Congratulations

Marilyn Renfree awarded the Society for the Study of Reproduction's Carl G. Hartmann Award



Professor Renfree is a reproductive and developmental biologist whose research has focused almost entirely on marsupials not only because of their intrinsic interest but also for the opportunities they provide as biomedical models for

understanding mammalian reproduction and development. Throughout her career she has also conducted research on elephants, women, sheep and mice.

Her laboratory is known internationally for its study of the reproduction and development of marsupials. The Renfree & Shaw Laboratory has made a number of discoveries that challenged the accepted dogma in several areas including early mammalian development, physiological and molecular control of embryonic diapause, placentation, sexual differentiation, virilisation and genomic imprinting, as well as conservation and evolution. Research in this laboratory has also successfully brought a gene from the extinct Tasmanian Tiger back to life!

Congratulations also.....

Marilyn Renfree, Grant Montgomery, Caroline Gargett, Claire Roberts and Gail Risbridger on NHMRC fellowship and Jock Findlay for his induction into the AAHMR.

Communicate, connect and collaborate via social media!

Did you know that SRB can promote your research profile or latest paper? Whether you are a regular user of social media or not, this method of communicating to your peers, the media and the general public is here to stay and is a powerful way to spread the word about your research. It is also a great way for you to stay up-to-date on the latest papers or news in your field, as well as find out what is being presented at conferences that you aren't able to attend in person. We currently have almost 1700 followers on our Facebook site and >1900 followers on Twitter! Since the last newsletter in June, the SRB Twitter profile has had >2000 visits and 126.9K impressions (i.e. number of times users saw tweets from our site).

If you are new to Twitter and trying to grow your network, make sure you get on board with **#FollowBackFriday**. Just spend a few minutes each Friday looking through the followers of the @ReproductionSRB Twitter account, check their profile to see if their interests match yours and then follow them! Make sure your profile is current and says a bit about your research interests and they will hopefully follow you back. If you aren't on social media, but would still like to publicise an event or your latest paper using these platforms, please contact Kelly (Kelly.Walton@monash.edu) or Lisa (Lakison@uq.edu.au) and we will do it for you!

Communications Report



Reproduction 'Fact Sheets' for the SRB Website

As many of us know, there is a lot of misinformation out there on matters related to reproductive health. We are planning to provide accurate, up-to-date and easily accessible information on 'hot topics' in reproduction on the SRB website. These 'Fact-sheets' will also capture select research projects so as to educate the broader community on our efforts to make a difference. We are currently working on Fact Sheets covering PCOS and endometriosis using experts on these topics amongst SRB members, and we are hoping to have these uploaded and available soon. If any members have ideas on other Fact Sheets that they feel we should cover, please let Kelly or Lisa know. We will be tapping people on the shoulder over the coming months to provide their expertise as required.

Those of you on Twitter would be aware that Prof Joyce Harper (University College London), in conjunction with several reproductive organisations including ESHRE, British Fertility Society and Your Fertility, has just launched a global fertility education campaign. They have developed a great poster on '9 things you should know now if you want kids in the future' that is aimed at both male and female reproductive health. We have reproduced it here in the newsletter and encourage you to print it out and paste up in areas around your workplace that may be viewed by anyone interested in knowing more about their fertility. If you are on social media, take a selfie with it and post with #fertilityed. We will also plan to post it on the website.

Watch this space.....

As a community we are keen to develop a campaign to drive focus towards the importance of reproductive biology research. In the New Year, we will be running a campaign to showcase our reproductive biology champions on social media. Keep an eye out for our capewearing superheroes, and please help to spread our message through your social media portals.

SRB goes to Science Meets Parliament

Two SRB representatives attended Science Meets Parliament (SmP) in November 2019. Drs Kelly Walton and Amy Winship promoted the importance of investing in reproductive biology for the future health of all Australians. Further details are provided in the Science meets Parliament report.

Australian Reproduction Update

The fabulous team (A/Profs Natalie Hannan and Tu'uhevaha Kaitu'u Lino) at Mercy Perinatal hosted the annual Australian Reproduction Update (ARU) at the Park Hyatt from Nov 25-26th. This two day meeting showcased our "Superstars" of reproductive biology, and this year focused on "Innovation in Reproductive Research". There were outstanding talks on technologies and approaches that are shifting the way we think about reproduction. The format of this meeting is fun and friendly, and provides fantastic networking opportunities. One not to be missed in 2020! Event details here https://mercyperinatal.com/event/australian-reproduction-update-2019

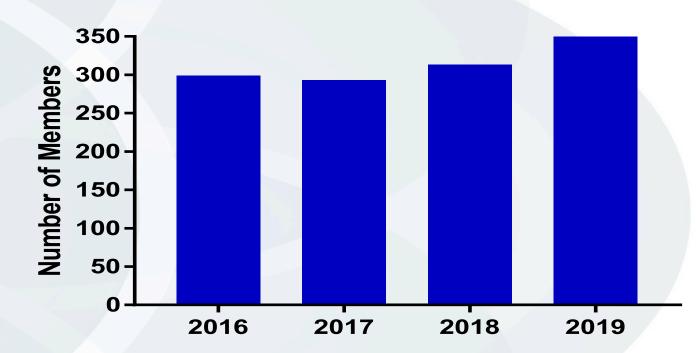




Kelly Walton & Lisa Akison

Membership Report - Kylie Dunning

Excitingly, the Society has seen a growth in its membership base over the last four years, with the majority attributed to an increase in student and regular members. It is wonderful to see more members join from both junior and more senior levels indicative that the field of reproductive biology has a bright future in Australia and New Zealand!



Many of you will soon receive a prompt to renew your membership. At this time please renew but also think about colleagues and students who may benefit from joining. There are many reasons to join or maintain your membership, including subsidised conference registration fees and the numerous awards available for the conference and throughout the year. Many of these awards require membership for a period of time to be eligible, so sign up today! Head to the website for details on all awards (https://www.srb.org.au/travel-grants-and-awards).

Program Organising Committee

Reminder that the 2020 meeting is changing to November in beautiful Christchurch. We are beginning to prepare the program and over the coming months will finalise topics but some key points to note are:

Meeting is November 1st-4th, 2020

To accommodate an early finish on the Wednesday (1pm) to allow attendees to travel back home, the conference will begin at 9am on SUNDAY with our fantastic President's plenary lecture. This means that all Australian delegates will need to arrive on Saturday in order to experience the full program.

All awards sessions, plenaries and exchange lectures are stand alone in the program. We encourage all attendees to support our award nominees.

Student meeting will now be on Sunday during the lunch break where a new student rep will be nominated prior to the AGM. Plenary speakers:

We are delighted to inform you of the President's and Founders' lecture plenary speakers for 2020

President lecture: Professor Bruce Murphy – University of Montreal **Founders' lecture**: Professor Neil Gemmell – University of Otago

Andy (<u>a.pask@unimelb.edu.au</u>)
John (<u>john.schjenken@newcastle.edu.au</u>)

Congratulations to the Award Winners

We had a fabulous SRB conference in 2019 filled with the best reproductive science from around the country. A wide range of studies were presented focused on gametes through to the placenta and pregnancy, really showcasing the breadth and depth of science in our specialty. Early and mid-career researchers presented their outstanding work within the SRB awards sessions. These sessions provide important career development opportunities and recognition of scientific excellence for SRB members. They all gave excellent presentations, and in some cases, even the judges couldn't decide on one winner alone. SRB congratulates all of the awards finalists for their outstanding contributions to the 2019 conference. In particular the SRB congratulates the following winners of awards in 2019:

Newcastle Reproduction Emerging Research Leader Award This was jointly awarded to Dr Amy Winship and Dr Kylie Dunning.

Dr Kylie Dunning, The University of Adelaide.

Dr Kylie Dunning is an emerging research leader within the Robinson Research Institute and the Australian Research Council (ARC) Centre of Excellence for Nanoscale BioPhotonics (CNBP).

Kylie is a reproductive biologist who aspires to use safe, cutting-edge, light-based technologies (also referred to as photonics) to better understand the biology that underpins successful development of the oocyte (egg) and early embryo. She is leading the way in the development of safe, non-invasive diagnostic technologies that might change the way fertility specialists and embryologists select the best eggs and embryos, which will ultimately improve the experience for all couples seeking fertility care.

and the award goes to......





Congratulations to:
Kylie Dunning and Amy
Winship

Winners: Newcastle Reproduction Emerging Research leader Award

Congratulations to:
Jessica Greaney
Winner: Oozoa

Award



Congratulations to the Award Winners

Robinson Research Institute Award for Excellence in Reproductive Biology Research

Dr Kirsty Walters, University of New South Wales

Kirsty's research has focussed on Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS), a poorly understood, but highly significant disorder in women's health. She has played major roles in dissecting the pathogenesis of PCOS which is now informing and changing clinical practice. Her work is internationally recognised, evidenced through publications in leading journals such as PNAS and Endocrinology. Her work has been recognised through a number of prestigious awards including the NSW Medicine Award for Research Excellence, the Endocrine Society of Australia (ESA) Mid-Career Researcher Award, the ESA Ken Wynne Memorial Postdoctoral Research Award and the SRB Young Investigator Award. She has been highly successful in obtaining NHMRC and ARC grants.

Kirsty joins an elite group of SRB researchers who have received the Robinson Award in recognition for their excellent work in reproductive biology. We sincerely congratulate her on receiving the 2019 Robinson Award for Excellence in Reproductive Biology Research and for her outstanding contributions to reproductive biology research.

SRB 2019 awards



Congratulations to:
Avinash Gaikwad
Winner: David
Healy New
Investigator Award

Congratulations to:
Kirsty Walters
Winner: Robinson
Research Institute
Award



Congratulations to:

Lisa Akison

Winner: Hudson Institute of Medical Research Excellence for best Midcareer poster.



Congratulations to the Award Winners

Dr Amy Winship, Monash University.

Dr Amy Winship is an emerging research leader within the Monash Biomedicine Discovery Institute at Monash University.

Amy's work focuses on fertility-preserving therapeutic strategies for treating cancers. She has a growing reputation for excellence following publications in leading journals such as PNAS and Molecular Cancer Therapeutics and has recieved a number of awards including the Victorian Premier's Award for Health and Medical Research. She was awarded an

The David Healy Award

Dr Avinash Gaikwad, Monash University, for his talk titled 'Epididymal CRISPs regulates efficient flagellar waveform and optimal sperm function'.

Oozoa award

Jessica Greaney, University of Queensland, for her talk entitled 'High-resolution 4D live-oocyte imaging identifies a new model of asymmetric division'.

The Hudson ECR award

Dr David Skerrett-Byrne, University of Newcastle, for his talk titled 'Quantitative proteomic profiling of sperm maturation along the epididymal tubule'.

Hudson MCR lightening talks

Dr Lisa Akison, University of Queensland, for her talk on 'Health outcomes in offspring following an acute, low dose of prenatal alcohol: Potential reproductive and metabolic impacts in early and adult life'.

ANZPRA award

Dr Sarah Delforce, University of Newcastle, for her talk on 'Lipopolysaccharide induced inflammation in choriodecidual explants is sex dependent'

SRB 2019 awards



Congratulations to:

Andrew Pask and Mark Green Winners: SRB best new paper award (Repro. Fert. Dev)

Congratulations to: Sarah Delforce

Winner:

SRB/ANZPRA New Investigator Award



Average of the second of the s

Congratulations to:

David Skerrett-

Byrne

Winner: HIMR

Excellence for best

Early-career poster.

SRB 2019 finalists





ANZPRA award finalists

Emma Panting
Natasha de Alwis
Roxanne Hastie
Mary Mansilla
Sarah Delforce
Sonia Tamanna

Oozoa award finalists

Sarah Moody Darren Chow Jessica Greaney Emmalee Ford



David Healy finalists

Bettina Mihalas Alaknanda Alaknanda Avinash Gaikwad Annalucia Darbey Ellen Jarred Holly Groome



....and the after party – your photos





















2019-2020 SRB Council





Prof Moira O'Bryan President



Dr David Sharkey Secretary



Dr Jane Girling Treasurer



Prof Andrew Pask POC Co-Chair



Dr John Schjenken POC Co-Chair



Dr Fiona Brownfoot Awards/Sponsorship



Dr Shaun Roman Fellows/Life Member/ Plenary Lecturer



Dr Kelly Walton Public Relations/Website



Newsletter



A/Prof Mark Baker Dr Tu'uhevaha Kaitu'u-Lino A/Prof Simon de Graaf Conference Booth/RFD Liason Livestock Sector Liaison





Dr Lisa Akison Communications Secretary



Dr Amy Winship ECR Rep



Meaghan Griffiths Student Rep



Saije Morosin Student Rep



Dr Dulama Richani ECR Rep



Prof Jeremy Thompson Co-Opted Member/ Public Officer