



Society for  
Reproduction  
and Fertility

**Virtual Meeting**  
**62<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Society for Reproduction and Fertility**  
**15.15 -16.30hrs, Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

**Invited to attend: All SRF Members**

**62<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting Agenda**

- 62.1 Welcome
- 62.2 Apologies for Absence
- 62.3 Minutes: 61<sup>st</sup> AGM held at EICC, Edinburgh at 12.20-13.20, Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2020 **Paper A**
  - 6.2.2.1 Matters Arising
- 62.4 Adoption of the Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2019 **Paper B**
- 62.5 Appointment of Auditors for the financial year ending 31st December 2020
- 62.6 Chair's Report (C Duncan) **Paper C**
- 62.7 Treasurer's Report (D Miller) **Paper D**
- 62.8 Membership & Public Engagement Report (B Robinson) **Paper E**
- 62.9 General Secretary's Report (A Watkins) **Paper F**
- 62.10 Programme Secretary's Report (R Lea) **Paper G**
- 62.11 Retiring Council
- 62.12 Election of Council & Early Career Members
- 62.13 Any Other Business

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

**Professor Graeme Martin – SRF Marshall Medallist 2020**



**Pentland Room  
Edinburgh International Convention Centre, Edinburgh  
12.20 -13.20hrs, Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2020**

**General Meeting of the Society for Reproduction and Fertility  
Followed by the  
61<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Society for Reproduction and Fertility**

**Minutes**

**In Attendance – 88 members**

<b>First</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>First</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>First</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>First</b>	<b>Name</b>
Misturah	Adana	Tom	Fleming	Avi	Lerner	Michael	Rimmer
Oluwatosin	Adesina	Niamh	Forde	Federica	Lopes	Jess	Roach
Uche	Agwuegbo	Ali	Fouladi-Nashta	John	Louca	Bob	Robinson
Norhayati BL	Ali Khan	Steve	Franks	Vanessa	Mancini	Amanda	Rodgers
Adelaide	Allais	Doug	Gibson	Gabriele	Matilionyte	Roseanne	Rosario
Ravinder	Anand-Ivell	Kasun	Godakumara	Paul	Mckeegan	Peter	Ruane
John	Aplin	Sofia	Granados	Aleksandar	Mihajlovic	Kenichiro	Sakaguchi
Emily	Bailie	Evie	Gruszyk	David	Miller	Deirdre	Scully
David	Baird	Emma	Guy	Bushra T	Mohammed	Deborah	Se-ember Adi
Charlotte	Beaumont	Hristina	Gyurova	Hannah	Morgan	Helmy	Selman
Sylwia	Biszcuk	Kate	Hardy	Shahriar	Mowla	Charlotte	Shilton
John	Carroll	Juan	H Medrano	Bruce	Murphy	Katarzyna	Siemienowicz
Andrew	Childs	Emma	Hogg	Joanne	Murray	Kevin	Sinclair
Yennifer	Cortes	Bill	Holt	Elizabeth	Oliver	Norah	Spears
Mandi	de Mestre	Thomas	Hopkins	Adeoye	Oyewopo	Rebecca	Sumner
Keerthie	Dissanayake	Jennifer	Hutchison	John	Parrington	Khan	Templeton
Kathleen	Duffin	Gillian	Johnson	Miguel C	Pirez	Jennifer	Thomas
Colin	Duncan	Zoe	Johnston	Chris	Price	Miguel	Velazquez
Alireza	Fazeli	Kim	Jonas	Steve	Publicover	Adam	Watkins
Mark	Fenwick	Eniola	Kadir	Mick	Rae	Lucy	Watson
Greg	Fitzharris	Kathryn	Larsen	Muhammad	Riaz	Nick	Wheelhouse
Heather	Flanagan	Richard	Lea	Suman	Rice	Suzannah	Williams

**Conference Collective - Secretariat**

Alexandra	Graves	Jacinta	Scannell	Charlotte	Swindall
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**MINUTES**

**General Meeting Agenda**

**1. Articles of Association update**

C Duncan welcomed all members and noted that SRF has the largest representation of membership of all 3 societies at Fertility 2020. He confirmed, as notified through emails and on the SRF website that a General meeting will be held prior to the AGM.

C Duncan explained that when the current Articles of Association which were approved at the 2019 AGM, a sentence was omitted that allowed Ordinary members on the Council the chance to be nominated as an Officer. Members were asked to refer to the meeting papers that were circulated by email prior to meeting

and currently being circulated, for full information refer to page two and three which will now allow for effective succession.

**Members approved unanimously to adopt the changes to Articles of Associations.**

## **61<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting Agenda**

All officers stepped forward to resign and to be reappointed.

Proposed by Colin Duncan

Seconded by Suman Rice

### **61.1 Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies

### **61.2 Minutes of the 60<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held at ICC, Birmingham, 4 January 2019**

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as a correct record and were accepted nem com.

Proposed by Nora Spears

Seconded by Bruce Murphy

#### **61.2.1 Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising

### **61.3 Adoption of the Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2018**

No questions were posed regarding the report and accounts for the year ended 31 December Accounts and were accepted nem com.

Proposed by Suman Rice

Seconded by Suzannah Williams

### **61.4 Appointment of Auditors for the financial year ending 31 December 2019**

The appointment of PEM to conduct the 2019 audit was agreed by the members.

Proposed by Andy Childs

Seconded by Ali Fouladi-Nashta

### **61.5 Chair's report**

#### **Presented by WC Duncan**

The Chair confirmed that all Officer reports were emailed to all members and there are copies being circulated these can be referred to for further details.

The Chair clarified the election of Council members and Election of Chairperson, as 2020 is the current Chairs final year, therefore a new chair must be elected before January 2021. The Articles of Association (AoA) state that all members can apply for ordinary or officer positions and if necessary, all members are able to vote. It was confirmed that there will be several vacancies on the Council all will start in January 2021, there will be a call for nominations later in the year.

The requirement is slightly different for the SRF Chair the person in this role must have the confidence of the Trustees, therefore this role is chosen by the Trustees. The position is open to all members of the Society who are eligible to apply. The Chair-elect position will be advertised in the next few weeks and all interested members are encouraged to apply. The select committee will be headed up by the current Chair and involve current trustees who have not applied for the role.

#### **61.5.1 Fertility survey results**

When the Society first decided to join the Fertility conference it was agreed that this would be for a set number of years and after which members would be asked to review participation. The members were recently asked if they wished to continue with the joint Fertility conference or return to the stand-alone meeting. The results were overwhelming, 78% of the members who responded, felt that the Society should

continue with the joint Fertility conference. The Council will again be highly involved in planning for the next conference in Liverpool 2021 and will make sure that the Societies interests are heard.

It was noted that the Society should encourage diversity in all forms in the elections. C Duncan agreed and stressed that, as a democracy, it is important that all members are encouraged to put themselves forward for nominations and members are conscious of this when voting. This is also something that the Council will be cognisant about when selecting the new Chair.

#### **61.6 Vice-Chair's report Presented by Bob Robinson**

The Vice-Chair role covers membership, policy and public engagement, B Robinson summarised the main areas of his report. At the end of 2019 there were a total of 444, with equal numbers of Early Career and Full members of these 40% are non-UK based. He also noted that the Council have made the decision to increase Full membership to £60 in 2020, this is the first increase in three years.

The dates for the 2020 Si3C lecture series have been announced (27 February at Nottingham University, 4 March at Edinburgh University and 11 March at the Royal Veterinary College), the speaker is Professor Allan Pacey, University of Sheffield '*Let's talk about sperm; Sperm you can bank on*'. This is the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of these lectures and the London lecture will be held jointly with the Royal Veterinary College 'Night at the RVC' which typically attracts 400-500 people. This is a big opportunity for SRF to reach its public engagement commitment, there are 12 exhibition stands available 7 of which have already been booked. All members are encouraged to attend and to advertise the series to the wider community, leaflets are available at the SRF stand. It was noted that booking is advisable, especially for the London venue.

#### **61.7 Treasurer's report Presented by David Miller**

D Miller presented several slides (appendix 1) with an overview of the accounts providing information on the current financial revenue. The two main areas of income are through investments and the Reproduction Journal.

The Credit Suisse account balance has reduced as it has been necessary to move some capital to the Barclays Bank current account to help cash flow, this is currently very high but is committed to paying Fertility bursaries and other running costs. Total assets are essentially the same as in previous years, although there is a slight drop which is due to the increase in spending through grants and bursaries to members.

The final value of the Reproduction journal has not yet been confirmed but is projected to be similar to 2019 at around £200,000. Other income includes the profit share from the joint Fertility meetings, 2019 is one of the largest meetings to date so it is likely that the income from this will increase substantially from 2018.

The main areas of expenditure are the Fertility bursaries, Council costs and Conference Collective, the secretariat. The SRF bursary scheme has been rising steadily over the years and 2020 is the highest number with 155 being offered. Even with the considerable expansion of spending and mentioned there has been very little change in the society's assets and overall spending had been kept in line with the society's income.

The next few years are likely to be volatile with Brexit and international situations and the assets of the society will be monitored closely.

No questions were asked.

#### **61.8 General Secretary's Report Presented by Adam Watkins**

The General Secretary oversees the Grants and Awards Committee which oversees the grants and awards provided by the SRF.

It was noted that at the 2019 AGM A Watkins advised that the Committee were planning to introduce two new Academic scholarship schemes to the three schemes that are already available. However, due to the current financial climate only one scheme will be introduced. The Research Fellow Scholarship aimed at Principal Investigators or Independent Research Fellowship, who have limited funding, this will be opened later in the year. All members are encouraged to apply but need to check eligibility. In 2019 a total of three scholarships were awarded which was lower than previous years.

The Vacation Scholarship scheme has grown year on year and in 2019 a total of 14 scholarships were awarded. This scheme is currently open for applications and all members were encouraged to look at this and other grants. Members were also encouraged to contact A Watkins directly or email him on the society email address if they had any suggestions or ideas of other ways to support the society members.

A Watkins confirmed that the Committee were looking to increase the stipend that was given to the student, he also reiterated that supervisors should discuss with their finance team how the income is viewed by their university to avoid the student paying tax.

It was confirmed that there would be a separate bursary for the 2019 WCRB conference – 16 – 18 September 2020 - in Beijing, China this would be open shortly and members who wish to attend this event should apply for this bursary and not Travel Grant. This will have a fixed budget, so members were encouraged to apply early, the abstract closing date was confirmed as 30 April 2020.

#### **61.9 Programme Secretary's Report Presented Dr Richard Lea**

C Duncan introduced Dr Richard Lea and advised the members that as well as Programme Secretary he has also been Chair of the Fertility Programme and thanked him for the huge amount of work this has involved.

R Lea advised the members that this is one of the largest conferenced with nearly 800 paying delegates and approx. 1,000 attendees. There are 161 international delegates for 31 countries this is the largest Fertility conference to date. As with 2018, sessions are not badged to a particular society although the Reproduction at 60 session has been individualised.

It was confirmed that each of the organising societies - of which there are seven - for the WCRB will nominate one Planey speaker and four speakers to contribute to the conference. The SRF speakers will be announce once they have confirmed.

Fertility 20 has been confirmed for 6-9 January 2020 in Liverpool. The theme is Barriers and Breakthroughs please send any suggestions to R Lea directly or the society email address.

#### **61.10 Election of Early Career Member**

Aleona Swegen, University of Oxford was confirmed onto the SRF committee as an Early Career Representative.

These proposals were carried Nem Con.

C Duncan thanked Rebecca Sumner who has finished her term as an Early Career Rep.

#### **61.11 Any Other Business**

The Chair introduced Professor Marilyn Renfree who had been awarded the Marshall Medal for 2019. This is highest accolade that the Society can give to someone who has made an outstanding contribution to reproductive biology

**Registered number: 00647816**  
**Charity number: 261433**

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**SOCIETY FOR REPRODUCTION AND FERTILITY**  
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**UNAUDITED**  
**REPORT OF COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019**

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**COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT'S REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER  
2019**

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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 2019. 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) (second edition of the Charities SORP (FRS102) October 2019).

**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.  By maintaining a dynamic, informative website, issuing regular monthly newsletters to members and continued growth in membership communications.
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.  Our activity on social media contributes to member engagement and raising awareness with the reproduction community as a whole.



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**COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT'S REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER  
2019**

<p>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.</p>	<p>By holding an annual series of public talks entitled "Sex and Three Cities" with contributions from an internationally renowned speaker. The Society's Public Engagement Committee continues to think of new engagement activities to meet this objective.</p>
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**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's Public Engagement Committee continues to think of new engagement activities and delivers the successful public lecture series 'Sex in 3 Cities'.

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## SOCIETY FOR REPRODUCTION AND FERTILITY

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### COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

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#### Professional Collaborations

The last year has seen the ongoing development of the working relationship between the SRF and its sister societies in the UK. The 13th annual joint Fertility meeting was held in Birmingham, organised through the formal partnership with the Association for Clinical Embryologists (ACE) and with the British Fertility Society (BFS). This event has become the largest UK educational forum on fertility and reproductive medicine.

The SRF annual conference, forming part of the joint Fertility meeting, continues to be a success and the place where the Society's support for research into reproductive biology and medicine is most visible. This impressive conference has shown the work of SRF members in its very best light. Attracting over 600 fertility experts, the Joint Fertility Conference continues to be an excellent opportunity for fertility professionals to learn about cutting edge research and educational advances and to network with peers. The SRF members also voted in 2019 to continue with this collaboration for a further three years.

The SRF Council continues to be part of the Associated Fertility Societies, a network of 7 societies who share a common interest in fertility and reproduction. This collaboration which represents different specialities in the field, enables the societies to speak with a common voice, to members as well as to the scientific and clinical communities that each seeks to support and represent. The Society also continues to support the lecture exchange programme - where a member from each society is given the opportunity to present at the annual conference - with the Society for Reproductive Biology (SRB), Australia and the Society for the Study of Reproduction (SSR) in the USA.

The Society plan to work in partnership with 6 international societies and will be involved in organising the 5th World Congress of Reproductive Biology (WCRB 2020) in Beijing, China. The Congress is a joint venture with; SRB (Australia), CSRB (China), KSAR (Korea), SRD (Japan), SRF (UK) and SSR (USA). Leading academic scientists, researchers and research scholars will be attending. This will be an opportunity to share interests, experiences and research findings about all aspects of reproductive biology.

The successful ongoing working relationships that the Council has with our publisher, Bioscientifica, and with the secretariat, the Conference Collective Ltd. (CCL) continues. Both companies constantly work to implement innovative and exciting ways to better support members. This is reflected in the new 3 year contract signed with Conference Collective Ltd.

#### 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

In 2019, the Council focused their attention on

- Continuing to develop new funding schemes (including financial and operational/logistic support for workshops including a specific workshop aimed at the Early Career members)
- Planning for future joint Fertility conferences.
- Ongoing support to worldwide related events.

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## SOCIETY FOR REPRODUCTION AND FERTILITY

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### COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

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#### **Continuing increase in membership numbers**

At the end of 2019, the Society had a total of 587 members representing an increase of 141, the majority of these are early career (combined student and post-doc categories) or full members. This follows the ongoing trend in increasing numbers over recent years. The increase is largely supported by the benefits offered to members, which includes vacation, academic and travel grants, bursaries to attend SRF/Fertility conference, and online subscription to *Reproduction*. The majority of the members (59%) are UK-based, this is a slight decrease from 2018 (62% UK). The Society has members across the globe including Europe, Asia and Africa.

#### **Academic Scholarships**

The Society continues to support the research and development of its members through the award of Academic Scholarships. This scholarship has three separate schemes that appeals to a wider audience in the membership. Applications are invited from (1) early career researcher, (2) return to research for members who have had a period of parental or carers leave and (3) the original academic scholarship for members already in an academic post. In 2019, a total of 7 applications were submitted, 3 academic, 4 early career scholarships, there were no return to research applications. Of these, a total of 2 scholarships were funded at a predicted cost of £21,843 and one was delayed to 2021. This is a decrease in applications and sponsorship as in 2018 a total of 8 were received as a cost of £73,416. Applications must meet strict criteria covering scientific excellence of the proposed research, innovative nature of the proposed research, the impact of the proposed research on advances in the field, assessment of the feasibility of the proposed project and whether the proposed project represents value for money. Applicants failing to meet this criteria are rejected. The successful candidates use the funds as a pump-priming grant to support very large projects. The Society's contribution is widely acknowledged on each project and a report is delivered to SRF to describe how the funds have been used.

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 representative of the Society and its members and looks to support our members in as many ways as 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 how our members feel they could be supported further by the Society. The Committee will continue to encourage members from all these areas to apply for these scholarships.

#### **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 2019, the Society agreed to fund 14 vacation scholarships from a total of 20 applications (2018:16). An ongoing indication of the value and impact of our vacation scholarship scheme is the number of our awardees who are selected for oral presentation and the SRF's student prize session, respectively, at the joint Fertility conference.

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## SOCIETY FOR REPRODUCTION AND FERTILITY

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### COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT'S REPORT (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

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#### Travel Grants

The travel grant scheme is offered four times a year and grants are offered based on distance travelled rather than awarding a flat sum. In 2019, the Society received 48 applications and awarded 27 travel grants allowing members to attend national and international conferences. Applications for Travel Grants are considered four times a year but must be submitted in advance of the meeting to which they are being applied for. Applications vary each year and are dependent on the number of international conferences and educational events that are relevant to fertility and reproductive research. In 2019, fewer international events were held and thus the number of applications for travel grants were lower than in 2018 (55).

#### Fertility Bursary

The SRF Bursary available for the annual joint Fertility conference and offered to all members. The bursary covers registration, accommodation, conference dinner and a travel allowance based on the fixed band system of the distance travelled. In 2019 the Fertility conference was held in Birmingham and a total of 96 bursaries were awarded.

#### Public Engagement

The "Sex in 3 Cities" series of public lectures continues to go from strength to strength, and Professor Sarah Robertson, Director of the Robinson Research Institute at the University of Adelaide, Australia, 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 the general running costs tend to be covered by this, membership subscriptions and return on investments. The subscription income for 2019 (£244,379) represented a substantial increase from 2018 (£205,904).

#### 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. In 2019, SRF agreed to sponsor 13 non-SRF events compared with 9 equivalent events in 2018.

#### FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Society returned a deficit before gains on investments of £138,203 in the year to 31 December 2019, compared to a deficit of £135,119 in 2018. After investment gains of £213,035 (2018: gain of £188,443), the net surplus reported for the year was £74,832 (2018: £323,562).

Total income in the year to 31 December 2019 was £291,764 (2018: £321,206) with total expenditure of £429,967 (2018: £456,325).

As at 31 December 2019, the Society held investments totalling £1,625,757 (2018: £1,733,761) and net assets amounted to £1,930,834 (2018: £1,856,002)

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## SOCIETY FOR REPRODUCTION AND FERTILITY

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### COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT'S REPORT (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

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#### 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 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 2019 the fund amounted to £1,938,834 including the investment portfolio of £1,625,757. 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 £304,435 (2018: £122,241).

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. The day to day running costs are adequately covered by a combination of the annual journal royalties, membership subscriptions and the fertility conference surplus each year.

#### 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.

At Council's Nov 2019 finance meeting, the Credit Suisse (CS) portfolio was valued at £1,646,695. On Dec 20th 2019, its value stood at £1,452,037, a net loss since Nov of £ 194,658 (-11.8%). The later valuation, however, includes a withdrawal of funds of £231,000 in Nov-Dec covering essential costs. Taking this into account (£1,683,037) compares with £1,585,006 on Dec 31st 2018 or a modest gain of £98,031 (+5.82%). This figure also takes into consideration withdrawal from CS earlier in the year to cover incidental costs arising from Fertility 2019.

The M&G Charifund investments were valued at £165,932.55 compared with Dec 2018, when the investment reported a value of £161,353, Hence based on current performance, this investment is recovering albeit very slowly. M&G is a relatively small investment for SRF (compared with CS) and recent developments regarding the freezing of equity release is unlikely to have much impact on the Society

#### PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

The Society continues to develop and in 2020, the Society, in partnership with Bioscientifica, announced the launch of their new fully open-access, peer-reviewed journal, Reproduction and Fertility. This is in recognition of the changing landscape of printed journals and the continuing demand for open access publications that operate on a different funding model to the traditional subscription model.

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## **SOCIETY FOR REPRODUCTION AND FERTILITY**

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### **COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT'S REPORT (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019**

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Led by Co-Editors-in-Chief Andrew Horne and Norah Spears, Reproduction and Fertility will see vigorous yet rapid peer review of the latest basic, translational and clinical articles in the field. This new open-access journal is devoted to providing reproductive biologists, clinicians and those working within Assisted Reproduction with access to the latest research in the areas of basic and clinical reproduction and fertility. It is hoped that this new online journal will become a top choice publication for both researchers and clinicians working to advance our understanding of this complex field of science. The Society for Reproduction and Fertility and Bioscientifica are sponsoring the Article Publication Charge during the launch years, offering authors far-reaching exposure and impact for their work at no additional cost.

SRF has been impacted by Covid-19, but unlike many other learned societies, the strong performance of our investment portfolio has remained stable and despite a dip in funds at the start of the pandemic, these quickly recovered and continue to grow.

Attendance at the Society's annual conference, held in partnership with the other fertility societies, is likely to be impacted by restrictions on international travel and the continuing uncertainty around the ability to hold largescale conferences in January 2021. It was therefore agreed to move Fertility 2021 online from a live event to a virtual event, and although this was a difficult decision for the Society it was important to make the decision early to avoid incurring unnecessary charges and costs. It is projected that the cost of moving to a virtual event will be less than holding a live event, but the return on investment will be similar to previous live events.

Overall, the Society has weathered the storm of Covid-19 to date and members actively continue to support activities.

#### **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 4 January 2019. In the event of the company being wound up, members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

##### **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.

Changes in Trustees are detailed in the Reference and Administration details on page 8. The Society for Reproduction had 13 serving Trustees as at 31 December 2019.

##### **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.

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### COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT'S REPORT (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

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#### 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 3 times a year. A Finance Sub-Committee also meets 3 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.

The key risk to the Society's income has been identified as follows:

- Possible reduction in Reproduction royalties as the demand for free access grows. However, this is being mitigated by the introduction of a new online journal that will be supported during its early years, to produce a competitive journal that can generate income from online access, if the print version of Reproduction diminishes.
- Reduction in the value of the investment portfolio. The Trustees, Executive Committee and Finance Committee were pleased to note that despite the initial market reaction to Covid-19, the value of the portfolio has remained steady. The new Treasurer plans to undertake a review of all investment activity in the next year.

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.

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## SOCIETY FOR REPRODUCTION AND FERTILITY

(A company limited by guarantee)

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### COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT'S REPORT (continued) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

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#### 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 30 October 2020 and signed on its behalf, by:



**Prof. WC Duncan**  
Chair



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**SOCIETY FOR REPRODUCTION AND FERTILITY**

**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS TRUSTEE AND ADVISERS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019**

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**Council of Management**

Professor William Colin Duncan (Chairperson)  
Dr Adam Watkins (General Secretary)  
Dr Robert Robinson (Vice-Chair)  
Dr David Miller (Treasurer and Company Secretary)  
Dr Richard Lea (Programme Secretary)  
Dr Ali Fouladi-Nashta  
Dr Douglas Gibson  
Dr Amanda De Mestre  
Professor Daniel Bruce Murphy  
Dr Suman Rice  
Dr Nicholas Wheelhouse  
Dr Mark Fenwick  
Professor Suzannah Williams

**Company registered number**

00647816

**Charity registered number**

261433

**Registered office**

8 Waldegrave Road Teddington Middlesex TW11 18HT

**Company secretary**

Dr David Miller

**Chair**

Professor W C Duncan

**Independent examiners**

Peters Elworthy & Moore, Salisbury House, Station Road, Cambridge, CB1 2LA

**Bankers**

Barclays Bank PLC, 6 Clarence Street, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, KT1 1NY

**Solicitors**

Wilson's 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

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## **SOCIETY FOR REPRODUCTION AND FERTILITY**

**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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### **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SOCIETY FOR REPRODUCTION AND FERTILITY**

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I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 December 2019.

#### **RESPONSIBILITIES AND BASIS OF REPORT**

As the trustees of the company (and its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the company's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

#### **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT**

Since the company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of ICAEW, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I can confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. The accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. The accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

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**SOCIETY FOR REPRODUCTION AND FERTILITY**

**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SOCIETY FOR REPRODUCTION  
AND FERTILITY**

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**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT (continued)**

This report is made solely to the company's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the company's trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's trustees as a body, for my work or for this report.



Signed:

Jayne Rowe FCCA

**PETERS ELWORTHY & MOORE**

Chartered Accountants  
Salisbury House  
Station Road  
Cambridge  
CB1 2LA

Date: 9/11/20

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**SOCIETY FOR REPRODUCTION AND FERTILITY**

(A company limited by guarantee)

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**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (incorporating the Income and Expenditure Account)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019**

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		Unrestricted Total funds 2019 £	Unrestricted Total funds 2018 £
	Note		
<b>INCOME FROM:</b>			
Charitable activities	2	248,741	281,396
Investments	3	<u>43,023</u>	<u>39,810</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<u>291,764</u>	<u>321,206</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON:</b>			
Raising funds – investment managers fees		15,934	16,674
Charitable activities	4	<u>414,033</u>	<u>439,651</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<u>429,967</u>	<u>456,325</u>
<b>NET (EXPENDITURE) BEFORE INVESTMENT GAINS/(LOSSES)</b>		(138,203)	(135,119)
Net (losses)/gains on investments	9	<u>213,035</u>	<u>(188,443)</u>
<b>NET (DEFICIT) / SURPLUS AND MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>		74,832	(323,562)
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:</b>			
Total funds brought forward		<u>1,856,002</u>	<u>2,179,564</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<u>1,930,834</u>	<u>1,856,002</u>

All activities relate to continuing operations.

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

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**SOCIETY FOR REPRODUCTION AND FERTILITY**

(A company limited by guarantee)  
Registered Number 647816

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**BALANCE SHEET  
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2019**

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	Note	£	2019 £	£	2018 £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Investments	9		1,625,757		1,733,761
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Debtors	10	300,247		295,718	
Cash at bank		164,442		7,767	
		<u>464,689</u>		<u>303,485</u>	
<b>CREDITORS:</b> amounts falling due within one year	11	<u>(159,612)</u>		<u>(181,244)</u>	
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>			<u>305,077</u>		<u>122,241</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>			<u><u>1,930,834</u></u>		<u><u>1,856,002</u></u>
<b>CHARITY FUNDS</b>					
Unrestricted funds			<u>1,930,834</u>		<u>1,856,002</u>

The company's financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

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.

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 30 October 2020 and signed on their behalf, by:



**Prof. WC Duncan - Chair**

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

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## SOCIETY FOR REPRODUCTION AND FERTILITY

(A company limited by guarantee)

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### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

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#### 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

##### 1.1 BASIS OF PREPARATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (second edition of the Charities SORP (FRS102) October 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Society of Reproduction and Fertility meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

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

##### 1.2 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.

##### 1.3 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.

##### 1.4 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. It is anticipated that the global pandemic, Covid-19, will not result in any detrimental effect to the Society's financial position.

##### 1.5 INCOME

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 journal royalties 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.

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## SOCIETY FOR REPRODUCTION AND FERTILITY

(A company limited by guarantee)

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### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

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#### 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

##### 1.6 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.

##### 1.7 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.

##### 1.8 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.

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## **SOCIETY FOR REPRODUCTION AND FERTILITY**

**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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### **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019**

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#### **1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

##### **1.9 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.

##### **1.10 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.

##### **1.11 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.

##### **1.12 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.

##### **1.13 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.



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**SOCIETY FOR REPRODUCTION AND FERTILITY**

(A company limited by guarantee)

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019**

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**2. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES**

	2019 £	2018 £
Journal royalties	220,857	233,631
Conference income	8,709	24,610
Society membership subscriptions	19,175	22,905
Other income	-	250
	<u>248,741</u>	<u>281,396</u>

**3. INVESTMENT INCOME**

	2019 £	2018 £
Income from listed investments	43,009	39,796
Bank Interest	14	14
	<u>43,023</u>	<u>39,810</u>

**4. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE**

	Direct Costs 2019 £	Grant funding activities 2019 £	Support and governance costs 2019 £	2019 £	2018 £
Charitable activities	<u>131,865</u>	<u>196,248</u>	<u>85,920</u>	<u>414,033</u>	<u>439,651</u>
2018 comparative	<u>107,154</u>	<u>255,127</u>	<u>77,370</u>	<u>439,651</u>	

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**SOCIETY FOR REPRODUCTION AND FERTILITY**

(A company limited by guarantee)

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019**

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**5. DIRECT COSTS**

	<b>2019</b>	2018
	<b>£</b>	£
Cost of production and despatch	1,191	-
Insurance	3,141	3,191
Website costs	687	1,306
Editorial expenses	44,520	38,807
Secretariat charges	42,344	28,631
Conferences	38,398	33,406
Advertising, PR and marketing	995	815
Print, postage & design	589	998
	<u><b>131,865</b></u>	<u><b>107,154</b></u>

**6. GRANT FUNDING ACTIVITIES**

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2018</b>
	<b>Number</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Grants to Institutions:</b>				
Academic scholarships	<b>2</b>	<b>59,189</b>	9	103,324
Vacation scholarships	<b>14</b>	<b>36,750</b>	16	41,360
<b>Grants to Individuals:</b>				
Grants made – travel, accommodation and Meeting attendance support	<b>112</b>	<b>100,309</b>	150	110,443
	<u><b>128</b></u>	<u><b>196,248</b></u>	<u>175</u>	<u>255,127</u>

In 2019, the Society committed to fund 2 (2018: 6) Academic scholarships amounting to £21,843 (2018: £73,410). One of these grants was recognised in the 2019 statement (£11,743) and the other grant (£10,100) will be charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in 2020 if conditions are met.

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**SOCIETY FOR REPRODUCTION AND FERTILITY**

**(A company limited by guarantee)**

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019**

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

	<b>2019</b>	2018
University of Cardiff	-	2,750
Exeter College	-	2,750
Institute of Animal Reproduction and Food Research	-	12,480
Newcastle University	-	5,245
Royal Veterinary College, University of London	-	14,965
University of Birmingham	-	2,750
University of Nottingham	26,659	14,249
University of Southampton	-	12,500
University of the West of Scotland	-	11,100
University of Cambridge	14,743	2,750
University of Aberdeen	3,000	-
University of Sheffield	-	2,750
Aston University	-	-
St. George's, University of London	-	14,270
University of Bristol	-	-
Edinburgh Napier University	6,000	14,750
University of Edinburgh	14,600	27,125
Manchester Metropolitan University	3,000	-
University College Dublin	3,000	-
University of Glasgow	3,000	-
University of Kent	3,000	-
University of Manchester	3,000	-
Vita-Salute San Raffaele University, Milan	3,000	-
University of Oxford	9,687	-
University of Mexico	2,750	-
Other grants under £1,000	500	4,250
	<hr/> <b>95,939</b>	<hr/> <b>144,684</b>

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**SOCIETY FOR REPRODUCTION AND FERTILITY**

(A company limited by guarantee)

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019**

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**7. SUPPORT COSTS**

	<b>Governance</b>	<b>Support</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
			<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Bank and credit card charges	-	2,106	<b>2,106</b>	2,369
Subscriptions	-	3,378	<b>3,378</b>	3,171
Travel expenses	-	2,921	<b>2,921</b>	-
Foreign exchange differences	-	4,672	<b>4,672</b>	(1,431)
Other accountancy fees	-	-	-	2,000
Independent examination fee	-	6,125	<b>6,125</b>	6,100
Sponsorship and prizes awarded	-	29,285	<b>29,285</b>	26,986
Council of Management and other travel costs	23,469	-	<b>23,469</b>	29,996
Other expenses		13,964	<b>13,964</b>	8,179
	23,469	62,451	<b>85,920</b>	77,370

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**8. NET INCOME**

This is stated after charging:

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Independent examination fee	<b>6,125</b>	6,100
Other non-accountancy fees	-	2,000

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 (2018: £Nil). During the year, travel and subsistence expenses totalling £3,732 (2018: £7,093) were reimbursed to or paid directly to 14 (2018: 13) Council Members.

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**SOCIETY FOR REPRODUCTION AND FERTILITY**

(A company limited by guarantee)

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019**

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**9. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS**

	Listed £	Cash held for investment £	Total £
<b>MARKET VALUE</b>			
At 1 January 2019	1,692,973	40,788	1,733,761
Additions	426,299	-	426,299
Disposals	(744,947)	-	(744,947)
Revaluations	170,853	-	170,853
Movement in cash held	-	39,791	39,791
At 31 December 2019	<u>1,545,177</u>	<u>80,579</u>	<u>1,625,756</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.

**10. DEBTORS**

	2019 £	2018 £
Prepayments and accrued income	300,247	295,718
VAT recoverable	-	-
	<u>300,247</u>	<u>295,718</u>

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**SOCIETY FOR REPRODUCTION AND FERTILITY**

(A company limited by guarantee)

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019**

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**11. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Trade creditors	<b>72,390</b>	50,173
VAT payable	-	49,545
Accruals and deferred income	<b>87,222</b>	81,526
	<b>159,612</b>	181,244

Deferred income amounts to £nil (2018: £2,105).

**12. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

During 2019, Professor Suzannah Williams, a member of Council, received an academic award amounting to £12,437. The academic award was awarded prior to becoming a member of the Council but payment occurred after appointment.

**13. POST BALANCE SHEET EVENT**

In early March 2020, the COVID-19 virus was declared a global pandemic. As this global event continues to evolve, it brings with it uncertainty about the long-lasting economic impact. The Trustees have taken into consideration the existing and anticipated effects of the outbreak on the Society's activities and finances in its assessment of the appropriateness of the use of the going concern basis. In taking all activities into consideration, it is notable that the number of awards and bursaries granted to members is likely to reduce as members are unable to travel to international events, many of which the Society would normally support. Submissions to Reproduction continued to be high throughout 2020 and published content has grown since 2019. Royalty income for 2020 is projected to show a further improvement on 2019, with figures to Q3 reflecting a 15% increase in income compared to the same period in 2019. The Society's Management will continue to carefully monitor the situation and evaluate its options during this time. No adjustments have been made to these financial statements as a result of this uncertainty.

## **Paper C**

### **Chair's Report 2020 for the SRF AGM**

This is my last annual report as chair of SRF and I am pleased to report that, despite all the fiscal and practical challenges of 2020, the society has had another successful year. I have been supported by excellent officers, council members and secretariat and the successes this year are entirely due to them. You will be given updates from each of the officers at the AGM and I hope that I'm not stealing their thunder by highlighting some of their achievements.

With regards to membership and public engagement Bob Robinson has ensured that we have a robust membership base that has increased over the last three years. His committee have organised sex in three cities and increased the public engagement. It was a pity that Professor Alan Pacey wasn't able to give the London leg of his lecture tour (as part of the larger "a night at the College" public event) because of COVID-19. However, his talk (Let's talk about sperm: sperm you can bank on) is now online for all to experience. This year is the end of his tenure Suzanna Williams will take over. This committee have spearheaded the social event and Hamper at Fertility 2021 and Suzanna has additional ideas for further development.

The success of the Fertility meetings is in no little part because of the hard work of Richard Lea and the Programme Committee. Edinburgh 2020 was the most attended meeting ever and all will agree that the science and social events were excellent. This year it has been very challenging, but Richard and his committee have worked to ensure that Fertility 2021 will be a real success, with a great programme and innovative poster sessions. We still do not know about WCRB which was postponed from 2020 until September 2021 in Beijing. We hope that we can meet there but if not, we are very hopeful for a face to face Fertility meeting in Liverpool in 2022. Richard is the chair elect who will succeed me at Fertility 2021 and Suman Rice is taking over as chair. She and her committee are already thinking about the programme for 2022.

It has been a difficult year for the Grants and Awards Committee who have developed many new schemes to support our members. Adam Watkins and his committee were really impacted by COVID-19 with no real opportunities for travel grants and vacation scholarships. They have had a particularly successful Stewart Rhind writing competition though with excellent entries that will be updated to the website. We hope that we will be able to provide COVID specific support to the supervisors of postgrad-doc members whose research has been impacted by COVID-19. Adam too has completed his tenure and he will be succeeded by Ali Fouladi which will ensure good continuity of the committee and continue the development of additional support to the members that Adam initiated.

The two EC Reps have been innovative this year developing face to face academic development meetings and subsequently webinars that have been very well received. They are excellent contributors to council and the committees on which they sit and ensure the EC voice is heard. This year Jessica Roach will be replaced and Aleona Swegen will become the senior EC Rep. Please get in touch with them if you have any suggestions as to how we can further support our EC members.

Although the returns from, and value of the investments, have fallen during the last year because of COVID-19, the society is still in robust financial health. The finance committee lead by David Miller has been supporting our members and funding initiatives that benefit members. This year we put a small charge in place for Fertility 2021, largely to increase engagement with the meeting, rather than pay for access to all our members, not all of whom would attend the meeting. However, we have funded a social event with networking and hampers that I'm sure you will all enjoy. David is stepping down and he will be replaced by Bruce Murphy who brings a wealth of experience and will conduct a full review of our financial position and develop budgets to help the committees.

The main source of income to the society are investment returns and revenues from the journal. The editorial team for the journal: Greg Fitzharris and Chris Price, both based in Canada, supported by a truly international and highly regarded editorial board have ensured that *Reproduction* remains an internationally excellent journal for mechanistic Reproductive Science. The 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations at the beginning of the year were really special.

This year we also launched our open access journal *Reproduction and Fertility* as a sister journal to *Reproduction*. This means that we are positioned in the hybrid and open access arena to future proof our publishing. *Reproduction and Fertility* compliments *Reproduction* with a wider remit. The editors Andrew Horne and Norah Spears have been very innovative in developing the editorial board, the use of lay abstracts and different types of articles. The first papers have already been published and I'm sure that you will consider the societies journals for your research. The charges have currently been waived for full open access publication in *Reproduction and Fertility*. You will be able to meet and question the editors on the first day of *Fertility* 2021. The response time and interaction with the editions are amongst the best in academic publishing. *Reproduction and Reproduction and Fertility* are supported by Bioscientifica, through a profit-sharing arrangement, and this relationship has consistently delivered impressive revenues to the society in challenging times for publishing.

The Chair is probably the least hardworking of all the officers! We have ensured that we have updated and modernised the SRF articles of association and that appointments to chair, officer positions and council is fair and transparent. I'm delighted that after an election, in which all members could participate, we have five superb new council members and one EC Rep to help drive the SRF forward on your behalf. We have renewed and updated our contract with Bioscientifica and Conference Collective as well as develop a contract to allow the publication of *Reproduction and Fertility*. We have chaired the Joint executive committee of the SRF, BFS and ARCS and increased out interactions. In addition, we have looked into developing a *Fertility* council through a royal charter to increase the impact of the SRF for our members and help shape the national research agenda. This is ongoing and more details will follow. We have been pleased about how the integrated meetings have developed and how we have maintained our SRF identity by having a satellite day and a social event. We have driven forward initiatives to support all our members with grants and conference attendance bursaries.

SRF is still my society and I will remain excited to attend the *Fertility* meetings after stepping down. I would like to thank all the retiring officers as well as Doug Gibson, who has been a great council contributor, the journal editors and the secretariat. However, the society is nothing without its members and I would like to thank you all and wish you a prosperous and academically satisfying and more normal 2021.

Prof. Colin Duncan  
Chair of SRF January 2021





**Treasurer's Report (AGM 2021)  
v.2 Wed Jan 6th 2021**

This report considers the year Dec 2019 to Dec 2020 focusing on respective Q4 performance (where available) and returns.

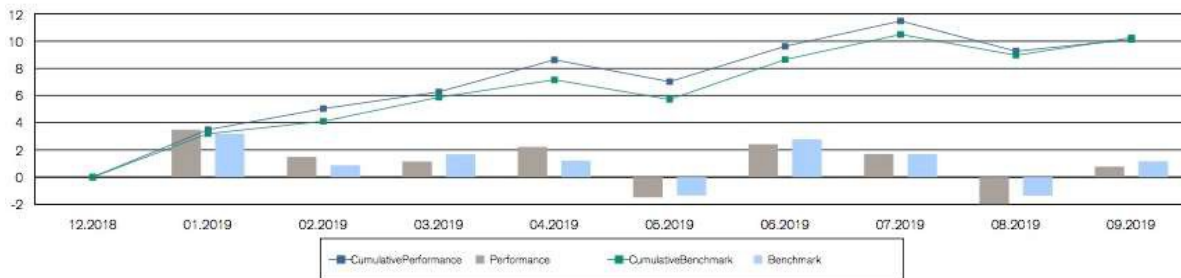
**Investments**

**(a) Credit Suisse Portfolio**

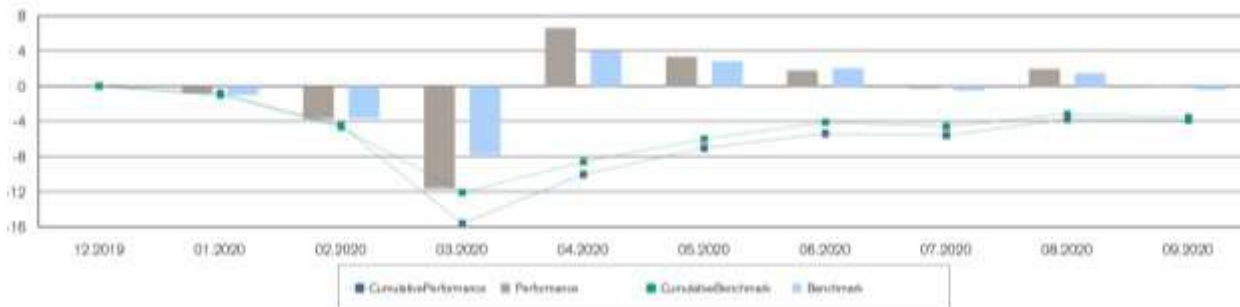
**Summary information from Portfolio Performance Report and update by Patrick Wilson, our portfolio manager, up to Sept 30th 2020:**

In common with finances everywhere, the Covid pandemic has had a marked affect on SRF's investments this year. Back in January at the 2020 AGM, I reported a Q4 2019 CS portfolio value of £1,452,037. This compares with £1,375,241 for Q3 2020 or a fall of 5.2%. However, this is actually a recovery from the portfolio value at the end of Q1 2020, which was 15.6% down on the previous quarter, so there has been some recovery (see charts below).

**Performance Over Period**



**Performance Over Period**



The lines on both charts show cumulative performance (grey) and benchmarks (green) for the 9-month period (Jan - Sept) for 2019 (upper panel) and 2020 (lower panel).

## (b) M&G Equities Investment Fund for Charities (Charifund)

The Charifund was also been affected with a 2020 Q4 figure of £143,375.89, compared with £165,932.55 for Q3 2019, a fall of 14%. The modest gains over the last three years were essentially lost this year (not unexpectedly).

	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
■ Sterling A Accumulation	23.0%	-8.9%	12.1%	12.4%	4.5%
■ FTSE All-Share Index	19.2%	-9.5%	13.1%	16.8%	1.0%
■ Sector	20.1%	-10.5%	11.5%	8.9%	6.1%

### Performance over 5 years



### Fund performance

	1 month	3 months	YTD	1 year	3 years p.a.	5 years p.a.
■ Sterling A Accumulation	-2.7%	-4.6%	-24.7%	-19.8%	-4.4%	2.2%
■ FTSE All-Share Index	-1.7%	-2.9%	-19.9%	-16.6%	-3.2%	3.5%
■ Sector	-2.3%	-3.2%	-22.9%	-17.4%	-5.2%	1.0%

Past performance is not a guide to future performance.

Performance comparison: The target benchmarks and comparator benchmark do not constrain the fund's portfolio construction.

The chart above gives a glimpse of the Charifund performance over the last 5 years with 2020 projected to be slightly less bleak than anticipated at the end of Q3.

## Cash flow, income and expenditure

### (c) Cash reserves

Total cash reserves (in the Current account) were £113,624 at 4 January 2021 compared with £164,406 at the end of the last financial year. The balance of the 2019 royalties amounting to £170,254 are due to be paid in January 2021 bringing cash on account to £283,878. Snapshots of cash reserves vary considerably from one month to the next.

### (d) Bioscientifica

Revenue from the journal to SRF in 2020 was £33,049 in Q1, £63, 813 in Q2 and £79,113 in Q3 (cumulative total £175,967). This compares with £182,974 for Q3 2019. The 2019 cumulative total was £244,379 (£205,905, £195,538 and £188,353 at the ends of 2018, 2017 and 2016, respectively). A final value covering 2020 is not yet available at the time writing but is projected to be similar to last year's revenues. The 5 year profit-share contract with Bioscientifica that commenced in 2015 continues to be our main revenue stream and covers the cost of the day to day management of the SRF and its support of members' interests. The contract was renewed in 22 May 2020, on an annual rolling basis, with a one year notice period.

### (e) Grants, Sponsorship and Travel

#### Vacation Scholarships:

Cancelled for 2020 due to the Pandemic.

#### Travel Grants:

Between March and June, one application for a conference in India on 4-6 December 2020 was received (pending travel restrictions). No other applications were received.

**Event Sponsorship:**

A successful Early Career Reps webinar was organised for 18 November 2020, funding for speaker at £700 as agreed. Control of Pig Journal, It was also agreed to support the digitising of the Control of Pig Journal at a cost of £7,440.

**Academic Scholarships:**

Two applications were received (approx. £24,991). One was ineligible and the other is currently being reviewed by the Grants & Awards Committee.

**(f) Fertility 2020.**

The SRF Annual conference for 2020 was Fertility 2020 held jointly with BFS and ACE in Edinburgh. The meeting made a surplus of £114,711 with £38,237 distributed to each society. This compares with £34,541 in 2019 shared between the three societies (£10,450 each). The equivalent values for 2018 were £54,218 surplus and £18,072 for each share and £85,513 surplus and £28,504 for each share in 2017.

**(g) Balance sheet**

After reductions for Council, CCL and awards etc and after meeting all payments, at Dec 20<sup>th</sup> 2020, SRF had turned a profit of £146,189 (£117,818 at Dec 31<sup>st</sup> 2019) and our collective assets stood at £1,879,290 compared with £1,793,085 at the end of the last financial year. A stable income stream from journal sales alongside much lower expenditure this year due to Covid has offset losses in investments.

**(h) Submission of Accounts**

The SRF Independent examination (audit) of our accounts for 2019 was completed successfully by PEM with considerable help from our secretariat, CCL, and accounts logged with Companies House and the Charity Commission.

**Summary**

As reported last year, despite the economic downturn our assets remain relatively stable at above £1.9 million and expenditure has been limited through closure of many research facilities and the lower demand for grants and other support in 2020. Despite the economic downturn, however, Journal income has remained buoyant.

David Miller  
SRF Treasurer

Chair, Finance Committee



**Public engagement and membership report 2020  
62<sup>nd</sup> SRF AGM, Fertility 2021, 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

***Membership update***

At the end of November 2020, we had a total of paid 452 members, which is similar to the 446 members registered at the end of 2019. The majority of these were early career (combined student and post-doc categories; 38%) or full members (38%). We now have a stable number of members, albeit with a significant turnover of early career members, in particular. It is likely that the enhanced support offered to members such as increased travel grants, bursaries to attend Fertility conferences, and online subscription to *Reproduction* has helped to maintain the membership numbers. The addition of a brief resumé to the application process has helped us to understand more about our new members and their reasons for joining. Also, to maintain the SRF identity, we have organised a virtual social event with break-out rooms and a delivered special hamper to SRF-registrants at Fertility2021. The majority of the members (60%) are UK-based but we have significant number of 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 membership renewals.

Notification of renewals for 2021 membership to SRF will be sent out shortly with the membership fees (£60/£35) for 2021. We strongly encourage our members to renew as soon as possible enabling them continued access to the excellent benefits.

***Sex in 3 Cities public science lecture***

The 2020 Sex in 3 Cities public lecture was delivered by Professor Allan Pacey and was held in Edinburgh and Nottingham. There was truly excellent feedback once again. We had planned to combine the London leg with the Royal Veterinary College's "*Night at the College*". This offered us the real opportunity to hold an event that typically attracts 500-600 members of the public and truly fulfil our remit of public engagement. Unfortunately, due to the outbreak of the COVID pandemic, we had to postpone the event. We have and continue to seek opportunities to hold this event, but this is highly unlikely to happen in the short term. We want to give a massive thanks to Mandi de Mestre and her RVC colleagues for all their efforts with this. Also, in recognition of this, we have uploaded Prof Allan Pacey's talk "[Let's talk about sperm: Sperm you can bank on](#)" onto the SRF's website and strongly encourage that you to watch it.

The 11<sup>th</sup> speaker in the SRF *Sex in 3 Cities goes Global* public science lecture series will be Professor [Blanche Capel](#) from Duke University, North Carolina, USA. The lecture will be delivered virtually via an online meetings platform enabling us to reach a broader audience and potentially from around the World. We are planning to deliver the lecture at two different times enabling as many people as possible to join (i.e. those in different time zones or with different working/home arrangements). We are looking at creating break-out rooms enable networking opportunities and for people to "meet" Blanche. The proposed dates are as follows:

- Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021 at 1pm GMT
- Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021 at 7pm GMT

This is an exciting adventure for us and we have every confidence that it will be another excellent and engaging lecture. Please check your emails and the SRF website for further details as they become available. We always appreciate nominations for speakers at this prestigious event and there is a list of previous speakers available on the SRF website.

Finally, it has been an enormous pleasure to serve on the SRF council for 7 years, with the past 4 years as the Public engagement and membership chair. It has been tremendous to see over membership increase over this time and then maintain its numbers. I have also absolutely loved hosting and organising the Sex in 3 cities public lectures creating the opportunity for so many people to be inspired and meet such prestigious speakers. I am confident that moving the SRF public lecture online will make this fantastic event even more inclusive and reach out to more people. I am so pleased that Prof Suzannah Williams will be taking on chairing this committee and take it to the next level. I wish her all the very best.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert Robinson" with a horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

**Bob Robinson (Public engagement and Membership chair, SRF)**



## Society for Reproduction and Fertility

### **General Secretary's Report for the 2021 AGM**

As we are all well-aware, 2020 has been a year like no other, and it has impacted on all our lives. For the Grants and Awards committee, the significant reduction in face-to-face conferences and laboratory based research has resulted in a comparatively quiet year. However, we are very conscious that many of our members will have had a very difficult year in trying to maintain an active research profile. As such, the Committee will be seeking to support our members as much as possible and will be exploring whether new schemes could be offered in 2021 to mitigate some of the impacts of the global pandemic.

### **Vacation Scholarships**

When it became apparent that the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic and the country wide lockdown would be lasting for a significant duration, the Committee and Council decided to postpone the vacation scholarship scheme. This was a disappointing decision as we know these scholarships are very valuable to the students through the opportunity to gain firsthand experience in a research laboratory. Now that the majority of research labs are open again, we will explore whether to run the Vacation Scholarships again. This decision will obviously be informed by current Government and Institution advice regarding active research practices.

### **Stewart Rhind Essay Prize:**

2020 saw a significant increase in the number of essays submitted. In total we had 23 essays, covering a range of topics. The Committee were very impressed with the quality of this year's essays as well as the variety of topics covered. In the end, after much deliberation, the Committee decided to award first prize to Clare Pearson from the University of Cambridge who wrote an essay titled 'How does the development of the biobag influence the legal issues surrounding a fetus?'

The committee felt that as the quality of several of the top scoring essays was so high, we would like to highlight them in the Society newsletter over the next few months.

### **Academic Scholarships – Research Fellow Scholarship:**

This year we introduced a new Academic Scholarship designed to support members who are within an independent research fellowship. This is intended to help Fellows who may have salary support but with minimal consumable budget. In line with our other Scholarship, this offers £12,500 to be used to support the applicant's research. Despite expanding the number of Academic Scholarships available, we had the lowest number of applications submitted for many years. This may well be a reflection of our member's lack of confidence in arranging a 12 month research project during the current uncertainty caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

As indicated above, we are very mindful that many of our members have had a difficult 2020 trying to maintain research projects and support research students. Therefore, the Grants and Awards Committee will be exploring potential avenues for additional support schemes for 2021.

**Travel grants:**

Understandably, the Covid-19 pandemic has resulted in the majority of conferences in 2020 (and beyond) moving to an online platform. As such, the number of travel grant applications submitted in 2020 has been dramatically reduced in comparison to previous years. We will continue to monitor the need for travel grants as many conferences appear to be moving to a hybrid format with both physical and virtual formats.

**Message from the General Secretary**

I would like to end my report by saying that it has been an honor and a pleasure to have served as the General Secretary for the Society for Reproduction and Fertility for the past 4 years. I have had the opportunity to work alongside many fantastic people who have all worked tirelessly to promote and support the Society. It has been fantastic to be able to expand our Scholarship schemes to support more of our members than ever and I want to thank all the members of the Grants and Awards Committee who have helped over the years.

I wish the new General Secretary, Ali Fouladi, the new Chair, Richard Lea, and the rest of the SRF Council all the very best and look forward to watching the Society continue to grow and develop.

**Dr Adam Watkins**  
**SRF General Secretary**  
**Chair of the Grants and Awards Committee**

**January 2021**

## Paper G



### Programme Secretary Report for the 2021 AGM

It will come as no surprise to delegates that the challenges faced by the SRF Programme committee in 2020 have been huge. The year started with the tremendously successful Fertility 2020 conference (13<sup>th</sup> Joint Conference of the UK Fertility Societies) which was held at the EICC Edinburgh. The meeting was led by the SRF and has been described by many as the “best yet” in terms of the Scientific Programme and full delegate experience. The conference focus was “*Reproduction in a changing world*” and at the time, little did we know how much the World was about to change! Nevertheless, the success of Fertility 2020 was further measured from the 810 paying delegates and 227 exhibitors including 162 internationals from 31 countries.

Following Fertility 2020, planning began for Fertility 2021. As SRF, ARCS and BFS met to begin the process, COVID-19 emerged and we were forever mindful of the potential of an imminent pandemic to thwart our plans for a face-to-face meeting. As the year progressed, the threat became a reality and the decision was made that Fertility 2021 would be our first virtual conference. Although the Society and Joint programme committees were now in new and challenging territory, I am proud to say that the SRF took a leading role in developing the format of Virtual Fertility 2021. Importantly, in true collegiate style, all three Societies have worked together in the development of the excellent scientific programme preceded by the SRF satellite day to start the full experience.

Although we will all miss the social elements of the conference, our exciting programme offers a number of unique advantages. These include (1) a lack of parallel sessions, (2) the ability to dip in and out of the programme and to catch up on recorded lectures, (3) access to the lectures for 3 months after the meeting and (4) a new and exciting form of poster delivery through an interface that maximises interaction between presenters and delegates.

Despite COVID 19 taking its toll on national and international scientific research, Virtual Fertility 2021 has had 264 accepted abstracts from which we have 54 oral presentations and 201 posters (SRF 38, ARCS 23, BFS 72). At the time of writing this report (December 18), we already had 528 paying delegates that is comparable to the number of delegates we had at this stage last year. Indeed, our expectation is delegate numbers will equal or exceed last years and that the conference will be accessed by delegates around the globe.

Amongst the cutting edge update sessions covered in Fertility 2021, I want to make special mention of those primarily driven through SRF. These are entitled “Ovarian reserve – endogenous and exogenous determinants”, “Exosomes and cellular communication” and “Reproduction on hold”. Each has an excellent array of speakers and of course we have had input into the other quality update sessions along with the other societies.

Fertility 2021 also encompasses some highly prestigious plenary and prize presentations. In this regard, I would also like to congratulate Professor Hilary Critchley (University of Edinburgh) who will deliver the esteemed SRF Anne McLaren Memorial Distinguished lecture. I am also delighted to announce that the SRF Marshall medal, the societies’ highest award, will be presented to Professor Graeme Martin (The University of Western Australia) for his outstanding contribution to the study of fertility and reproduction.

This year we also offer our congratulations to Michael Bertram who will deliver the SRB-SRF Exchange lecture and also to Dr Zhenzhen Zhang (China Agricultural University) and co-authors who will deliver the Reproduction Journal prize lecture entitled “Alpha-ketoglutarate affects murine embryo development through metabolic and epigenetic modifications”. It is also my pleasure to



announce that the 2020 SRF New Investigator Award goes to Jane Fenelon (University of Melbourne) and that the SSR New Investigator Award goes to Dr Sue Hammound (University of Michigan). Both Jane and Sue have opted to defer their presentations to Fertility 2022.

At the start of 2020, the SRF in partnership with seven other international societies, worked towards the development of the programme for the **5<sup>th</sup> World Congress in Reproductive Biology**. Initially timetabled for Beijing from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> of September 2020 and hosted by The Chinese Society for Reproductive Biology, COVID-19 led to the postponement of this venture to September 15-17, 2021. The meeting will still take place in Beijing and has the full support of the SRF along with our sister societies. The SRF has already secured representation of the Society through nominated speakers and we anticipate an excellent conference of the highest scientific quality.

**Fertility 2022** will take place in Liverpool in early January (5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>: TBC) and has the theme of "*Rising to global challenges in reproduction and fertility*". With this very apt title, we sincerely hope that this will be a face-to-face conference experience. Please save the dates 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](mailto:srf@conferencecollective.co.uk) or complete the online form at [www.srf-reproduction.org/contact](http://www.srf-reproduction.org/contact).

This is my last year as Chair of the Programme Committee of the SRF and it has been a privilege to work with such a dedicated team and to contribute to the success of four joint Fertilities conferences. As Suman Rice takes up the mantle of Programme Committee Chair, I have no doubt that our future meetings are in exceptional hands.

Looking forward, I am hugely honoured to have been selected as the next Chair of the SRF and to be given a further opportunity to work with an exceptional team on SRF Council. Colin Duncan has done an incredible job as Chair and in steering the Society through an exceptionally difficult period. As the World moves towards the "new post-vaccine norm" whatever that may be, I would like to provide every reassurance to our membership that Council remains dedicated to the promotion and support of all of its members in their research endeavours and aspirations.

Finally, my thanks also go to Alex, Jacinta and support staff of Conference Collective for doing a terrific job as the SRF secretariat. I would also like to thank Profile Productions for their organisational support of the face-to-face conferences and now our first virtual Joint Fertilities meeting.

Dr Richard Lea  
SRF Programme Secretary  
December 2020