

SRF

Society for Reproduction and Fertility

Membership Office: 82A High Street, Sawston, Cambridge CB2 4HJ

Tel. (01223) 830665 Fax. (01223) 839804

E-mail: membershipoffice@srf-reproduction.org www.srf-reproduction.org

Newsletter No. 180

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From the General Secretary

Dear Member

This is my first opportunity to write to you as General Secretary, since taking over from Kate Hardy, who I am sure you will agree has done a wonderful job over the last four years. Stuart Milligan was also released from his duties as Treasurer at the last AGM, and I hope you will join me in thanking both of them and all the other retiring committee members for the hard work they have done on behalf of the Society. Both Kate and Stuart played a vital role in the merger of JRF Ltd. and SSF, and I hope you will agree that our organisation is all the better for the strategic changes that were made.

Those who attended the Annual Conference in Leeds reported that it was a very stimulating and enjoyable meeting. Many thanks go to Helen Picton and her team for putting on such a great event. Don't forget to register for the forthcoming Winter meeting in Tours, which is being jointly organised by the SRF with the Société Française pour l'Étude de la Fertilité, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Reproduktionmedizin and the Dutch PVL research group. Why not take the opportunity to get some last minute continental Christmas shopping! There is more information about the conference elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Enclosed with this newsletter are:

- a) Programme for the Tours meeting
- b) Subscription payment form
- c) Contact details questionnaire
- d) A membership application form

I look forward to seeing everyone in Tours.

Amanda Pickard

Institute of Zoology

Zoological Society of London

Regent's Park

London NW1 4RY, UK

Joint SRF/SFEF/DGRM/PVL Winter Conference

Université François Rabelais, Tours, France. Friday 20th and Saturday 21st December 2002. Conference Organiser: Dr. John Williams

The Winter meeting will be held in the Medical Faculty of this historic university. Accommodation will be organised in hotels nearby, and the deadline for early registrations is **1st November 2002**. Registration details were sent out in a previous mailing, but if you have misplaced them or need more copies for members of your department, they can be downloaded from the SRF website: <http://www.srf-reproduction.org/society/conferences/>.

The **Symposium** on Friday 20th December is entitled: **Cell Cycle in Reproduction** and speakers include Keith Jones (University of Newcastle, UK) *Cell cycle regulation of sperm-induced calcium oscillations at fertilization*; B Maro (Institut J. Monod, Paris, France) *Cell cycle control during mouse meiotic maturation*; L Meijer (CNRS Roscoff, France) *Cyclin-dependent kinase inhibitors: selectivity, mechanisms of action and anti-proliferative activities*; J Pines (Wellcome CRC Institute, Cambridge, UK) *Getting in and out of mitosis*; and M Primig (Basle, Switzerland) *Core meiotic transcriptome in yeasts*.

On Saturday 21st December, David Albertini (Tufts University, USA) will present this year's **Hammond Lecture** (*Molecular and cellular oscillators that integrate oogenesis with folliculogenesis*) and Jean-Paul Renard (INRA Jouy-en-Josas, France) will close the meeting by presenting the **Palmer Lecture**. The Social programme commences on Thursday evening with a **Civic Reception** in Tours Town Hall from 19:00 to 20:00. The **Gala Dinner** will be held on the evening of Friday 20th December at the ancient Prieuré St Cosme.

If you have any queries about the conference or registration please contact the conference Secretary: Florence Villeneuve, JEFS Secretariat, Service de Gynécologie et Obstétrique, CHU Bretonneau, 37000 Tours, France. e-mail: f.villeneuve@chu-tours.fr, Tel: +33 2 47 47 88 48, Fax: +33 2 47 47 38 01

SRF Job Placement Scheme

The SRF Job Placement Scheme provides the opportunity for members to advertise positions vacant and for people looking for posts to let it be known that they are available and where their skills/interests lie. This service is offered free of charge through the website <http://www.srf-reproduction.org/society/vacancies/>, and by message board at the SRF conferences. This is an ideal way for students coming to the end of their degree to let potential employers know that they will soon be available. For more information or to place an advert please visit the website, or contact:

Ioannis Sfontouris
SRF Postgradoc Rep.
School of Human Development
Division of Reproductive Medicine
D Floor, East Block
Queen's Medical Centre
Nottingham NG7 2UH
Email: Ioannis.Sfontouris@nottingham.ac.uk

Subscription Payment and SRF membership

Enclosed with this mailing is your subscription renewal form. Please ensure that this is returned to the Business Office as soon as possible to maintain the continuity of your membership. If you pay by Direct Debit, your subscription is automatically renewed for you, removing any worries that you will forget to send your cheque! Membership of the Society remains good value for money, and entitles you to reduced rates for journal subscriptions and conference registration. Please encourage members of your department to join, particularly students who are eligible for reduced rate subscriptions. An application form is enclosed. Further details and application forms are also available on the website <http://www.srf-reproduction.org/society/join.asp>.

Reproduction – your Journal!

The SRF journal, *Reproduction*, publishes comprehensive review articles and cutting edge research papers. Published monthly, *Reproduction* represents excellent value for money and is available at a reduced subscription to members of the Society. Due to the high quality of its content, *Reproduction* is expected to receive a very favourable citation rating from ISI, and is therefore an ideal journal in which to publish your latest research

findings. There are no page charges for publishing in *Reproduction*, and colour printing is also free.

Members with a subscription to the paper journal also receive free access to full text articles online (<http://www.srf-reproduction.org/journal>), and your manuscripts can be submitted electronically, direct to our Cambridge office or via our North American receiving office.

Contact Details Questionnaire

In order to keep in touch with you, our members, it is vital that you keep us informed of any changes in your contact details. Enclosed is a questionnaire for you to fill in and return, which will allow us to update our databases and keep you informed of Society Business. Please help us to continue to provide you with an efficient service and reduce the wastage of sending correspondence to out-of-date addresses.

Conference Update

The numbers of abstracts submitted to SRF conferences, and the numbers of registered delegates at each conference, continues to show a progressive decline year-on-year. To halt this decline, and return SRF conferences to former glories, the SRF Meetings Committee have developed a number of recommendations which will be presented to Council when it next meets on November 13. Shortly afterwards, we propose to conduct an electronic survey of the membership, to ensure that there will be widespread (if not unanimous) support for the changes that we propose to implement.

So, please watch out for an SRF e-mail arriving in your Inbox with a short e-survey to solicit your opinions. This will probably take the form of up to 10 key questions and shouldn't take more than 5 mins to complete and return. *PLEASE* ensure that you respond to this survey since we (members of Meetings Committee) are very aware that this is *your* society and we cannot cater for *your* needs unless you let us know what these are.

To reiterate a point that I made at this year's AGM, we recognise that no changes to conference format, frequency or timing will improve matters unless we can obtain the support of the vast majority of SRF members.

Thanks in advance for responding to the e-survey at your earliest convenience.

Tony Michael

SRF Programme Secretary

Grants and Scholarships

Parques Foundation Small Grants Fund 2003

The Parkes Foundation Small Grants Fund helps to promote research into the biosocial sciences. Priority is given to the support of fieldwork that involves the integrated study of biological and social features of human populations. Relevant disciplines are anthropology, demography and population studies, ecology and environmental studies, nutrition and population genetics.

Grants are directed particularly towards helping **graduate research students** meet their fieldwork costs, but others may apply. Undergraduate projects, however, are not supported. Grants are small, usually not exceeding £600.

The form on which applications must be submitted can be obtained from the Executive Secretary by post or e-mail. The closing date for applications is **31st December 2002**; applications will be considered by the Trustees, and awards will be made early in 2003.

The Executive Secretary, The Parkes Foundation, Department of Biological Anthropology, Downing Street, Cambridge, CB2 3DZ. E-mail: mah44@cam.ac.uk

Travel Grants

Grants for attending 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

Applicants (UK and overseas) are asked to give full details of travel and maintenance expenses and 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 members who are 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

Vacation Scholarships

As part of its policy of furthering research and education in the biology of reproduction, the Society for Reproduction and Fertility invites applications from undergraduate students for a limited number of Vacation Scholarships. The objective of these scholarships is to enable particularly promising students to work during vacations in 2003 in university departments or research institutes in the UK or Irish Republic on research projects relating to reproduction and fertility in man and other animals.

Students should normally be in the middle years of their degree studies and may be considering research as a career. The scholarships are available for up to 8 weeks' work and funding is provided at a level to cover basic living expenses. Only one scholarship can be held in one department. Scholarships are not available for students to undertake projects which form part of their normal degree course.

Application forms can be obtained by writing 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

The closing date for receipt of applications is: **28 March 2003** for Summer vacation projects.

Future Meetings of the Society

Fertility 2003: 13-17 July, Aberdeen, Scotland

This meeting is being organised by Paul Fowler, and will be a joint meeting with the British Fertility Society and the British Andrology Society.

Three symposia have been organised: "*Reproductive research in the 21st Century*", "*Mechanisms of fetal programming*" and "*Reproductive consequences of ageing*".

Abstract deadline: February 14 2003

Summer Meeting 2004: Newcastle, UK

Keith Jones will be hosting the Society for the Annual conference in 2004.

The programme for future meetings has to be determined a long way in advance. If you would like to host an SRF conference, please contact the General Secretary (address details on page 1)

Other Meetings etc.

British Andrology Society Annual Meeting, Liverpool Women's Hospital, 8th - 9th November, 2002. Contact: Dr Iwan Lewis-Jones, Reproductive Medicine Unit, Liverpool Women's Hospital, Crown Street, Liverpool L8 7SS, Tel: 0151 7089988 x 4215, Fax: 0151 702 4042, I.Lewis-Jones@liverpool.ac.uk

Second International Symposium on Progestins, Progesterone Receptor Modulators and Progesterone Antagonists, Siena, Italy, 20-23 November 2002. Contact: Tzina Lindenberg, Servizio Congressi, Università di Siena, Banchi di Sotto 46, 53100 Siena, Italy, Tel. +39 0577 232132, Fax +39 0577 232134, E-mail: servcong@unisi.it

Mechanisms Regulating Developmental Plasticity, IETS Preconference Symposium, Auckland, New Zealand, 11 January 2003. Contact: Lynne Elvin, Roslin Institute, Roslin, Midlothian, UK. Tel 00 44 131 527 4219 lynne.elvin@bbsrc.ac.uk

29th International Embryo Transfer Society Annual Conference, Auckland, New Zealand, 12-14 January 2003. Contact: IETS, 1111 North Dunlap Avenue, Savoy, IL 61874 USA, TEL: (217) 356-3182, FAX: (217) 398-4119. E-mail: iets@assochq.org, Web Site: <http://www.iets.org>

Implementation Challenges of Smart Semen and Embryo Technologies in Cattle, IETS Satellite Symposium, Auckland, New Zealand, 15 January 2003. Contact: IETS, 1111 North Dunlap Avenue, Savoy, IL 61874 USA, TEL: (217) 356-3182, FAX: (217) 398-4119. E-mail: iets@assochq.org, Web Site: <http://www.iets.org>

Frontiers in Reproductive Endocrinology: A Comprehensive Review and Update, Savannah, Georgia USA, March 11-15, 2003. Contact: Joanne Rawson, Serono Symposia International, One Technology Place, Rockland, MA 02370 USA, Telephone: 800-283-8088, x2501 or 781-681-2501, FAX: 781-681-2915, Email: joanne.rawson@serono.com

22nd Joint Meeting of British Endocrine Societies, Glasgow, UK, 24-27 March 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>).

6th European Congress of Endocrinology, Lyons, France, 26-30 April 2003. Contact: www.endocrinology2003.com.

Inhibins, Activins and Follistatins, Siena, Italy, 3-4 July, 2003. Contact: Department of Pediatrics, Obstetrics and Reproductive Medicine, University of Siena, Policlinico "Le Scotte", viale Bracci, 53100 Siena, Italy. Phone: (39) (0577) 586.649 fax: (39) (0577) 233.454 E-mail: obgyn@unisi.it.

19th Annual Meeting of the European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology, Madrid, Spain, 29 June-2 July, 2003. 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, <http://www.eshre.com>

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>).

59th Annual Meeting of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine, San Antonio, Texas, USA. 11-16 October 2003. Contact: American Society for Reproductive Medicine, 1209 Montgomery Highway, Birmingham, Alabama, USA 35216-2809, Phone (205) 978-5000, Fax (205) 978-5018, Email asrm@asrm.org, URL www.asrm.org