



Society for
Reproduction
and Fertility

60th Annual General Meeting of the Society for Reproduction and Fertility
Hall 10
International Convention Centre, Birmingham
12.20 -13.20hrs, Friday 4th January 2019

AGENDA

- 60.1 Apologies for Absence
- 60.2 Minutes of the 60th Annual General Meeting held at ACC, Liverpool, 5th January 2018 **Paper A**
 - 60.2.1 Matters Arising
- 60.3 Adoption of the Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2017 **Paper B**
- 60.4 Appointment of Auditors for the financial year ending 31st December 2018
- 60.5 Chair's report **Paper C**
- 60.6 Vice-Chair's report **Paper D**
- 60.7 Treasurer's report **Paper E**
- 60.8 General Secretary's Report **Paper F**
- 60.9 Programme Secretary's Report **Paper G**
- 60.10
 - 60.10.1 Election of Honorary Members
 - 60.10.2 Election of Ordinary Committee Members
 - 60.10.3 Election of Early Career Member
- 60.11 Any Other Business

Following the conclusion of Society business, the following presentations will be made:

Professor Rex Scaramzzi – SRF Marshall Medallist 2018



Society for Reproduction and Fertility

59th Annual General Meeting of the Society for Reproduction and Fertility Hall 1B

**Arena and Convention Centre, Liverpool
12.05-13.15 hrs, Friday 5 January 2018**

Present: A Michael (Chair), R Robinson (Vice-Chair), T Fleming (Treasurer), A Watkins (General Secretary), F Houghton (Programme Secretary)

72 Members:

O Adesina, H Alhilfi, C Allen, J Aplin, M Baryla, B Bjarkadottir, J Bradley, J Buratini, E Butt, S Calvert, A Childs, A de Mestre, WC Duncan, A Fazeli, M Fenwick, G FitzHarris, N Forde, A Fouladi-Nashta, P Fowler, E Goryszewska, J Gould, D Hiller, W Holt, F Johnson, M Johnson, K Jonas, A Kermack, S Lane, C Lomax, E Lucas, E Mbegbu, P McKeegan, S Milligan, A Mohammed, Z Mohammed, J Morrell, S Mowla, E Nagyova, C Nwachukwu, L O'Shea, E Papadoulou, J Parrington, C Price, S Publicover, J Ramalho-Santos, J Roach, P Ruane, M Ruiz-Diaz, M Safrai, O Sandra, K Schindler, A Sferruzzi-Perri, S Sheikh, K Sinclair, C Stenhouse, R Sumner, K Swann, S Theresa-Mathew, K Thomson, L Thurston, H Urbanski, M van der Mescht, C Vazquez-Diez, C Walker, L Watson, P Watson, H Webb, X Wei, N Wheelhouse, S Williams, K Woad, J Wong, B Zeebaree.

In attendance: M Maginn, J Scannell and C Swindall (The Conference Collective Secretariat)

MINUTES

59.1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Richard Lea.

59.2 Minutes of the 58th Annual General Meeting held at Edinburgh International Conference Centre on 5 January 2017

59.2.1 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising. The minutes were adopted.

Proposer: Suzannah Williams
Seconder: Amanda de Mestre

59.3 Adoption of the Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2016

No questions were posed regarding the report and accounts and they were duly adopted.

Proposer: Cheryl Ashworth
Seconder: David Miller

59.4 Appointment of Auditors for the financial year ending 31st December 2017

The Treasurer advised Members that, for the year ending 31 December, an independent assessment, rather than a full audit will be conducted. This follows advice from PEM, the SRF's auditors, that an independent assessment suffices due to the size of the Society and its level of income. The appointment of PEM to conduct the audit was agreed by the membership.

Proposer: Stuart Milligan
Secunder: Suman Rice

59.5 Chair's report

The Chair commenced his report by advising that the first item, proposed changes to the Articles of Association had not been included in the pre-circulated Chair's report as it is an issue that has progressed over the intervening Christmas period.

59.5.1 Proposed changes to Articles of Association

For the benefit of those who are new to the Society, the Chair advised that the Society is governed by a highly detailed Memorandum and Articles of Association which have not been refreshed for 17 years. Both charity and company law have changed quite dramatically over that 17-year period. It is proposed to update articles and separate out by-laws that can be updated more regularly. Key changes proposed are as follows:

Firstly, it's proposed to change the Articles to allow all members to hold same status with respect to voting and eligibility to apply for awards.

The Chair reminded members that there are two categories of membership; statutory, non-statutory. Statutory members can vote but cannot benefit from the society. Non-statutory members can benefit from the society and its various schemes but aren't able to vote. The proposal is to move all members to a single status, which we've been advised is possible to do under current law. All members would then become voting members and all members be eligible to apply for awards.

The second change is that trustees would become eligible to vote. Members of Council are simultaneously company directors and trustees, which can sometimes present conflicts of interest. Having taken legal advice it is possible for trustees, i.e. members of council, to be eligible to apply for awards and to benefit from the Society as long as safeguards are put in place.

Those safeguards, to be approved by statutory members and the Charity Commission, might include that only a minority of members of council could at any one time benefit from the Society's awards. Any trustee who was applying to benefit would be excluded from the decision-making process in much the same way as is standard across a number of funding bodies.

The third and final significant proposed amendment to the Articles of Association is to streamline the election of Officers. The process is not particularly well-defined in the current Articles but the proposal is to keep a four-year term for the election of Officers but to move to a '1+3' model where a member of council is elected to become the Officer effectively a year in advance. They would serve one year, for example as the Treasurer-elect or the Chair-elect and then hold that office for a continuing three years. This

should hopefully make the roles more manageable than they have been in the recent past.

The Chair invited questions from members on the suggested changes outlined above:

A Fazeli asked for more details about the intended safeguards.

The Chair advised that these would be drafted by the Solicitor then put to the membership for approval. He explained that the purpose of reporting this to the AGM was not to discuss what the Articles of Association will say but rather what will go to the Charity Commission in outline for approval. The detail will be worked on over the coming months.

A Childs was happy with first and third proposals but uncomfortable with the proposal that trustees should benefit during terms of office. He felt that to avoid any conflicts an extremely transparent system would be required. Furthermore, he added that he didn't think it was a problem recruiting suitable candidates to Council and that there were people willing to forgo access to grants and awards for this short term.

P Fowler agreed with the sentiments of A Childs.

The Chair replied that this feedback will be taken into consideration, however there are recent examples of people applying for Council who would have been really valuable additions but subsequently withdrew their application because they felt conflicted over a grant application. Additionally, there are people who have left Council in order to benefit from a grant scheme.

He added that, at this stage, this suggestion is based on legal advice. If it doesn't have the support of the membership, then it will not be taken forwards.

G Fitzharris was also uncomfortable with the second proposal, suggesting that due to the close-knit nature of the Society, any reviews should be conducted by non-members of Council despite safeguards.

K Jonas was in favour of the second proposal suggesting that conflicts of interest can easily be overcome. She added that other societies manage this very well, including the Society for Endocrinology so long as appropriate safeguards are in place.

The Chair advised the membership about the next steps. Unless the membership feels strongly otherwise, an application will be made to the Charities Commission this month *for approval* to update the Articles of Association, without being tied to what those changes will be. This approval could take 6-8 weeks.

Subject to permission being granted, the draft changes, including details of the safeguards would then be made with the solicitor's involvement.

Council will discuss and suggest final edits to the draft Articles at their Spring meeting (11 May).

The updated articles would then be sent to statutory members as a written resolution and the statutory members would either approve or veto by signature. 33 of the 44 current statutory members (75%) would need to approve the changes for them to be implemented, otherwise, they would remain as they are currently.

G Fitzharris suggested that hard signature responses will be hard to achieve. The Chair advised that the alternative method would be to convene an Extraordinary AGM which would be harder to arrange. J Scannell (SRF Secretariat) advised that all statutory members would be emailed in advance to ensure they know the paperwork is on its way. They will continually be chased and reminded to return the paperwork within the 28-day deadline.

P Fowler asked if the membership would be voting on each modification individually? The Chair advised that this was not how it had been envisaged but this question will be referred back to the Solicitor.

S Milligan commented that he was open-minded about the second proposal but would like to see the safeguard proposals.

The Chair brought this discussion to a close by summarising that the aim is to try and get the Society back to a position where it was about 20 years ago where everyone was equal and everyone had votes and everyone could benefit.

He advised that nothing can progress until the Charity Commission gives the green light in principle to make changes and asked the membership if it was acceptable for the Society to approach the Charity Commission to seek this approval. This question was responded to by silent nodding.

Referring back to his circulated report, the Chair asked if there were any questions from the membership. No questions were posed.

The Chair concluded by expressing his thanks to a number of people and teams he had worked with during his time in office. Firstly, he thanked Michelle Maginn, Jacinta Scannell and the team at the Conference Collective (SRF Secretariat) adding that over the last two years the change in Secretariat has already delivered significant benefits to the Society.

The Chair also thanked Kathryn Spiller and Lindsay Flook of Bioscientifica who do a fantastic job publishing the Journal and just as importantly, selling the Journal, without which we wouldn't have the funds that we need to support the various activities of the Society.

The Chair thanked continuing members of Council for the commitment and enthusiasm they bring to their roles.

He moved on to thank, as customary, the retiring members of Council; Colin Duncan and Katie Woad finishing their terms as ordinary members, Franchesca Houghton concluding her term as the Programme Secretary, and Kacie Thomson, the out-going Early Career Rep.

The Chair continued with a special thank-you to Kevin Sinclair whose 5-year term as Editor-in-Chief of *Reproduction* drew to a close at the beginning of January. He added that Kevin had done a fantastic job with *Reproduction*

which has grown from strength to strength under his editorship. Kevin was invited to the floor to accept a small token of thanks from the membership.

The Chair also added thanks to Ramiro Alberio, out-going Reviews Editor for his work over the past 5 years.

The Chair, expressed his greatest thanks and admiration to Franchesca Houghton adding that she has been an outstanding Programme Secretary. During her term she was responsible for the SRF's programme input for an unprecedented number of conferences; 3 Fertility meetings, 2 SRF Summer conferences and two WCRB congresses. Franchesca was also invited to accept a small token of appreciation from the membership.

Finally, the Chair welcomed the new members to SRF council. Amanda de Mestre, Bruce Murphy, and Nick Wheelhouse who will serve as Ordinary Members.

In response to the Call for Nominations to SRF Council in late 2017, Council received 4 valid nominations for 4 vacant positions as at January 2018. As the number of nominations did not exceed the number of vacancies, the above candidates were duly elected without further procedure.

He continued that, Richard Lea will be succeeding Franchesca as Programme Secretary. Finally, the Chair introduced Colin Duncan as the new chair of SRF.

59.6 Vice-Chair's report

The Vice-Chair, Bob Robinson summarised the main highlights of his report. Membership numbers at the close of 2017 stood at 417. This is a notable increase of 50% on the final number in 2015 which is really pleasing. Of note is that this number included 36% in Early Career Member category 62% from UK with the rest from overseas.

112 members have renewed their membership for 2018 to date. The Vice-Chair reminded members that the membership fees remain frozen at £35 for Early Career and Retired members and £55 for Full Members.

Feedback from the 2016 Sex in Three Cities lecture series, delivered by Prof. Richard Sharpe, had been excellent.

Prof Thomas Hildebrandt is the speaker for 2018 and the Vice-Chair encouraged all members to promote the free-to-attend lectures within their institutes.

He advised that he will shortly be inviting the 2019 speaker and should be able to confirm who it will be by February.

Postscript – Prof Sarah Robertson, Adelaide has accepted the invitation to present the 2019 series.

The Vice-Chair advised Members that he has been tasked with setting up a new Public Engagement Committee to further promote the public engagement activities of the Society and he is currently drafting the Terms of Reference.

There were no questions on the report.

59.7 Treasurer's report

The Treasurer, Tom Fleming, covered the key points of his report. Two of the main sources of Society income are from the Credit Suisse and M&G Charifund. In 2017 the Society earned a return of £80,000 on investments. The current holdings amount to approximately £2m which is slightly up on previous years. Separate from investments, the Treasurer referred to the sterling work of Bioscientifica on the journal *Reproduction*. Sales of subscriptions for *Reproduction* look positive with £120k up to Q3 in 2017. These sources of income allow the Society to conduct the various charitable activities.

The Treasurer moved on to summarise the level of awards and different forms of sponsorship provided in 2017; Travel Grants, £14k; Vacation Scholarships, £23k, Academic Scholarships, £92k. The 2017 Sex in Three Cities lecture series had cost £6k to host. Additionally, £20k was offered to support 'non-SRF' conferences and workshops.

The Treasurer added that 75 bursaries, amounting to £53k, had been offered to members to support their attendance at Fertility 2017 and 91 bursaries, amounting to £70k offered for those attending Fertility 2018.

Furthermore, £48k was offered in bursaries to support 35 members attending the WCRB 2017 meeting in Okinawa. In addition to the bursaries, the Society had provided a donation of £6,731 to the organisers.

The Fertility 2017 meeting had made a £75k surplus which, when distributed across the three host Societies, (SRF, ACE and BFS) amounted to the SRF receiving £28k. The net cost to the SRF for its involvement in this annual meeting, when offsetting the income against the costs, is £32k. The annual Summer conferences used to cost the Society broadly £40-50k. The Treasurer added that over 100 members are in attendance at Fertility 2018.

The Treasurer concluded by stating that the Society is always looking for ways to extend its support for members and to increase its activities and invited questions from members.

A Childs asked if the Fund Managers had given any thought and advice relating to Brexit?

The Treasurer advised that he had indeed discussed the matter with our Fund Managers and the outcome was all quite positive.

S Milligan expressed that he was impressed by the breadth and depth of funds and that the Society appears to be more outward looking.

59.8 General Secretary's Report

The General Secretary commenced his report by reiterating that the Society is always open to suggestions of how to support its members. In this vein the Academic Scholarship remit was expanded in 2017 in response to demand and now includes 3 variations; the Early Career Researcher, Return to Research and the standard Academic Scholarship. Full details of the criteria for each are on the SRF website.

In 2016 a total of 4 applications for the Academic Scholarship were received and this increased to 12 applications in total across the 3 new types in 2017; 6 Academic, 1 Return to Research and 5 Early Career Researcher. The Education and Engagement Committee, supported by the Finance Committee had agreed to fund 8 applications amounting to £92,239.

In addition, we provide vacation scholarships for up to 8 weeks over the summer period for undergraduates to undertake a period of experience in labs run by SRF Members. These include a stipend of £250 per week for the student and £750 for consumables to the lab. 16 applications were received in 2017 with 9 funded and the General Secretary was pleased to add that several of these projects had culminated in abstracts being selected for presentation at Fertility 2018 with one being presented in the SRF Student Prize session. Applications are now open for the 2018 round.

There are now 4 rounds of travel grant application throughout the year to help meet demand and allow more flexibility for members to apply in advance of the meeting they plan to attend.

The 2017 Stewart Rhind Science Writing Prize was again popular in 2017. The winner was Kirsty Uttley, an undergraduate at the University of Edinburgh. Applications will soon open for the 2018 competition and all members were reminded to encourage submissions from undergraduates and postgraduates.

The General Secretary invited questions.

S Milligan suggested that, in light of the financial struggles faced by students and the healthy finances of the Society, a £250 per week stipend for the Vacation Scholarships seems rather ungenerous. The General Secretary advised that this will be taken on board and discussed by Council.

A Childs noted that only 9 out of 16 scholarships were awarded which is two fewer than 2016. He urged the committee, that whilst quality should remain important, to consider funding more or all applications. This would have only cost approximately an additional £15k to the Society this year.

The General Secretary's response was that there had been a number of applications which lacked quality, care and attention. All applications had been scored by two Committee members then ranked with a clear divide in score between those being awarded and those not.

A Childs acknowledged this response and added that it is encouraging that a number of poster and oral communications are evolving from these summer projects.

A Fazeli reiterated the point about all applications being funded to encourage students at this important time of their career.

The Secretary advised that there is no limit to the number that will be funded each year and they would fund all if they were of a sufficient quality. However, without going into full detail, the unsuccessful applications this year lacked specific detail and demonstrated a lack of time and effort invested in the application.

Paul Fowler added that an important part of these applications and projects is the relationship between the Supervisor and Student. It's the Supervisor's responsibility to ensure that the application is of sufficient quality.

S Sheikh, who has just joined medical school, suggested the Society might introduce a scheme to help medical students learn lab techniques who are not experienced enough to do a whole project. The General Secretary advised that the Vacation Scholarship Scheme can be used for this purpose. The maximum number of weeks supported is 8 but applicants can apply for shorter periods e.g. for 6 weeks whereby they learn a new technique for a couple of weeks then bolt a 4-week project on the end of it.

59.9 Programme Secretary's Report

The Programme Secretary commenced with reference to the WCRB in Okinawa, Japan, which had been well attended and supported by the SRF. The meeting had representation from 33 countries and 765 participants. The next WCRB Congress will be held in Beijing in 2020.

She moved on to the current Fertility meeting reminding members that this is the first 'joint Fertility' meeting where the Committee has endeavoured to include all sessions that were formerly part of the SRF's annual conference, e.g. prize sessions, whilst also aiming to maintain the SRF's identity.

S Williams fully endorsed this approach, adding that the SRF dedicated sessions on the afternoon prior to the main conference had worked really well.

The Programme Secretary acknowledged this feedback but added that in 2019 the main conference starts a day earlier. Therefore, based on this year's format, these sessions would fall on 2 January so the programme will need to be reworked.

C Walker cited the Early Career Symposium as fantastic and extremely helpful. She urged the Meetings Committee to keep this as part of the programme.

The Programme Secretary continued that 294 abstracts were submitted to Fertility this year compared to 260 in 2017. Attendance numbers also are higher in 2018 with 959 attendees (including exhibitors and speakers) including 793 delegates from 28 countries. 119 SRF Members contribute to this overall number compared to 141 from ACE, 241 from BFS and 119 non-members.

The next Fertility meeting will be held in Birmingham 3 -5 January 2019.

The Programme Secretary encouraged members to forward suggestions to the Council and Programme Secretary for future speakers.

The Programme Secretary thanked all the past and present Meetings Committee members who have supported her over the past 4 years to arrange programmes for 8 international conferences. Her thanks were also extended to the Conference Collective team at the SRF Secretariat and Profile Productions who organise Fertility.

She concluded by thanking all the SRF Council, past and present for their support and help.

59.10 Election of Honorary Members

The Chair reminded members that nominations for Honorary members are welcome throughout the year. Suggestions should be sent to the Secretariat.

This year Council proposes to extend Honorary Membership to Bill Holt in recognition of being awarded the Marshall Medal. Additionally, Thomas Hildebrandt would be eligible upon conclusion of presenting the forthcoming Sex in Three Cities lecture series.

These proposals were carried Nem Con

59.11 Any Other Business

All current serving officers were duly re-elected to serve for the forthcoming year.

SOCIETY FOR REPRODUCTION AND FERTILITY
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REPORT OF COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

SOCIETY FOR REPRODUCTION AND FERTILITY

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CONTENTS

	Page
Council of Management's Report	1 - 7
Reference and administrative details of the charity, Council of Management and advisers	8
Independent Auditors' Report	9 - 10
Statement of Financial Activities	11
Balance Sheet	12
Notes to the Financial Statements	13 - 22

SOCIETY FOR REPRODUCTION AND FERTILITY

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COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

Members of The Council of Management, who are also directors of the Charity for the purposes of the Companies Act, submit their annual report and the audited financial statements of Society for Reproduction and Fertility (the Society) for the year ended 31 December 2017. The Council of Management confirm that the annual report and financial statements of the Charity comply with current statutory requirements, the requirements of the Charity's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2015), as amended by Update Bulletin 1 (effective 1 January 2016).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

<u>THE OBJECTIVE</u>	<u>MEETING THE OBJECTIVE</u>
To further the knowledge of the reproduction processes and fertility in man and animals by supporting research, teaching or clinical practice.	By grant funding research projects, fellowships and studentships both in the United Kingdom and abroad.
To disseminate the useful results of such research	By publishing peer reviewed work in our international journal "Reproduction." By providing travel grants, vacation scholarships and bursaries to support the attendance of investigators at international meetings on fertility and reproduction
To support researchers, new investigators and established clinicians in disseminating the useful results of research into reproduction and fertility	By holding Scientific meetings as fora for discussion and publishing abstracts of research presented if appropriate. By supporting attendees and inviting leading specialists to explore new directions in research. By collaborating in an annual meeting with other relevant UK societies to disseminate research, information and education. By contributing to the delivery of an international conference every three year on the subjects of fertility and reproduction.
To advance the education of researchers, health professionals and the public in the subject of reproduction and fertility, in particular but not exclusively by supporting research and education of individuals interested in the subject.	By holding an annual series of public talks entitled "Sex and Three Cities" with contributions from an internationally renowned speaker.

SOCIETY FOR REPRODUCTION AND FERTILITY

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COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

Professional Collaborations

The last year saw an evolution of the close working relationship between the SRF and its sister societies in the UK. Quite apart from moving to annual joint Fertility meetings organised in a formal partnership with the Association for Clinical Embryologists (ACE) and with the British Fertility Society (BFS), in 2017, the SRF Council agreed to work more closely not just with colleagues from ACE and the BFS but also with the Association of Biomedical Andrologists (ABA), the British Andrology Society (BAS), the British Infertility Councillor's Association (BICA) and the Senior Infertility Nurses Group (SING). This coalition is currently working under the provisional title of the "Associated Fertility Societies UK", and further developments are expected over the course of 2018. It is hoped that by collaborating with sister societies representing different specialities in the field, we'll be able to achieve more by speaking with a common voice on issues of interest to our members as well as to the scientific and clinical communities that we each seek to support and represent.

The Society was pleased to be one of the 6 international societies working in partnership to organise the 4th World Congress of Reproductive Biology (WCRB 2017) in Okinawa, Japan. The Congress was a joint venture with 6 societies around the world; SRB (Australia), CSRB (China), KSAR (Korea), SRD (Japan), SRF (UK) and SSR (USA). Leading academic scientists, researchers and research scholars exchanged and shared their interests, experiences and research findings about all aspects of reproductive biology. The programme consisted of 6 plenary lectures, 78 oral presentations and 626 posters. In total, there were 765 participants from 33 countries and thus it truly was a world congress. The Society supported the attendance of a number of presenters who achieved high scores in the abstract submission process as well as providing 35 travel grants and bursaries to qualifying applicants.

Our annual conference, now incorporated into the joint Fertility meetings, is seen by many as our "shop window": the place where the Society's support for research into reproductive biology and medicine is most visible, and this impressive conference has shown the work of SRF members in its very best light. Attracting over 600 fertility experts, the Joint Fertility Conference is an excellent opportunity for fertility professionals to learn about cutting edge research and educational advances and to network with peers.

The success of the Society over the past year has been due in no small part to the fantastic working relationships that the Council now enjoy both with our publisher, Bioscientifica, and with the secretariat, the Conference Collective Ltd. (CCL) who continue to think of innovative and exciting ways to better support members.

Public Benefit

The Trustees have assessed the disclosures made in the Council of Management report and consider that these sufficiently detail the significant activities undertaken in order to carry out the Society's aims for the public benefit. When planning the Society's activities, the Trustees have given regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Strategic review and membership survey

In 2017, the Council focused their attention on

- Development of new funding schemes (including financial and operational/logistic support for workshops)
- Planning for WCRB2017
- Planning for future joint Fertility conferences.

SOCIETY FOR REPRODUCTION AND FERTILITY

(A company limited by guarantee)

COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

Communications

The SRF's communication activities continue to go from strength to strength with a dynamic, informative website, regular monthly newsletters to members and continued growth in membership communications.

Our activity on social media contributes to member engagement and raising awareness with the reproduction community as a whole.

The Society is in the process of creating a new sub-committee which will be chaired by the SRF Vice-Chair. The key remit of this exciting new development will be to co-ordinate the Public Engagement and Policy activities of the SRF. The terms of reference are being developed and the Committee plan to organise some new public-facing events in the future.

Continuing increase in membership numbers

At the end of 2017, the Society had a total of 383 members representing another increase in membership from previous years. The majority of these were early career (combined student and post-doc categories) or full members. This is a real transformation from the declining membership that was observed in previous years. The increased membership is a result of the enhanced support offered to members such as increased travel grants, bursaries to attend stimulating SRF/Fertility conferences, and online subscription to *Reproduction*. The majority of the members (62%) are UK-based but the Society has members across the globe including Europe, Japan and Africa.

Academic Scholarships

The Society continues to support the research and development of its members through the award of Academic Scholarships. This year we sought to support our members further by opening up our Academic Scholarship scheme to early career researchers and members wishing to return to research after a period of parental or carers leave. Demonstration that this expansion to our Scholarship awards was much needed was evident by the increase in total number of applications being submitted. In 2017 we received a total of 12 applications (6 academic scholarships; 1 return to research scholarship and 5 early career researcher scholarships) compared to 4 the previous year. Out of the twelve applications the Society agreed to fund 8 applications at a total cost of £92,239.

As always, the Society believes that our members should be fully aware of how the Society's funds are being spent and what the outcomes, impact and outputs are from all Society supported activities. As such, the Council will continue to engage with current and future Scholarship awardees to ensure the maximal benefit and impact can be achieved with the Society's funds.

The Council is a representative of the Society and its members and looks to support our members in as many ways a possible. As such, the Council continues to respond to members' comments and, where appropriate, address funding issues we believe are appropriate for our members. However, we are always open to additional suggestions of where our members feel they could be supported further by the Society.

The launch of new funding schemes has allowed the Society to target financial support to our Early Career Researchers (ECR's) as well as to Society members returning to their research careers after periods of parental leave.

Vacation Scholarships

Vacation scholarships are offered to undergraduate students who want to get experience of conducting cutting-edge reproductive research for a period of up to 8 weeks over the summer. In 2017, the Society agreed to fund 9 vacation scholarships from a total of 16 applications. As an indication of the value and impact of our vacation

SOCIETY FOR REPRODUCTION AND FERTILITY

(A company limited by guarantee)

COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

scholarship scheme, the abstracts of two of our awardees were selected for an oral communication and for the SRF's student prize session respectively at Fertility 2018.

Travel Grants

In 2017, the Society instigated our travel grant scheme based on distance travelled rather than awarding a flat sum. In 2017, the Society awarded 23 travel grants allowing members to attend national and international conferences. Applications for Travel Grants are considered throughout the year but must be submitted in advance of the meeting to which they are being applied for.

Public Engagement

The "Sex in 3 Cities" series of public lectures continues to go from strength to strength, and Professor Richard Sharpe from the MRC Centre for Reproductive Health at The Queen's Medical Research Institute, University of Edinburgh delivered lectures in the three host cities of Edinburgh, Nottingham & London. This series of meetings is targeted at members of the public as well as academic and research staff and attendance is free of charge. The lectures received very positive feedback.

These events are widely promoted and receive good local publicity helping to boost attendance levels.

Reproduction Journal

The main source of income to the Society is from our journal Reproduction published by Bioscientifica and our general running costs tend to be covered by this plus membership subscriptions and investments. The subscription income for 2017 figures compare well with income achieved in 2016.

Press and Media Activities

The Society is regularly requested to comment on advances in fertility and reproductive medicine by both the national media and health journals. These enquiries are answered by relevant members and more complex queries referred to the Trustees to disseminate to experts.

Education and Awareness Raising

Following the decision to replace the SRF Annual conference with the annual Fertility Meeting, the Society invited members to bid for sponsorship to organise local and national workshops. A symposium was organised by members at the University of Southampton on 7 July 2017 and attracted 118 participants from across the UK.

In addition, SRF have agreed to sponsor 8 non-SRF conference events in 2017 compared with 6 equivalent events) in 2016.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Society achieved a surplus before gains on investments of £48,875 in the year to 31 December 2017, compared to a surplus of £132,625 in 2016. After investment gains of £33,590 (2016: £48,858), the net income reported for the year was £82,465 (2016: £164,056).

Total income in the year to 31 December 2017 was £323,163 (2016: £249,013) with total expenditure of £274,287 (2016: £116,387).

As at 31 December 2017, the Society held investments totalling £1,888,983 (2016: £1,759,183) and unrestricted funds of £2,187,147 (2016: £1,940,626).

SOCIETY FOR REPRODUCTION AND FERTILITY

(A company limited by guarantee)

COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

Reserves Policy

The aim is to establish and maintain sufficient reserves to enable the continuance of activities at current levels in the event of financial difficulties, such as might arise from significant reduction in subscription revenue, by:

- Maintaining reserves to meet at least one year's running costs, including all overheads;
- Maintaining the investment funds held with Credit Suisse at a level which equates to approximately £1.9m.
- Holding reserves which will defend the Society against significant changes in subscription income, income from publications and income from investments.

The unrestricted fund comprises funds held to meet the day to day operation of the Society. As at 31 December 2017 the fund amounted to £2,104,682 including the investment portfolio of £1,888,983. Investments are held for the long term with the intention of generating growth but also to generate income to support the charitable activities. Free reserves amounted to £82,465.

The Council of Management believes that the financial position of the Society at the balance sheet date is such that adequate resources exist for the Society to continue its activities for the foreseeable future.

Investment Policy and Objectives

The investments held by the Society have been acquired in accordance with the powers contained in the Company's Memorandum and Articles of Association and are managed by Messrs Credit Suisse according to a mandate revised in 2005 and M&G Charities. The mandate imposes no ethical restrictions except that investment in tobacco products is to be excluded. The Society receives regular information on fund performance which is reviewed by the trustees.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing Document

The Society for Reproduction and Fertility is a charitable company limited by guarantee, established in 1960 and incorporated on 25 January 1960. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association and is governed by its Articles of Association, which were last amended on 11 July 2012. In the event of the company being wound up members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

SOCIETY FOR REPRODUCTION AND FERTILITY

(A company limited by guarantee)

COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT'S REPORT (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

Appointment and Resignation of Trustees

The Society is governed by Articles of Association and associated Bylaws. Trustees are elected by the Society's members and achieve trustee status and also become Directors of the Limited Company by virtue of election to the Council of Management of the Society.

All Trustees who have served for a continuous term of four years shall retire from office and shall not be eligible for re-election for one year unless elected as an Officer of The Society for Reproduction and Fertility.

There was no change in Trustees during the year as it was agreed to hold the AGM to coincide with the Fertility Meeting in January 2018 and for all Trustees due to return in 2017 to continue their term of office until that time. The Society for Reproduction had 12 serving Trustees as at 31 December 2017.

Qualifying third party indemnity provisions

The Society has made qualifying third-party indemnity provisions for the benefit of its directors during the year. These provisions remain in force at the reporting date.

Trustee Induction and Training

Long-serving Trustees are already familiar with the work of the Society. New Trustees are provided with a briefing document on their legal obligations under charity and company law, the content of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the decision-making processes, future plans and objectives and the recent financial performance of the Society. They are also invited to discuss their responsibilities with the Chairman and Treasurer at any time.

Organisational Structure

The Board of Trustees, which must consist of at least five members, administers the Society. The Board meets four times a year. A Finance Sub-Committee also meets 4 times a year to discuss grant applications, bursary requests etc and to review and discuss the annual budget. A professional Secretariat is appointed by the Trustees to manage the day to day operations of the Society in collaboration with the board. To facilitate effective operations, the Secretariat supports the Chairman who has delegated authority, within terms of delegation approved by the Trustees, for matters including finance, administration, membership and marketing activity.

Risk management

The Trustees, Executive Committee and Finance Committee have conducted a review of the major risks to which the Society is exposed. A risk register is reviewed and updated at regular intervals.

The Trustees have a risk management strategy which comprises:

- Regular reviews of the risks that the Society faces
- The establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate risks identified
- The implementation of procedures designed to minimise any potential impact on the Society should those risks identified actually materialise.

A key element in the management of financial risk is the setting of a reserves policy and the regular review of this policy by the Trustees.

SOCIETY FOR REPRODUCTION AND FERTILITY

(A company limited by guarantee)

COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT'S REPORT (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

STATEMENT OF COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The Council of Management (who are also directors of the Society for Reproduction and Fertility for the purposes of company law) is responsible for preparing the Council of Management's report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company and charity law requires the Council of Management to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Council of Management is required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The Council of Management is responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

PROVISION OF INFORMATION TO AUDITORS

So far as each of the Council members are aware at the time the report is approved:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the Society auditors are unaware, and
- They have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

This report was approved by the Council on 2 November 2018 and signed on its behalf, by:

.....
Dr Colin Duncan
Chair

SOCIETY FOR REPRODUCTION AND FERTILITY

(A company limited by guarantee)

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS TRUSTEE AND ADVISERS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017**

Council of Management

Dr Anthony Michael (Chairperson)
Dr Adam Watkins (General Secretary)
Professor Thomas Patrick Fleming (Treasurer and Company Secretary)
Dr Franchesca Houghton (Programme Secretary)
Dr William Colin Duncan
Dr Ali Akbar Fouladi-Nashta
Dr Douglas Alistair Gibson
Dr Richard Graham Lea
Dr David Miller
Dr Suman Rice
Dr Robert Robinson
Mr Olivier Sandra

Company registered number

00647816

Charity registered number

261433

Registered office

8 Waldegrave Road Teddington Middlesex TW11 18HT

Company secretary

Professor T Fleming

Chair

Dr W C Duncan

Independent auditors

Peters Elworthy & Moore, Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors, Salisbury House, Station Road, Cambridge, CB1 2LA

Bankers

Barclays Bank PLC, 6 Clarence Street, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, KT1 1NY
Lloyds Bank, 3rd Floor, Market Square House, Nottingham, NG1 6FD

Solicitors

Wilsons Solicitors, Alexandra House, St. Johns Street, Salisbury SP1 2SB

Investment managers

M&G Charities, PO Box 9038, Chelmsford, CM99 2XF

Credit Suisse UK Ltd, One Cabot Square, London, E14 4QJ

SOCIETY FOR REPRODUCTION AND FERTILITY

(A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SOCIETY FOR REPRODUCTION AND FERTILITY

We have audited the financial statements of Society for Reproduction and Fertility for the year ended 31 December 2017 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

This report is made solely to the Society's members, as a body, in accordance with regulations made under Section 145 of the Charities Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Society's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and its members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT AND AUDITORS

As explained more fully in the Council of Management's Responsibilities Statement the Council of Management (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view.

The Council of Management have elected for the financial statements to be audited in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 rather than the Companies Act 2006. Accordingly, we have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of that Act.

Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

SCOPE OF THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the charitable company's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the Council of Management; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the Council of Management's Report to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by us in the course of performing the audit. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies, we consider the implications for our report.

SOCIETY FOR REPRODUCTION AND FERTILITY

(A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SOCIETY FOR REPRODUCTION AND FERTILITY

OPINION ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2017 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

MATTERS ON WHICH WE ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT BY EXCEPTION

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Council of Management's Report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- the charitable company has not kept adequate accounting records; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Paul Chapman (Senior Statutory Auditor)

for and on behalf of

PETERS ELWORTHY & MOORE

Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor
Salisbury House
Station Road
Cambridge
CB1 2LA

Date: 2 November

SOCIETY FOR REPRODUCTION AND FERTILITY

(A company limited by guarantee)

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (incorporating the Income and Expenditure Account)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017**

		Unrestricted Total funds 2017	Unrestricted Total funds 2016
	Note	£	£
INCOME FROM:			
Charitable activities	2	323,163	249,005
Investments	3	33,590	31,438
TOTAL INCOME		<u>356,753</u>	<u>280,443</u>
EXPENDITURE ON:			
Raising funds – investment managers fees		16,100	14,716
Charitable activities	4	418,022	229,871
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		<u>434,122</u>	<u>244,587</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) BEFORE INVESTMENT GAINS/(LOSSES)		(77,369)	35,856
Net gains on investments	9	<u>159,834</u>	<u>127,500</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) AND MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		82,465	163,356
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:			
Total funds brought forward		<u>2,104,682</u>	<u>1,941,326</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u>2,187,147</u>	<u>2,104,682</u>

All activities relate to continuing operations.

The notes on pages 13 to 22 form part of these financial statements.

SOCIETY FOR REPRODUCTION AND FERTILITY

(A company limited by guarantee)
Registered Number 647816

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2017

	Note	£	2017 £	£	2016 £
FIXED ASSETS					
Investments	9		1,937,907		1,791,912
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	10	229,694		231,441	
Cash at bank		64,105		63,937	
		293,799		411,580	
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	11		44,559	(98,810)	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			249,240		312,770
NET ASSETS			2,187,147		2,104,682
CHARITY FUNDS					
Unrestricted funds			2,187,147		2,104,682

The Council of Management considers that the Society is entitled to exemption from the requirement to have an audit under the provisions of section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 ("the Act") and members have not required the Society to obtain an audit for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Act. However, an audit is required in accordance with section 144 of the Charities Act 2011.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2016 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of the financial statement.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Council of Management on 2 November 2018 and signed on their behalf, by:

.....
Dr WC Duncan

The notes on pages 13 to 22 form part of these financial statements.

SOCIETY FOR REPRODUCTION AND FERTILITY

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.1 BASIS OF PREPARATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102). The Trustees have also decided to early adopt Update Bulletin 1 of the Charities SORP (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2016).

No significant estimates or judgements have been made by management in preparing these financial statements.

Society of Reproduction and Fertility constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

These financial statements of Society for Reproduction and Fertility are prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (FRS 102) and the Charities SORP 2015 (SORP 2015).

1.2 RECONCILIATION WITH PREVIOUS GENERALLY ACCEPTED ACCOUNTING PRACTICE

In preparing these accounts, the Trustees have considered whether in applying the accounting policies required by FRS 102 and the Charities SORP FRS 102 the restatement of comparative items was required.

No restatements were required and net income/(expenditure) for the year is provided with the net income/(expenditure) adjusted for the presentation of investment (losses)/gains as a component of reported income.

In accordance with FRS 102, a reconciliation of opening balances is provided here:

	31 December 2017
Reconciliation of reported net expenditure	
Net expenditure as previously stated	(48,875)
Adjustment for gains on investments now treated as a component of net income	33,590
Net income as restated	82,465

SOCIETY FOR REPRODUCTION AND FERTILITY

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.3 COMPANY STATUS

The Society is a company limited by guarantee. The members of the company are the Council of Management named on page 8. In the event of the Society being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the Society.

1.4 FUND ACCOUNTING

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Council of Management in furtherance of the general objectives of the Society and which have not been designated for other purposes.

1.5 GOING CONCERN

The Council of Management have reviewed the financial position of the Society and have a reasonable expectation that the Society has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, the financial statements continue to be prepared on the going concern basis.

1.6 INCOME

All income is recognised once the Society has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Society; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the Bank.

Dividends are recognised once the dividend has been declared and notification has been received of the dividend due.

Income in relation to the sale of journals is recognised at the later of the publication date or receipt of an order.

Conference income is recognised at the point the conference is held.

Subscriptions received in advance are included within creditors falling due within one year.

SOCIETY FOR REPRODUCTION AND FERTILITY

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.7 EXPENDITURE

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Support costs, including governance costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the Society and include management carried out at the principal office. Governance costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the Society and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Grants payable are charged in the year when the offer is made except in those cases where the offer is conditional, such grants being recognised as expenditure when the conditions attaching are fulfilled. Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year-end are noted as a commitment, but not accrued as expenditure.

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Expenditure on raising funds represents the fees paid to investment managers in connection with the management of the Society's investments.

1.8 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Society only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

1.9 INVESTMENTS

Fixed asset investments are a form of financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction cost and subsequently measured at fair value at the Balance Sheet date, unless fair value cannot be measured reliably in which case it is measured at cost less impairment.

All gains and losses are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities as they arise. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and their opening carrying value or their purchase value if acquired subsequent to the first day of the financial year. Unrealised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between the fair value at the year end and their carrying value.

Investment gains and losses, whether realised or unrealised, are combined and shown in the heading 'Gains/(losses) on investments' in the Statement of Financial Activities.

SOCIETY FOR REPRODUCTION AND FERTILITY

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.10 FOREIGN CURRENCIES

Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date.

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the relevant monthly average exchange rate.

Exchange gains and losses are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Foreign exchange gains and losses arising on investments are disclosed within investment income.

1.11 STOCK

No account is taken of stocks of publications in hand at the year end. At this point in time, all publications become back issues and it is difficult to predict the realisable values of these, but they are not considered to be material.

1.12 DEBTORS

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount. Prepayments and accrued income are valued at the amount repaid net of any trade discounts due.

1.13 CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

1.14 CREDITORS AND PROVISIONS

Creditors are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance Sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Creditors are recognised at the amount that the Society anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide. Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised within interest payable and similar charges.

SOCIETY FOR REPRODUCTION AND FERTILITY

(A company limited by guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017**

2. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2017	2016
	£	£
Sales of journals and supplements	0	0
Journal royalties	224,009	209,084
Conference income	29,091	23,700
Society membership subscriptions	29,785	16,221
Other income	40,278	
	<u>323,163</u>	<u>249,005</u>

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2017	2016
	£	£
Income from listed investments	33,580	30,576
Bank Interest	<u>10</u>	<u>862</u>
	<u>33,590</u>	<u>31,438</u>

4. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE

	Direct Costs	Grant	Support and		
	2017	funding	governance	2017	2016
	£	activities	costs	£	£
		2017			
		£			
Charitable activities	<u>147,130</u>	<u>185,225</u>	<u>85,666</u>	<u>418,022</u>	<u>229,817</u>

SOCIETY FOR REPRODUCTION AND FERTILITY

(A company limited by guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER
2017**

5. DIRECT COSTS

	2017	2016
	£	£
Cost of production and despatch	9,898	0
Insurance	4,067	4,001
Website costs	1,074	5,072
Editorial expenses	47,517	26,974
Secretariat charges	33,984	19,350
Conferences	39,779	78,393
Advertising, PR and marketing	9,459	4,487
Print, postage & design	1,353	3,335
	<u>147,130</u>	<u>141,612</u>

6. GRANT FUNDING ACTIVITIES

	2017	2017	2016	2016
	Number	£	Number	£
Academic scholarships	4	44,242	4	24,975
Vacation scholarships	10	23,000	10	25,715
Grants made – travel, accommodation and	125	117,983	84	32,996
Meeting attendance support	-	-	-	-
	<u>185,225</u>		<u>98</u>	<u>83,686</u>

SRF provided bursaries for members to attend the current Fertility 2018 conference (£70,220 to 91 members) compared with Fertility 2017 (£53,095 to 75 members).

SOCIETY FOR REPRODUCTION AND FERTILITY

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

Institutional grants made in excess of £1,000 are as follows:

University of Cambridge - Vacation Scholarship 2017 - Eman Butt	2,250
University of Cambridge - Vacation Scholarship 2017 - Isabella Inzani	2,750
University of Aberdeen - SRF Vacation Scholarship for Federico Caso	2,750
University of Edinburgh - Vacation scholarship - Jessica McLachlan	2,000
University of Sheffield - SRF Vacation Scholarship 2017 - Mr. Daniel Stark	2,750
Aston University - Vacation Scholarship - Sofia Akhtar	2,250
University of Edinburgh - Vacation scholarship - Hannah Webb	2,000
St. George's, University of London - Student Stipend & lab consumables J Embola vacation scholarship	2,750
University of Sheffield - SRF Vacation Scholarship 2017 - Mr. Chandler Bray	2,750
University of Bristol - SRF Academic Scholarship Award 2014 for PI Andres Lopez Bernal	7,037
Edinburgh Napier University - Academic Scholarship Award - Dr. Mick Rae	12,250
University of Edinburgh - Prof. C. Ashworth: Academic scholarship award	12,455
SLU (Swedish University of Agricultural Services) - Jane Morrell - research grant	12,500
Agnieszka Wacławik - Bursary - WCRB Japan 2017	1,099
Bruce Murphy - Bursary - WCRB Japan 2017	1,099
Cheryl Ashworth - WCRB Bursary	1,099
Christopher Price - Bursary - WCRB 2017	1,099
Eva Nagyova - Bursary - WCRB 2017	1,099
John Parrington - WCRB bursary	1,099
Sona Scsukova - Bursary - WCRB 2017	1,099
Suzannah Williams - Bursary	1,099
Olga Gumeniuk - Bursary - WCRB Japan 2017	1,200
Peck Chin - Bursary - WCRB Japan 2017	1,200
Amal Mohammed - Bursary - WCRB Japan 2017	1,238
Belinda Lo - WCRB bursary	1,238
Charlotte Walker - Bursary - WCRB Japan	1,238
Chinwe Nwachukwu - Bursary - WCRB 2017	1,238
Christopher Coyle - Bursary WCRB 2017	1,238
Chutima Topipat - Bursary - WCRB 2017	1,238
Diego Ojeda Pedraza - Bursary - WCRB 2017	1,238

SOCIETY FOR REPRODUCTION AND FERTILITY

(A company limited by guarantee)

Jessica Sanders - Bursary - WCRB 2017	1,238
Joanna Gould - Bursary -WCRB 2017	1,238
Kacie Thomson - Bursary to attend WCRB Japan 2017	1,238
Laura Caetano - Bursary - WCRB 2017	1,238
Ling Ting - Bursary - WCRB 2017	1,238
Oluwatosin Adesina - Bursary - WCRB 2017	1,238
Piotr Kaczynski - Bursary - WCRB Japan 2017	1,238
Pooja Khurana - Bursary - WCRB 2017	1,238
Rebecca Sumner - Bursary - WCRB Japan 2017	1,238
Roseanne Rosario - Bursary - WCRB 2017	1,238
S Grandados-Aparici - Bursary WCRB Japan 2017	1,238
Sairah Sheikh - Bursary - WCRB	1,238
R. Penailillo-Escarate - Bursary - WCRB 2017	1,293
Akane Creation Co. Ltd - WCRB 2017 Exhibition Fee (JPY 250,000), Printing Fee (JPY 45,000), Operation Fee (JPY 20,000)	2,151
The Conference Collective Ltd - Management of Little Embryos Workshop in Southampton as agreed with Tony Michael, March 2017	5,880
JTB Global Marketing & Travel Inc - Attendance at Fourth World Congress of Reproductive Biology - 35 dels (JYP 1,486,000)	10,060
Franchesca Houghton - Expenses - Okinawa, Japan, 23/9/17 to 1/10/17	2,134
Crowne Plaza Manchester Airport - Room hire and accommodation 2-11-17	3,038
Radisson Blu Manchester Airport - Meeting room, refreshments and accommodation, 20/21 April	4,063
Fertility Conferences Ltd. - Accommodation (47 room nights) at Fertility 2017 at ECC Edinburgh	4,113
Other grants under £1,000	<u>51,289</u>
	<u>185,226</u>

SOCIETY FOR REPRODUCTION AND FERTILITY**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017**

7. SUPPORT COSTS

	Governance	Support	Total	Total
	£	£	2017	2016
			£	£
Bank and credit card charges	-	2,183	2,183	1,557
Subscriptions	-	6,670	6,670	80
Postage and telephone	-	-	-	-
Travel expenses	-	-	-	165
VAT adjustment	-	-	-	(20,245)
Bad Debt expense	-	-	-	(6,485)
Foreign exchange differences	-	(5,482)	(5,482)	2,718
Accountancy	-	0	0	-
Auditors' remuneration	-	-	-	1,029
Other accountancy fees	14,500	-	14,500	4,600
Independent Examination fee	5,750	-	5,750	5,750
Sponsorship and prizes awarded	34,802	-	34,802	4,777
Council of Management and other travel costs	20,603	-	20,603	10,627
Other expenses	6,640	-	6,640	-
	82,295	3,371	85,666	4,573

8. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

This is stated after charging:

	2017	2016
	£	£
Independent examination fee	5,750	5,750
Auditors' remuneration - audit	-	1,029
Auditors' remuneration – non-audit	14,500	4,600

The key management personnel of the charity comprise the Trustees. The Trustees all give their time and expertise without any kind of remuneration or other benefit in kind (2016: £Nil). During the year, £20,603 was reimbursed to Council Members for travel expenses (2016 - £5,336).

SOCIETY FOR REPRODUCTION AND FERTILITY**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017**

9. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	Listed	Unlisted	Cash held for investment	Total
	£	£	£	£
MARKET VALUE				
At 1 January 2017	1,759,184	-	32,728	1,791,912
Additions	745,730	-	-	745,730
Disposals	(750,093)	-	-	(750,093)
Revaluations	134,162	-	-	134,162
Movement in cash held	-		16,196	16,196
At 31 December 2017	<u>1,888,983</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>48,924</u>	<u>1,937,907</u>

All investments are carried at their fair value. Investment in equities and fixed interest securities are all traded in quoted public markets, primarily the London Stock Exchange. Holdings in common investment funds, unit trusts and open-ended investment companies are at the bid price. The basis of fair value for quoted investments is equivalent to the market value, using the bid price. Asset sales and purchases are recognised at the date of trade at cost (that is their transaction value).

The Society uses investment managers to manage the investment portfolio and do not consider that they The Society is operating an investment policy that provides for a degree of diversification of holdings within different unit trust investments. The Society has invested in a number of unit trusts in order to protect the Society's exposure to volatility in the market and seek low risk investments wherever possible.

The Society does not make use of derivatives and similar complex financial instruments as it takes the view that investments are held for their longer-term growth and annual income.

The Society has no material investment holdings in markets subject to exchange controls or trading restrictions.

SOCIETY FOR REPRODUCTION AND FERTILITY

(A company limited by guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017**

10. DEBTORS

	2017	2016
	£	£
Other debtors	-	-
Prepayments and accrued income	229,694	231,441
	229,694	231,441

11. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2017	2016
	£	£
Trade creditors	11,447	49,080
VAT payable	(26,704)	24,224
Other creditors	(2,754)	359
Accruals and deferred income	62,570	25,147
	44,559	98,810

12. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

There were no related party transactions in 2017.

13. PRIOR YEAR RESTATEMENT

The balance sheet at 31 December 2017 has been restated to show investment cash amounting to £361,715 within fixed asset investments as opposed to current assets.



Society for
Reproduction
and Fertility

60.5 Chair's Report 2018

60th SRF AGM, ICC Birmingham, 4th January 2019

This is my first annual report as chair of SRF and I'm pleased to report that it has been a successful year. I am supported by excellent officers, council members and secretariat any successes this year are entirely due to them. Overall, year on year, our membership is increasing and the society remains in very good fiscal health, which allows us to increase our support to members.

The year started with Fertility 2018 in Liverpool, which, despite last minute rearrangements because of the car park fire, was a great success. The feedback on the meeting was very positive. We welcomed over 100 SRF members to the meeting, 10x more than in 2016. It is clear that the SRF is crucial in driving the scientific excellence for these meetings and it is important that all members are able to suggest speakers to the programme committee. Richard Lea is always keen to get suggestions from the membership.

We also supported and helped organise two summer meetings that were both very well attended and resulted in really positive feedback from those attending. We supported the 40th anniversary IVF meeting in Manchester in July and the UK Fertility Preservation meeting in Oxford in September. Both of these meetings involved a public lecture and this builds on our public facing activities. The main public lecture each year that we support is the Sex in Three Cities lecture. In 2018 it was given by Professor Thomas Hildebrandt and all who attended were both enraptured and humbled by the videos he showed. Conservation reproductive biology is really important and we were able to get key messages across with help from arguably the leading international expert in the field.

The main source of income to the society are investment returns and revenues from the journal. We have a new editorial team for the journal: Greg Fitzharris and Chris Price, both based in Canada, as well as a truly international highly-regarded editorial board. It is very clear from author surveys that the response time and interaction with the editions are amongst the best in academic publishing. The mean submission to first response is now less than 20 days. The society are very grateful to Greg and Chris for their very hard work and the journal continues to flourish. Reproduction is supported by Bioscientifica, through a profit sharing arrangement, and this relationship has consistently delivered impressive revenues to the society in challenging times for publishing. We have an excellent relationship with Kathryn Spillar and Lindsey Flook from Bioscientifica and this year we have renewed our contract with them to continue to produce our journal. We are delighted to be able to facilitate the Reproduction prize winner for the best paper to present at this meeting.

The finances of the society have been stewarded by Tom Fleming for the past four years and he has managed to impressively increase the support for the societies activities without risking the financial platform that underpins the health of the society. He will demit office after this meeting and will be sorely missed. I personally would like to thank him for his wise guidance and common sense. David Millar has been shadowing Tom for the last year and will now take over as Treasurer and I'm sure the finances of the society remain in good hands. There are two further departures from council after this AGM that I would like to acknowledge. Olivier Sandra has been an active council member bringing sense,

pragmatism and a European dimension to the society. Michelle Johnson has been an incredibly active postgrad rep who has brought a welcome expertise in the use of social media and helped set the foundation for the new public engagement committee that we have now set up under the leadership of Bob Robinson. I'm delighted that after an election that the members, and not the council, were involved in we have three superb replacements to help drive the SRF forward on your behalf. Another huge loss is Michelle Maginn who was the SRF point of contact in our secretariat. She was integral to the success of the society and we all wish her very well in her new venture. Alex Graves has taken on this role at Conference Collective and I'm sure that the good work on behalf of the society will continue.

So, what next for the SRF? We will be ensuring the contract with our secretariat reflects the changes in our workload and funding streams and look into supporting re-tendering for the Fertility conference organisers, currently being run by Profile Productions. We are finalising the important work to get rid of the statutory and non-statutory member categories so that all members are able to have a say. This will have to be voted on and agreed by the statutory members. It will modernise our articles and democratise the society. One key element was that statutory members, who are largely on council, would be eligible to apply for grants. That would give a potential conflict of interest with regards to making funding decisions and we have put safeguards in place to ensure that officers and council members will not benefit from competitive grant funding during their tenure.

After this Fertility meeting we will be consulting with you again about the model we have adopted with the annual winter Fertility meeting with support for more specialised summer meetings. It is time for your opinion about whether this arrangement should continue. One benefit of this arrangement is that the larger meeting allows us to invite more top international scientists to present and the profits of the meeting, as a result of the trade exhibition, allow us to support the attendance of PIs as well as postgrads. The council believe that this has resulted in dynamic and healthy meetings where young researchers can get an important clinical perspective, within a supportive society, at a time where smaller meetings are becoming less viable. We will consult with the membership to look into what will happen in 2021. We have signed up to Fertility 2020 which will be in Edinburgh next year, thankfully a week later. We are keen to ensure that our programme suggestions for this and other meetings are in line with the interests of the society members and this year we hope to get information on the areas of interest of our members and I hope you'll all be able to reply to the future request for areas of interest.

This year we have Professor Sarah Robertson from Adelaide, Australia as the sex in three cities lecturer in March. Her title is the intriguing "Partner compatibility: the immune system and reproductive success" and I would recommend this to all who can attend the lectures in London, Nottingham and Edinburgh. Please spread the word.

In 2020 we will be supporting the 5th WCRB which will be held in Beijing. The WCRB in Okinawa in 2017 was a superb meeting, with good attendance from SRF members, and we hope that the China meeting will surpass this. We have an exciting new initiative where Rebecca Sumner and Michelle Johnson have organised a two day structured workshop to increase the generic skills of postgrads. This will be held in Birmingham in July and spaces are limited. I recommend this to you and we are delighted as a society to support the academic development of our junior members. As Chair of the SRF I am very happy to write supporting statements for members who are applying for promotion within their institute and we are dedicated to supporting members throughout their career.

Finally, I would like to thank once more the council members who have all served the society in various committees. In particular I would like to thank Adam Watkins whose committee is responsible for reviewing, awarding and this year creating grants. Richard Lea whose committee has ensured that the programme for this meeting was put together in a timely manner and the other societies could learn from his efficiency and vision. Bob Robinson has developed an engagement committee and lead on the membership with common sense and enthusiasm. Finally, Tom Fleming has chaired the finance committee. He has headed to the Isle of Wight, which surprisingly isn't a tax haven yet, leaving us in good financial health we all wish him a long and happy retirement. Finally the society is nothing without its members and I wish you all a prosperous and academically satisfying 2019.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colin Duncan', written in a cursive style.

Colin Duncan (Chair, SRF)



Society for Reproduction and Fertility

Vice-Chair Report 2018

60th SRF AGM, ICC Birmingham, 4th January 2019

- At the end of October 2018, we had a total of 457 members which is an incredible increase of 50 members since October 2017. The majority of these were early career (combined student and post-doc categories; 43%) or full members (43%). This consolidates the real transformation from the declining membership that was observed in previous years (2013-5). The exact reason for the increased membership is unclear but is likely to reflect the enhanced support offered to members such as increased travel grants, bursaries to attend stimulating Fertility conferences, and online subscription to *Reproduction*. The majority of the members (60%) are UK-based but we have members across the globe including Europe, Asia and Africa. The SRF council wish to once again thank CCL who have performed an excellent job maintaining the membership list and chasing up memberships renewals.
- Notification of renewals for 2019 membership to SRF have just been sent out with the membership fees for 2019 (£55/£35) kept the same as for 2018. We strongly encourage our members to renew as soon as possible enabling them continued access to the excellent benefits.
- The 9th speaker in the SRF *Sex in 3 Cities* public lecture series will be Professor Sarah Robertson from Robinson Research Institute, University of Adelaide with events being held as follows:
 - 20th March 2019 at 17:30, Royal Veterinary College, Camden Campus, London
 - 21st March 2019 at 18:00, Sutton Bonington campus, Nottingham
 - 25th March 2019 at 17:30, Queens Medical Research Institute (QMRI), Edinburgh

It promises to be another excellent and engaging lecture titled "*Partner compatibility: the immune system and reproductive success*" with further details are available on the SRF website. The 2018 Sex in 3 Cities public lecture was delivered by Professor Thomas Hildebrandt and received truly excellent feedback once again. The overall mean feedback score across the 3 venues was 9.2 (on a 0-10 scale). We have reviewed the feedback and will look to make additional improvements to further enhance the experience of this important event.

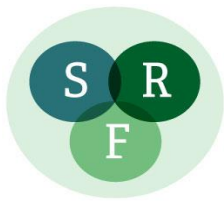
The 2019 event will be free to attend and open to the public as on previous occasions. Local co-ordinators and CCL are actively preparing and promoting this lecture series and build on its previous successes. The London leg, this year will return to the Royal Veterinary College. A key remit of the event is public engagement in the wonders of reproductive biology and so please can all members spread the word around. The "public" attendance has been traditionally lower than wished for hence we are looking at further ways to advertise this event to a wider audience i.e. placing adverts in Time-Out, advertising in British Library. We will have a straight-forward booking system in place to encourage as many people to book in advance to assist local organisers with the catering requirements.

- The 2020 public engagement lecture will be the 10th anniversary of the lecture series. We are hoping to make this a true celebration of reproductive biology and are looking at inviting two speakers with the potential re-branding of the event. We hope to have more details in time for the 2019 lectures. We always appreciate nominations for speakers at this prestigious event with a list of previous speakers available on the SRF website.

- We have recently created a new sub-committee which will co-ordinate the Public Engagement and Policy activities of the SRF and will be chaired by the SRF Vice-Chair. The terms of reference have been developed. This committee will review the Sex in 3 cities lecture series and whether there are opportunities for some new public-facing events in the near future. It has also been responding to consultation requests from the Royal Society of Biology (i.e. the impact of Brexit on the UK's scientific community).

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Robert H. Robinson" with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Bob Robinson (Vice-Chair, SRF)



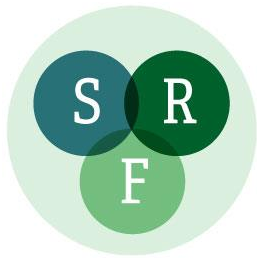
Society for Reproduction and Fertility

Treasurers Report

60th SRF AGM, ICC Birmingham, 4th January 2019

- The recent (end September 2018) total value of the society investments with Credit Suisse was at £1,737,117 compared to a year-end value for 2017 of £1,766,317, for 2016 of £1,617,925 and for 2015 of £1,525,890. Our portfolio value has shown good stability over recent years despite these financially volatile times and surplus from this capital base provides one source of income for our charitable activities.
- The SRF has further investment with M&G Charifund valued at £161,353 on 22/10/2018, down £10,238 from £171,591 at end of 2017, and £160,386 at end of 2016. Our Barclays current account is used for SRF business and to manage payment of grants, awards and bursaries and has a value of £8,142 (13/12/18). From the above data, our collective current assets stand at £1,960,249 (as at 1/11/18). This compares with similar value over recent years (end of 2015 £1,900,901; end of 2013 £1,983,659).
- The main source of income to the Society is from our journal *Reproduction* published by Bioscientifica and our general running costs tend to be covered by this plus membership subscriptions and investments. In 2015, we began a new 5 year profit-share contract with Bioscientifica and, because of its financial success, Council agreed to renew this contract early (starting from Jan 2019 for 5 years). Journal subscription income for 2018 up to Q3 (end September 2018) minus Bioscientifica's costs and editorial board expenses resulted in a net direct surplus to SRF of £139,636, with a projection of £186,711 for the whole of 2018. This compares favourably with surplus received of £195,538 at end of 2017, £188,353 for 2016 and £168,771 for 2015.
- SRF has continued to be effective in the implementation of its expanded repertoire of charitable activities. In 2018 the SRF sponsored:
 - 52 travel grants awarded (£32,353)
 - 16 vacation scholarships awarded (£41,500)
 - 6 academic scholarships awarded) breaking down into
 - 4 academic scholarships for full members awarded (£49,877)
 - 1 academic scholarships for ECR members (£12,439)
 - 1 academic scholarship for Return to Research (£11,100)
 - Sex in Three Cities event with speaker Dr Thomas Hildebrandt (£8,613)Collectively, these sponsorships amounted to £147,269, an increase of £10,541 over the total for 2017 (£136,728) and increased over previous years: 2016 (£86,618) and 2015 (£56,143). In addition, SRF have agreed to sponsor 12 non-SRF conferences/workshops in 2018 amounting to £48,725. This compares to 9 conferences in 2017 (£28,481) and 6 in 2016 (£16,000).
- SRF provided bursaries for members to attend the current Fertility 2019 conference (£79,920 to 96 members) compared with Fertility 2018 (£66,912 to 86 members) and Fertility 2017 (£53,095 to 75 members).
- The SRF Annual conference for 2018 was Fertility 2018 jointly with BFS and ACE which made a surplus of £54,218 with £18,073 distributed to each society. This compares with £85,513 surplus for Fertility 2017 with £28,504 received by SRF. (The venue and dates of these meetings influence their finances). When the cost of Fertility 2018 bursaries (£66,912) and for Council and CCL secretariat to attend including travel and accommodation (£9,208), Fertility 2018 had a final net cost (or sponsorship) of £58,047. An equivalent net cost for Fertility 2017 was £34,243. This broadly compares with previous summer stand-alone Annual conferences which had a final net cost of £55K (2016 Winchester) or £40K (2015 Oxford) but funding profiles are not directly comparable.
- The SRF Independent examination (audit) of our accounts for 2017 was completed successfully by PEM with considerable help from our secretariat, CCL, and accounts logged with Companies House and the Charity Commission.
- Improved or maintained income streams from journal, annual conference and investments has enabled improved sponsorship, grants, awards and bursaries without increasing membership fees, all funded on a solid capital base, critical to protect our future charitable activities.

T. Fleming



Society for Reproduction and Fertility

General Secretary's Report 2018

60th SRF AGM, ICC Birmingham, 4th January 2019

Academic Scholarships: The Society continues to support the research and development of its members through the award of Academic Scholarships. This year was the second year the Society had three separate Academic Scholarships, supporting tenured early career researchers at the start of their academic career, members wishing to return to research after a period of parental or carers leave as well as our main Academic Scholarship. While in 2017 we received a total of 12 applications, in 2018 we only received 8 applications in total. Out of those eight applications, the Society agreed to fund 6 applications at a total cost of £73,416, and which covered all three streams of the current Academic Scholarships.

The Council also acknowledge the significance and value of obtaining external funding, especially for our early career members. In light of the Council's intention to support as many of our members as possible, the Education and Engagement Committee, with the approval of the Council, have decided to expand our Academic Scholarship scheme further. In 2019, it is our intention to introduce an Academic Scholarship specifically for members who are principal investigators on a project and who hold an independent or institutional research fellowship. This scheme will not be intended to support postdoctoral researchers. This new scheme is being developed by the Council and it is our intention that it will be available when the 2019 Academic Scholarship scheme opens later in the year.

In addition, the Council are developing a Collaborative Research Scholarship. This Scholarship will be to support and promote the exchange of knowledge and skills between the laboratories of non-statutory SRF members and collaborators (either existing or new). This additional scheme is also under development by the Council and it is our intention that it will be available also in 2019.

As always, the Council continues to respond to members' comments and, where appropriate, address funding issues we believe are appropriate for our members. However, we are always open to additional suggestions of where our members feel they could be supported further by the Society.

Vacation Scholarships: In 2017, the society supported 10 vacation scholarships, enabling undergraduate students to get experience of conducting cutting edge reproductive research for a period of up to 8 weeks over the summer. In 2018, the society funded 16 vacation scholarships from a total of 21 applications. From the feedback we receive each year from the students and their supervisors, the Council believe these Vacation Scholarships offer a valuable opportunity for students to experience first-hand a research environment. As such, we will continue to support as many Vacation Scholarship applications as possible.

The call for 2019 vacation scholarship scheme is now open and the closing date is the 29th of March 2018. Please see our website for more details and the online application form <http://srf-reproduction.org/grants-awards/grants/vacation-scholarships/>. Projects can be a maximum of 8 weeks long, and include a stipend funded of £250 per week to cover living costs for the student, plus an award of £750 to be paid to the host laboratory to cover the cost of consumables for the project. As always, the highest scoring vacation scholarship applications will be funded, irrespective of institution/location.

Travel Grants: In 2018, the Society awarded 41 travel grants at a total cost of £24,668 allowing members to attend national and international conferences. Applications for Travel Grants are considered throughout the year, but must be submitted in advance of the meeting to which they are being applied for.

Dr Adam Watkins
SRF General Secretary
Chair of the Education and Engagement Committee
January 2019

Programme Secretary Report 2018

60th SRF AGM, ICC Birmingham, 4th January 2019

In January 2018, I became programme secretary for the SRF and since this is my first annual report, I would like to thank my predecessor Francesca Houghton for being so effective and for providing much useful help and advice as I took on this exciting challenge.

Without a doubt, 2018 has been an exciting and successful year for the SRF programme committee. In January, Fertility 2018 was held at the ACC in Liverpool with a conference focus of "Environmental influences on reproduction". The conference was hugely successful with over 700 paying delegates and, balancing expenses against registrations, resulted in a profit of £54,218 which was equally split across the 3 societies: SRF, BFS and ACE. Importantly, the number of SRF registrants was at an all-time high of 118 versus 241 for BFS and 141 for ACE. Fertility 2018 was the 11th joint conference of the UK Fertility Societies but also the first annual Joint Fertility meeting that included the annual SRF meeting, previously held in the summer. Although there are advantages and opportunities of a joint meeting, as outlined in the report from the chair, the SRF has and always will value the benefits of its own identity through a variety of strategies. These include the support of junior members, an early career researcher's symposium, a post-doctoral prize session and the exchange lectures with the SRB and SSR. Feedback from the delegates was excellent with networking and science quality flagged as particular positives.

Attention is now focussed on Fertility 2019 with an overall theme of "Technologies and controversies in reproduction". At the time of writing this report, we already had over 530 paying delegates including nearly 100 SRF members. In addition, the budget statements indicate that once again, we are on track to generate a positive financial return to each of the 3 societies and our treasurer Tom Fleming will provide further details on this. To facilitate further integration of the 3 main fertility societies during Fertility 2019, the sessions in the programme are not badged against any specific Society. The Joint Executive Committee has every confidence that this will further facilitate collaboration between members of the different Societies and enhance attendance at sessions based on scientific and clinical merit. Having said that, the SRF has been instrumental in organising 3 update sessions entitled "Puberty and Seasonality", "Reproductive Senescence" and "Obesity in Reproduction", each with an excellent array of speakers.

Fertility 2019 also encompasses some highly prestigious plenary and prize presentations. In this regard, I am delighted to announce that the SRF Marshall medal, the societies' highest award, will be presented to Professor Rex Scaramuzzi (RVC, London & INRA Tours France) for his outstanding contribution to the study of fertility and reproduction. This will be awarded at the SRF AGM. I would also like to congratulate Professor Evelyn Telfer (University of Edinburgh) who will deliver the esteemed SRF Anne McClaren Memorial Distinguished lecture.

This year we also offer our congratulations to Dr Jackie Maybin (University of Edinburgh), who will present the SRF New Investigator lecture, and to Drs Christopher Geyer (East Carolina University) and Karen Schindler (Rutgers University, New Jersey) who will present the 2017 and 2018 SSR New Investigator lectures respectively. We also welcome Dr Jessica Walters (University of Newcastle, Australia) who will present the SRF-SRB Exchange lecture. The winners of the SRF Student prize, Postdoctoral prize, Poster prizes and Stewart Rhind Science Writing Prize will be announced at a Prize Giving ceremony at the end of the conference. The final SRF accolade is the Reproduction journal prize

awarded to Meenakshi Gaur, Cyril Ramathal, Renee A Reijo Pera, Paul Turek & Constance M John. Dr Constance John (University of California) will accept the award on behalf of all co-authors.

Fertility 2020 will take place in Edinburgh from January 8-10 with a theme of "Reproduction in a Changing World". Please save the date and if you have suggestions for speakers, or topics for inclusion at this or future joint Fertility/SRF meetings, please let us know by emailing srf@conferencecollective.co.uk or complete the online form at www.srf-reproduction.org/contact.

Finally I would like to express my thanks to Suman Rice, Olivier Sandra, Bruce Murphy, Michelle Johnson, Doug Gibson and Robert Abayasakera for their great team work on the programme committee. Thanks also go to Michelle, Jacinta and more recently Alex at Conference Collective for doing a great job as the SRF secretariat. I would also like to thank Profile Productions for their organisational support of the Joint Fertilities meetings.

Dr Richard Lea
SRF Programme Secretary
December 2018