



Society for  
Reproduction  
and Fertility

## SRF COUNCIL NOMINATIONS 2018 - STATEMENTS

### **Dr Amanda de Mestre - The Royal Veterinary College, University of London**

I have been a member of the SRF since I took up my academic appointment in the UK at the RVC in 2008. I have always been struck by the very supportive environment of the SRF community and have been lucky enough to be a direct recipient of that support with invitations to speak at SRF annual conference in 2009, as a recipient of the New Investigator Award 2015 and recipient of a SRF Academic Grant 2014. I would welcome the opportunity to give back to the Society and play an active role in continuing to maintain and expand the SRF community. I have recently been promoted to Reader in Reproductive Immunology at the Royal Veterinary College London. I hold a number of other administrative and professional positions that have allowed me to develop the necessary skills to contribute to council. This includes being a scientific committee member of the International Symposium in Equine Reproduction (ISER) Committee (8-year appointment) and Local Organising committee member for for ISER 2018 to be held in Cambridge. I am also an Associate Editor for Frontiers in Physiology/Endocrinology (Reproduction) and have led the development of a National Undergraduate Programme for Veterinary students in Leadership and Emotional Intelligence (VTLP). These roles have included fund raising and conference organisation. My goals for the SRF are to continue to embrace the supportive community that underpins the society but to also look at new ways to further develop this and bring in training for young researchers across a breath of broader scientific skills including communication and leadership. As we have moved to a different format of conferences, I am interested in working with colleagues to ensure SRF continues to have its own voice and identity but captures the collaborative opportunities the other societies have to offer.

### **Professor Colin Duncan – The University of Edinburgh**

I am a Professor of Reproductive Medicine and Science at the University of Edinburgh. My laboratory studies ovarian physiology using human tissues, as well as polycystic ovary syndrome using an ovine model.

I joined the SSF/SRF in 1994 my first talk was at the conference in Southampton in 1995. I've been SRF New Investigator and three of my students have won SRF student prizes. I still attend the conferences with as much enthusiasm as I did 22 years ago.

As a previous member of SRF council I have served on the programme and finance committees. I also served on committees within the Society for Endocrinology and SSR. I have chaired examination setting and development committees within the RCOG.

I am Director of year 5 MBChB in Edinburgh and external examiner in Liverpool and Imperial College. I'm a member of the local Postgraduate education committee and MSc external examiner in Nottingham.

The SRF is well-managed with a sound financial footing and ongoing projects to increase the membership and deliver new benefits. While ongoing strategic oversight is needed to ensure that revenues continue to support the society, there are currently two important areas for council action.

The first is to increase engagement with both members, policy-makers and the public. The second is to review the annual meeting and ensure it remains attended, enlightening and relevant.

As a clinician scientist I have the leadership experience and interdisciplinary knowledge to engage and negotiate with our members and our partners to progress our collective vision.

### **Professor Bruce Murphy - Université de Montréal**

Concerning my relevant experience, I have been a member of the SRF for some 40 years. I have also participated in the management of other scientific societies in various capacities. I was Treasurer of SSR (2000-2009), Vice-president in 2014 and President, 2015-2016. I served eight years on the FASEB Finance Committee. I was Co-editor-in-chief of Biology of Reproduction, 2009-2014. I founded the Réseau Québécois en Reproduction in 2008, and managed this organization of 85 scientists and 200+ students from 2008-2017. I have served as Associate Editor of Reproduction and published therein frequently. I was an external member of the Main Panel for the REF in 2011-2014.

I recognize the challenges that face scientific societies in 2017 in the form of an aging membership, a decline in membership numbers, competition of the journal for the best scientific papers in the field and declining attendance at meetings. While there is no easy fix for these problems, there are a number of potential steps that can be taken to reverse the trend. These include effective use of social media, sponsoring young investigators and students, fiscal measures to ensure survival of the society etc. I would hope to be able to participate, with the Council, in developing new ideas and approaches to address the fiscal and scientific issues of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. In addition, I believe that I could be involved in discussions about how to improve the impact of the Society Journal, Reproduction as well as the attendance and impact of programs for the SRF sponsored scientific meetings.

### **Dr Nick Wheelhouse – Edinburgh Napier University**

For over twelve years, I have been working on bacterial infections and how they lead to reproductive complications, initially working with livestock. I am now a lecturer at Edinburgh Napier University where I have managed to maintain much of my work in livestock while developing an increasing research focus in human infertility. I have a real passion for my subject area with a particular, and some say unhealthy academic interest in Chlamydia!

What first attracted me to the SRF was through the diversity of the society membership and the equal esteem with which they hold both the work on livestock and human reproduction. The collegiality I have found across SRF members and the obvious regard the Council have for the society's membership has been clear since I joined the society 3 years ago. Throughout my career, I have been an active member of a number of boards and committees and I believe that I will be a keen and motivated member of the council. My combined interests, in human, and livestock reproduction, mean that I am uniquely placed to understand and represent the interests of a wide range of members. My background in infectious diseases offer an additional and complementary viewpoint in discussions of future conference and workshop planning.