



Society for  
Reproduction  
and Fertility

11.01.18

Dear SRF Member,

It is a pleasure and privilege to become chair of the SRF. I'd like to personally thank Tony Michael for his stewardship over the last four years, which has left the SRF in a robust position. We have increasing membership, higher revenue available to support member benefits and new funding initiatives. Katie Woad has also completed her term on council. She is a superb colleague and was a dynamic and active council member serving on the education committee. Franchesca Houghton has been an incredible programme secretary who has helped make seven conferences huge successes. I'm sure you'll agree that Fertility 2018 echoed that success. We had an excellent meeting with some great science, memorable talks, busy networking and a memorable (to some!) social programme. Over 120 SRF members took part in the conference that, with over 750 delegates, had a record attendance. She will be a very hard act to follow but Richard Lea is a particularly able replacement. Richard and his team would be keen to hear your thoughts on scientific sessions for Fertility 2019.

We are delighted that Nick Wheelhouse and Amanda de Mestre will join us on council. The third new addition to council is Bruce Murphy from Montreal, a long-term member and another indication of the international reach of the society. Congratulations also to Rebecca Sumner who was nominated by her peers to succeed Kacie Thomson as the new Early Career Rep.

Council has a busy time ahead. We need to restructure the Fertility conference programme for next year as the SRF prize sessions and the postgradoc symposium can't occur the day before the rest of the conference starts because of the proximity to new year. We need to be imaginative and ensure the society ethos and events are maintained. We hope to change the Articles of Association to get rid of the confusing statutory voting members and non-statutory members that can't vote to ensure that the society is as democratic as possible. We will consult you once we have a draft to discuss.

We have developed a new public engagement committee to raise the profile of the society and promote reproductive science beyond our membership. Bob Robinson, the deputy chair will lead this committee. Our annual public engagement lecture series, Sex in Three cities, takes place in February in London, Edinburgh and Nottingham. Thomas Hildebrandt is a superb speaker with engaging and eye-dropping videos. Do book your free place for his talk on 'Animal Reproduction: Curiosities and Conservation' and spread the word – you will not be disappointed.

Remember that this is your society and we aim to be responsive to our members' needs. We have an excellent secretariat and your comments directed to the conference collective will get to me and I'll bring them to council for discussion. Let us know what we're getting right and how we can improve.

Finally, I am aware that some members will be applying for academic promotion or tenure this coming year. As chair of an international society I would be delighted to be approached by your university to support your case and highlight your international standing.

Happy New Year and may 2018 be successful personally and academically!  
Colin Duncan