

SRF

Society for Reproduction and Fertility

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Newsletter No. 178

April 2002

From the General Secretary

Dear Member

Does anyone want to host a meeting?! We are looking for new European venues for Winter 2004, 2006 and 2008, and UK venues for Summer 2005 onwards. Council would welcome any suggestions. If you are interested, please contact the Programme Secretary, Tony Michael (t.michael@rfc.ucl.ac.uk).

Also, if you know any students, colleagues, collaborators or friends who would like to join the SRF, encourage them to fill in a membership application form NOW! Forms are available from the Membership Office. The benefits of joining include reduced journal subscriptions, reduced registration for meetings, the opportunity to apply for travel grants, and a regular newsletter.

Finally, we have a superb meeting in Leeds this summer, so register now! Also, put 20th – 21st December 2002 in your diary – these are the dates for our Winter Meeting in Tours, France.

*Kate Hardy, General Secretary
Department of Reproductive Science
and Medicine
Institute of Reproductive and
Developmental Biology
Imperial College
Hammersmith Hospital
Du Cane Road
London W12 0NN
email: k.hardy@ic.ac.uk*

Annual Conference 7-10 July 2002, Leeds

The meeting will take place in the centre of Leeds, at the University of Leeds Conference Auditorium. Bed and breakfast accommodation will either be on campus, at the Charles Morris Hall of Residence or off campus, at the Merrion Hotel. The conference Secretary is Helen Picton (Dr Helen Picton, Senior Lecturer in Reproductive Biology, Scientific Director of ACU's Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, Academic Unit of Paediatrics Obstetrics & Gynaecology, D Floor, Clarendon Wing, Leeds General Infirmary, Belmont Grove, Leeds, LS2 9NS, tel 0113 392 3157, fax 0113 392 6021, email h.m.picton@leeds.ac.uk). The following are enclosed:

- Provisional programme for this meeting
- The conference booking form. Please note that bookings must be made by 17th May. There is late booking fee of £50 applicable after this date.
- Details of arrangements in Leeds, including travel information, accommodation and social programme.
- Notes on the presentation of slides and posters.

Scientific Programme

A broad scientific range of abstracts has been received for the meeting, full details of which will be found in the provisional programme.

The Symposium on Monday 8th July is entitled: **"Biology of Assisted Reproduction"** and speakers include Anne Grete Byskov (Copenhagen, Denmark) *The molecules of meiosis*; Gerald Shatten (Pittsburgh, USA) *ART Before Science: What Do We Need To Know Now?*, Barry Bavister (New Orleans, USA) *The concept and consequences of in vitro maturation*; Henry Leese (York, UK) *Development of the early human embryo*. This Symposium has been kindly sponsored by Novo-Nordisk.

On Tuesday 9th July, there is a Mini Symposium entitled **"The Environment and Reproductive Health"**, with speakers including Fulvio Gandolfi (Milan, Italy) *The impact of endocrine disruptors on female reproductive health*; Ursula Eichenlaub Ritter (Bielefeld, Germany) *Models to study the mechanisms and consequences of environmental toxicity in mammalian oocytes*; Stewart Irvine (Edinburgh, UK) *Lifestyle and environmental effects on male reproductive health*.

Social Programme

The Social Programme will start on Sunday evening at 7.30 pm with a Welcome Reception with wine and canapés in the Great Hall of the University of Leeds. A ceilidh will be held on Monday 8th July in

Continued/

Annual Conference, Leeds (cont.)

Charles Morris Hall from 20.30-24.00.

On the evening of Tuesday 9th July from 19.00-22.00 a visit to Kirkstall Abbey and the Abbey House Museum in Leeds will enable SRF delegates to step back in time and wander through the streets, shops and workplaces of Victorian Leeds and experience life in the 19th Century before enjoying a 21st Century wine reception and hot buffet.

Finally, on Wednesday evening delegates will be able to attend the 2002 *Golden Jubilee* SRF Conference Dinner and pre-dinner drinks reception in the Ark Royal Suite at the Queens Hotel in the Centre of Leeds.

The Amoroso Lecture (Monday 8th July), entitled "The scientific promises and puzzles of stem cell research", will be given by Professor Alan Trounson (Melbourne, Australia).

The Parkes Lecture (Wednesday 10th July), entitled "To clone or not to clone", will be given by Professor Ian Wilmut (Edinburgh, UK).

The Walpole Lecture (Wednesday 10th July) will be presented by Dr Lorraine Young (Nottingham), and is entitled "Epigenetic defects induced by embryo technologies: implications for foetal and adult development".

The Marshall Medal, which is sponsored by Organon, will be presented to Professor Bob Moore (Cambridge, UK) at the Conference Dinner on Wednesday 10th July.

Society AGM

The 53rd Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held on Tuesday 9th July, between 16.00 to 17.00 pm. If you have any items to include on the Agenda, please send them to Kate Hardy, to arrive by 10 May 2002 at the following address:

Department of Reproductive Science and Medicine,
Institute of Reproductive and Developmental Biology,
Imperial College School of Medicine, Hammersmith
Hospital, Du Cane Road, London W12 0NN, UK
Email: k.hardy@ic.ac.uk

Postgradoc Lunch and Elections

Postgraduate and new Postdoctoral members of the Society are invited to attend a complimentary buffet lunch to socialise, as well as informally meet Council members on Tuesday 9th July, at 1 pm at the Annual Meeting in Leeds (venue: Sports Hall 3). A new Postgradoc Representative to the Committee will also be elected from volunteers - postgrads & new postdocs are eligible - voted for by those attending the lunch. Each year a new Rep. is elected and serves two years in office, therefore overlapping with their

predecessor by one year. The Reps serve on the Education and Meetings subcommittees, maintain the Vacancies job board on the SRF website and chair the Walpole Session. If you want more information or would like to put yourself or a colleague forward for the position, please contact:

*Vicky Nixon, Department of Physiological Sciences, The Medical School, The University of Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, Framlington Place, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne
NE2 4HH. v.l.nixon@ncl.ac.uk*

Job Placement Scheme at Leeds

Members wishing to advertise Situations Vacant or Wanted at Leeds should complete the enclosed form and return it to Vicky Nixon at the above address. Don't forget that this facility is always available on the SRF website and has recently been upgraded to a more user-friendly format. Visit (www.srf-reproduction.org) and click on vacancies.

Nominations for SRF Council

TO ALL STATUTORY MEMBERS:

Nominations are invited for members of Council. In addition to the Officers, Council consists of the Editor in Chief, the Chair of the Education Committee, the Chair of the Publications Committee, the Chair of the Meetings Committee, four other councillors nominated by Statutory Members and two councillors nominated by Non-Statutory Members. In each case Councillors sit for a maximum of four years. We are seeking nominations for three new Councillors by Statutory Members. Candidates must be nominated by at least 2 **Statutory** Members of the Society.

Current Councillors include:

Dr John Aplin* (Manchester)
Dr Bruce Campbell (Nottingham)
Dr John Carroll (London) *Chair, Publications Committee*
Professor Hilary Critchley* (Edinburgh)
Dr Geraldine Hartshorne* (Warwick)
Dr Norah Spears* (Edinburgh)
Dr Amanda Pickard (London) *Chair, Education Committee*
Professor Catherine Wilson* (London)
Dr Maureen Wood* (Aberdeen)

Councillors with a * by their name are due to retire in July 2002. Retirement of these Councillors creates vacancies for new Councillors. I look forward to receiving nominations for new Councillors. Nominations should be made on the enclosed form. **Candidates must be nominated by at least two Statutory Members.** Please note that the form should be accompanied by a declaration signed by the candidate of

his/her willingness to serve if elected as a Councillor. If there are more nominations than vacancies, a vote will take place. Candidates are therefore requested to include a **brief** summary (50 words) of themselves for inclusion on the voting paper. All nominations should be sent to Kate Hardy by **10 May 2002**.

In addition to election of additional Councillors, elections are also due with respect to Officers.

Current Officers are as follows:

Chairman: Professor Alan McNeilly (Edinburgh)
Vice Chairman: Professor David Whittingham (London)
General Secretary: Dr Kate Hardy (London)
Treasurer: Dr Stuart Milligan* (London) *Chair, Finance Committee*
Editor-in-Chief, Reproduction: Professor Bob Webb (Nottingham)
Programme Secretary: Dr Tony Michael (London) *Chair, Meetings Committee*

Dr Kate Hardy and Dr Stuart Milligan are not standing for re-election which creates vacancies for the positions of General Secretary and Treasurer. Accordingly, I look forward to receiving nominations which should be made on the enclosed form. Candidates must be nominated by at least two Statutory Members. Please note that the form should be accompanied by declarations signed by the candidate of his/her willingness to serve if elected as an officer. If there are more nominations than vacancies, a vote will take place. Candidates are, therefore, requested to include a brief summary (100 words) of themselves for inclusion on the voting paper. All nominations should be sent to Kate Hardy by **10th May 2002**.

TO ALL NON-STATUTORY MEMBERS

This is the first AGM of the Society at which there will be nominations by Non-Statutory Members for new Councillors and I look forward to receiving nominations. Nominations should be made on the enclosed form. Candidates must be nominated by at least two Non-Statutory Members. Please note that the form should be accompanied by a declaration signed by the candidate of his/her willingness to serve if co-opted as a Councillor. If there are more nominations than vacancies, a ballot will take place. Candidates are therefore requested to include a brief summary (100 words) of themselves for inclusion on the ballot paper. All nominations should be sent to Kate Hardy by **10th May 2002**.

Grants for attending SRF Meetings

The Council of Management of SRF is prepared to make grants to non-statutory members of the Society, up to a maximum of £300 in any two year period for (a) travel or (b) cost of special publications, subject to the availability of funds. A Committee considers applications received during the previous three-month period, at the end of March, June,

September and December. Only in exceptional circumstances will applications be dealt with more quickly. Applications must be submitted in advance of the event to which they relate. A short report is required on the usefulness of the meeting.

N.B. Applicants must ensure that they have paid their current SRF membership subscription before submitting their application.

Grants towards attendance at SRF Meetings

Applications (UK and overseas) will be considered individually and applicants are asked to give full details of travel and maintenance expenses. Applications from UK-based non-statutory members must be accompanied by a photocopy of the completed booking form. Postgraduate non-salaried registered research students may apply for **all** SRF meetings, but the grants awarded must not exceed a total of £400 in any two-year period.

Application forms are available from and should be returned to:

The Company Secretary

Society for Reproduction and Fertility

22 Newmarket Road

Cambridge CB5 8DT

Tel: 01223 351809, Fax: 01223 359754

e-mail: cosec@jrfadmin.demon.co.uk

Trust for Research and Education in the Biology of Reproduction

The attention of SRF members is drawn to this Trust which was established in 1982, under the management of independent Trustees, to award travel and subsistence grants for scientists working in reproductive biology. Applications will be considered from non-members of the Society for Reproduction and Fertility and those ineligible to apply for other funding, who wish to attend scientific meetings or visit research laboratories. Applications from visiting scholars from developing countries are particularly encouraged.

Applications **must** be sponsored by a member of the Society for Reproduction and Fertility. The maximum grant is £300.

Further information on the Trust and application forms are available from:

The Secretary, TREBR

22 Newmarket Road

Cambridge CB5 8DT

Tel: 01223 351809, Fax: 01223 359754

e-mail: cosec@jrfadmin.demon.co.uk

Future Meetings of the Society

The programme for future meetings has to be determined a long way ahead. Our current plans are as follows:

Please note: The deadlines for the receipt of Abstracts for SRF meetings are 1 March (for summer meetings) and 1 September (for winter meetings).

Winter Meeting 2002: This will be a joint meeting with the French, German and Dutch Fertility Societies, and will be held in Tours, hosted by John Williams. The Symposium will be on "Cell Cycle in Reproduction", and the Hammond Lecture will be given by David Albertini.

Summer Meeting 2003: This will be in Aberdeen, organised by Paul Fowler

Summer Meeting 2004: This will be in Newcastle, and Keith Jones has kindly agreed to organise it.

Please note the General Secretary's request on page 1 concerning hosts for future meetings.

Other meetings etc.

Fertility Preservation in Cancer Patients, Taormina, Italy, 21-22 April 2002. Contact Eva Applegren, Serono Symposia International, via Casalina 125, Rome, Italy (Tel: +39 06 70384513; Fax: +39 06 70384577; Web: www.seronosymposia.org/reproductive/event_descrip.ihtml?id=90)

11th World Congress of Human Reproduction, Montreal, Canada, 1-4 June 2002. Contact www.HumanRep2002.com

ENDO 2002, San Francisco, USA, 19-22 June 2002. Contact The Endocrine Society, 4350 East West Highway, Suite 500, Bethesda, Maryland 20814-4426 (Tel: (301) 941-0200; Fax: (301) 941-0259; Email: endostaff@endo-society.org; web: www.endo-society.org).

Frontiers in Reproduction FIR Symposium: Immune Mechanisms in Pregnancy, Cambridge MA, USA, 27-29 June 2001. Contact web: <http://www.kumc.edu/kbrin/firsymposium>

18th Annual Meeting of the European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology, Vienna, Austria, 30 June – 3 July 2002. Contact: ESHRE Central Office, Van Akenstraat 41, B-1850 Grimbergen, Belgium (Tel: +32 (0)2 269 09 69; Fax: +32 (0)2 269 56 00; email: eshre@pophost.eunet.be).

6th International Congress on the Cell Biology of Reproduction, Cambridge, UK, 4-6 July 2002. Contact Congress Secretariat, PO Box 3219, Barnes, London, SW13 9XR, UK (Tel: +44 (0)20 8741 1311; Fax: +44 (0)20 8741 0611; Email meetings@obgyn.cam.ac.uk; web: www.obgyn.cam.ac.uk/meetings.htm).

International Symposium on "The Conservation of Fertility in Health and Disease", Weetwood Hall, University of Leeds, Leeds, UK, 5-6 July 2002. Contact: Mrs V Ingham (email: vivienne.ingham@leedsth.nhs.uk).

14th Ovarian Workshop: The Ovary: Development, Differentiation and Dysfunction, Baltimore, Maryland USA, 25-27 July, 2002. Contact Joanne Rawson, Serono Symposia USA, Inc., One Technology Place, Rockland, MA 02370 USA, (Tel: 781 681 2501; Fax: 781 681 2915; web: www.seronosymposia.org/reproductive/event_descrip.ihtml?id=82)

6th International Symposium on Reproduction in Domestic Ruminants, Crieff Hydro Hotel, Scotland, UK, 14-17 August 2002. Contact Dr Bruce Campbell, School of Human Development, University of Nottingham NG7 2UH (email bruce.campbell@nottingham.ac.uk; web www.ssf.org.uk)

5th International Congress of Neuroendocrinology, Bristol, UK, 31 August - 4 September 2002. Contact Helen Gregson, BioScientifica Ltd, 16, The Courtyard, Woodlands, Bradley Stoke, Bristol, BS32 4NQ, UK (Tel +44 1454 619347; Fax +44 1454 616071; email ICN2002@endocrinology.org; web: <http://www.bioscientifica.com/icn2002.htm>)

58th Annual Meeting of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine, Seattle, Washington, USA, 12-17 October 2002. Contact: American Society for Reproductive Medicine, 1209 Montgomery Highway, Birmingham, Alabama 35216-2809, USA (Tel: +1 (205) 978 5000; Fax: +1 (205) 978 5005; email: asrm@asrm.org; Web: <http://www.asrm.org>).

22nd Joint Meeting of British Endocrine Societies, Glasgow, UK, 24-27 March April 2003. Contact: British Endocrine Societies, 17/18 The Courtyard, Woodlands, Bradley Stoke, Bristol BS32 4NQ, UK (Tel: +44-(0)1454-619347; Fax: +44-(0)1454-616071; E-mail: info@endocrinology.org; Web: <http://www.endocrinology.org>).

15th International Congress on Animal Reproduction, Salvador, Brazil, 8-12 August 2004. Contact: Brazilian College of Animal Reproduction, Alameda das Princesas, 1275 31275-180, Belo Horizonte-MG Brazil (Tel: +55 (31)491 7122; Fax: +55 (31) 491 7025; E-mail: cbra@cbra.org.br; Web: <http://www.cbra.org.br>).

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If you have a reminder notice included with this mailing please send your 2002 subscription payment to the Membership Office as soon as possible; you are in danger of losing your membership