

# Society for Reproductive Biology



## Newsletter October 2010

---

### President's Report

#### Mark Hedger

---


At the end of my first year as SRB President, I am pleased to report that the Society is in a very strong position. Society finances have emerged from the GFC in fine shape, with our net assets up 15% over the same period last year, and a substantial recovery in income in 2010 after two rather lean years. Membership is also up considerably this year, with SRB membership now having increased every year since 2005, representing a 60% increase in the size of the Society in just 5 years!

It is my pleasure to welcome the new Council members, particularly Jane Girling who is taking on the vital role of Secretary, and the re-elected and newly-elected Ordinary Members, Larry Chamley, Charles Allan, Sarah Meachem and Kirsty Pringle. As allowed by the recent changes to the SRB Constitution, we were able to expand the size of Council to six Ordinary Members in order to deal with the increasing workload and number of issues facing us. It is yet another sign of a very healthy society that there was a lot of interest in nominating for

Council this year in a tightly-fought election, and I strongly encourage those that were keen to serve, but were unsuccessful this year, to consider putting themselves forward again next year.

I welcome this final opportunity to formally thank the outgoing Secretary, Chris Grupen, for his three years of outstanding service to the Society. The role of Secretary is pivotal and easily the most demanding position on Council, and I thank Chris for his dedication and energy throughout the past three years, as well as his wise counsel in getting me up to speed in my first year as President. Susan Jones also will be stepping down from Council, and I thank her for her service and invaluable contributions in the area of membership, in particular.

We had another great joint SRB/ESA Annual Conference in Sydney this year, with record numbers of registrants. The program included international stem cell luminary Renee Reijo Pera as this year's Founder's Lecturer and Prof David Handelsman, local boy and



leading figure in the field of Andrology, as RFD Lecturer. We also met with the Association for Applied Animal Andrology for the first time this year, and we hope this will lead to more interactions in the future, just as we have with longer term partners such as ANZPRA and our sister society, ESA. Many thanks to Charles Allan and Eileen McLaughlin and their POC for putting together a wonderful program and to the LOC headed by Ros Bathgate for bringing it all together. Special thanks also go to Charles for stepping in at the last minute to take charge of the local arrangements during the conference itself.

Once again we thank ASN, particularly Mike Pickford and Heather Prowd, not only for making such a massive meeting possible, but also for their professionalism and support throughout the year as the SRB Secretariat. Finally, I want to thank our many sponsors, who make the Annual Conference possible: Reproduction Fertility and Development, the Research Centre for Reproductive Health, the Centre for Reproduction and Genomics, Merck Serono, the ARC Centre of Excellence in Biotechnology and Development and Oozoa Biomedical.

I'd remind everyone that next year in October, SRB will be hosting the 2<sup>nd</sup> World Congress for Reproductive Biology in Cairns. This means that we will not be able to meet with ESA in 2011, but I encourage all SRB members to put their full support behind this important International meeting. Reproductive Societies from all over the world will be converging on Cairns for this event, and we want to make sure that the SRB puts forward its best science and 'southern' hospitality. The Congress will be preceded by a regular, albeit foreshortened, SRB Annual

Conference and there will be plenty of opportunities to present your best work at either the SRB or WCRB or both, if you wish. We will be back with ESA on the Gold Coast in 2012.

Another event that I encourage all members to support is the symposium on Developmental Programming at the Australian Health and Medical Research Congress in Melbourne in November 2010. An excellent program of speakers has been put together by Laura Parry and Mary Wlodek, under the sponsorship of the SRB. It is strategically and politically important that SRB members make a strong showing at this Congress, which involves all major Australian Societies and Associations in the medical research arena.

Finally, at this meeting we announced an exciting initiative to establish the award of 'Fellow of the Society for Reproductive Biology'. This is an opportunity for the Society to recognise and support a group of individuals who have made major contributions to the Society and to our discipline, but are not quite yet in sight of the twilight end of their research career. I thank Larry and the Membership subcommittee for their hard work towards making this happen. The Council is looking forward to a number of new initiatives within the Membership portfolio to encourage and reward members, of which this Fellowship proposal is the first major outcome.

There is still much to be done, not just in the traditional areas of membership and scientific meetings, but in mentoring and encouraging students and early career investigators, public relations and political advocacy to name just a few, and I look forward to the coming year with considerable optimism and excitement.

---

Secretary's Report

---

There were two retirees from SRB council this year: Chris Grupen and Sue Jones. Special thanks are due to out-going secretary Chris Grupen for all his hard work keeping SRB running smoothly. I would also like to add my personal thanks for his advice and guidance as I take on the secretary role. Thanks are also due to Sue Jones for her work on council. We wish Sue well in her new position as an Australian Learning and Teaching Council Discipline Scholar in Science.

Four new ordinary council members were elected to SRB this year: Larry Chamley, Charles Allan, Sarah Meacham and Kirsty Pringle. Congratulations all! This will be Larry's second three year term on council. Charles and Sarah were previously co-opted council members and will now serve as elected members.

Thank you also to all the on-going council and co-opted members for their efforts during the year.

Finally, it is a real honour to take on the job as SRB's secretary. I am looking forward to working with all the council members and helping to maintain SRB as the vibrant society that it is.

**2010 SRB Annual Scientific Meeting**

We had yet another successful SRB Annual Scientific meeting with a wide and interesting range of talks and posters. Many thanks are due to the POC and LOC chairs and their committees for organising this outstanding conference.

POC Chairs: Eileen McLaughlin (co-chair), Charles Allan (co-chair), Larry Chamley, Peter Chenoweth, Eva Dimitriadis, Jemma Evans, Theresa Hickey

LOC: Roslyn Bathgate (Chair), Charles Allan, Michael Bertoldo, Kathy Gafford, Sue Lau, Eileen McLaughlin, Kirsty Walters

**Secretariat**

The SRB council would like to thank ASN for their outstanding support of the society. Special thanks are due to Mike Pickford for his efforts in organising the 2010 SRB Annual Scientific Meeting. Special thanks also to Heather Prowd for the many and varied tasks she performs for SRB during the year.

**Australian Health and Medical Research Congress, 14-18 November 2010**

The AH&MRC will be held next month in Melbourne. The congress incorporates the SRB symposium "**Developmental programming: links between stress, placenta and epigenetics**". Details of the symposium, which is being organised by Dr Laura Parry and A/Prof Mary Wlodek, can be found on the congress website (<http://www.ahmrcongress.org.au/>).

**2011 SRB Annual Scientific Meeting/2<sup>nd</sup> World Congress of Reproductive Biology**

Next year's SRB Annual Scientific Meeting will precede the 2<sup>nd</sup> World Congress of Reproductive Biology. The meetings will be held in Cairns, Queensland (8-9<sup>th</sup> October and 9-11<sup>th</sup> October, respectively). It is a beautiful place for a meeting, so don't forget to mark the dates in your diary!

**Fellows of the Society for Reproductive Biology**

An exciting new initiative for SRB is the creation of 'Fellows of the Society for Reproductive Biology'. These will be prestigious awards that enhance the standing of both recipient and the Society. They have been created to recognise the high standing of certain SRB members in the reproductive biology community. Details and criteria about these awards are provided below.

---

**Rick Nicholson**

**Treasurers report**

---

On behalf of the SRB Council, I am pleased to inform the membership that the SRB is currently in good financial shape. We have pulled through the World Financial Crisis worries of the past couple years, with a return to the black this past financial year. Income was up, operating expenses were down, and investment returns stopped their recent declines and have steadied to show a profit again. Overall, the net value of SRB assets is up \$41,600 from last year to over \$308,000. The increase in income this past year was helped by a profitable 2009 annual meeting in Adelaide which netted a \$27,424 profit (including a \$3,960 profit from the SRB's 40<sup>th</sup> birthday dinner).

The SRB continues to support the student members with generous travel grants to cover return airfares for interstate attendance. Last year we paid \$5810 in travel grants to students presenting at the 2009 meeting in Adelaide, and for the Sydney 2010 meeting there were 25 students eligible for the awards with 24 attending the Sydney meeting to receive their cheques (totalling \$6,150).

The SRB has paid seed funding for several conferences in 2010 and 2011. \$5000 to the International Congress of Reproductive Immunology in 2010, \$4000 to the Australian Health & Medical Research Congress (Nov 2010), and \$5000 to the World Congress of Reproductive Biology in 2011 (SRB is host Society). These 'investment' funds will be repaid following the conferences, hopefully with a profit. It is very important that the SRB membership support and participate in these meetings, to maximise our financial returns when the seeds are repaid.

---

**Laura Parry**

**AHMRC congress**

---

The scientific program for the Joint SRB/ESA Symposium at the 5th Australian Health & Medical Research Congress 2010 has now been finalised and is available on the AHMR Congress website (<http://www.ahmrcongress.org.au/>). The full-day symposium on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November titled "*Developmental programming: links between stress, placenta and epigenetics*" includes international speaker Prof Abigail Fowden (University of Cambridge), national speakers A/Prof Vicki Clifton, Dr Richard Saffery, A/Prof Susan Sayers, Prof Brendan Waddell and A/Prof Mary Wlodek, and oral presentations from young investigators. They will be speaking on a broad range of themes such as regulation of DNA methylation in the human placenta, intergenerational programming, gender-specific fetal growth differences in response to stress and the origins of chronic disease in the Aboriginal Birth Cohort Study. In addition, there is a poster session in the early evening from which we will be selecting a student poster to go forward for the "Best of the Best" poster presentations on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> November. The University of Melbourne has provided student prizes for both oral and poster presentations. The overall registration for the Congress is currently less than previous years and it was discussed at the LOC meetings that we run the risk of losing seed funding in the future if targets are not met. SRB has almost met its target of delegates but to ensure the ongoing success of this important event for health and medical research in Australia, we need to encourage members to register and support the young investigators and the SRB at this Congress.

---

## POC report

### Eileen McLaughlin and Charles Allan (Co-chairs)

---

#### Program Organising Committee (POC):

- **Eileen McLaughlin** (co chair), University of Newcastle, ARC Centre of Excellence in Biotechnology
- **Charles Allan** (co chair), ANZAC Research Institute, The University of Sydney
- **Theresa Hickey** The University of Adelaide, Robinson Institute
- **Larry Chamley**, University of Auckland
- **Peter Chenoweth**, Charles Sturt University
- **Jemma Evans**, Prince Henry's Institute, Monash University
- **Eva Dimitriadis**, Prince Henry's Institute, Monash University

Our sincere thanks to all members of the POC and the Award Committee who all contributed to the selection and programming of symposium topics, speaker invitations and abstract reviewing. Thanks also to Mike Pickford, Danielle White and ASN staff who provided fantastic support throughout the process of program organisation and during the conference.

In 2010 the conference program ran from its traditional start time on Sunday afternoon through to 5pm on Wednesday, allowing the continued rising number of submissions to be presented as oral presentations with a 10 minute talk + 5 minute questions format.

This also permitted inclusion of the additional plenary session which this year was a joint session with the Association for Applied Animal Andrology (AAAA) entitled *Andrology in the Future*. Sponsored by PHIMR and Newcastle University Program on Determinants of Fertility and Infertility and Pork Cooperative Research Centre this session included John Aitken (Newcastle, Aus) and overseas speakers Bart Gadella (Utrecht, The Netherlands) and Stuart Meyers (UC Davis, USA)

We were also privileged to hear three outstanding plenary presentations

- SRB Founders Lecture **Renee Reijo Pera** (Stanford University, USA) *Human Germ Cell Formation and Differentiation from Pluripotent Stem Cells*
- RF&D Award Lecture **David Handelsman** (ANZAC Research Institute Sydney, Australia) *Hormonal Regulation of Spermatogenesis*
- SRB/ADS lecture **N Wah Cheung** (Westmead Hospital, University of Sydney) *Gestational Diabetes and Type 2 Diabetes in Pregnancy in Australia*

Thanks to the Reproduction Fertility and Development and SRB who sponsored these sessions

Novel use of video technology facilitated by Mike Pickford ASN allowed the SRB Symposia to proceed despite two key speakers being unable to attend in person due to family reasons. Our thanks to Pat and Terry for superb lectures – we will be investigating possible use of this technology in the future.

#### ***Environment and Fertility - fascinating insights to human and animal health and xenobiotic exposure***

- **Patricia Hunt** (WSU USA) *Are environmental exposures affecting human reproductive health?*
- **Richard Lim** (UTS Australia) *Endocrine disrupting impacts in receiving waters of the Sydney Basin*
- **Stuart Linton** (Deakin University Australia) *The effect of the insecticide pyriproxyfen on ovary synthesis in the Christmas Island red crab, *Gecarcoidea natalis*; a possible case of endocrine disruption*

### ***Meiosis and Beyond – exciting new developments in the molecular characterisation of gametogenesis***

- **Terry Hassold** (WSU USA)  
The origin of aneuploidy in humans: where we've been, where we're going
- **Keith Jones** (Newcastle University)  
Cdh1: a cell cycle protein involved in female meiosis and prevention of aneuploidy
- **Jennifer Ly-Huynh** (Monash University)  
Importin  $\alpha 2$  mediates subnuclear targeting of the Cajal body component Coilin; a key role in spermatogenesis?

Thanks to the ARC Centre of Excellence in Biotechnology and Development who sponsored both these sessions

Placental Biology both clinical and basic figured large in this year's programme with two fantastic symposia and much positive feedback from ANZPRA and ESA members.

### **SRB/ESA joint Symposium Pregnancy Nutrition**

- **Maria Makrides** (Adelaide University)  
N-3 long chain polyunsaturated fatty acids: the good oils for pregnancy outcome?
- **Suyinn Chong** (Queensland Institute of Medical Research)  
Maternal ethanol consumption alters the epigenotype and phenotype of offspring in a mouse model
- **Frank Bloomfield** (Liggins Institute, University of Auckland NZ)  
Periconceptional undernutrition: life-long effects for the offspring
- **Janet Rowan** (National Women's Health, Auckland City Hospital NZ)  
*Gestational diabetes – complications, management, outcomes*

### **SRB/ANZSPRA joint Symposium Placentae through the Millennia**

- **Marilyn Renfree** (University of Melbourne)  
Trophoblast, placenta and early embryo: how the marsupial develops

- **Michael Thompson** (University of Sydney)  
Even reptiles do it, the structure and function of placentae in viviparous lizards
- **Brendan Waddell** (University of WA)  
Eutherian mammals do it differently: placental endocrine strategies for the maintenance of pregnancy in rodents and primates

Thanks to Sanofi-Aventis who sponsored both these sessions

The free communication program also included

- 2 joint SRB/ESA sessions for Female Reproduction and Male Reproduction
- 10 Oral communication sessions featuring a total of 86 presentations
- 1 Poster session featuring 42 presentations (32% of total)

Career development was aided by:

- Meet the Prof Luncheon for students, featuring the RF&D Lecturer and RCRH Award recipient
- Meet the Prof Luncheon for early career researchers\*, with 4 professors including the Founders Lecture presenter. \*Format in response to request from SRB ECR representative (Jemma Evans).

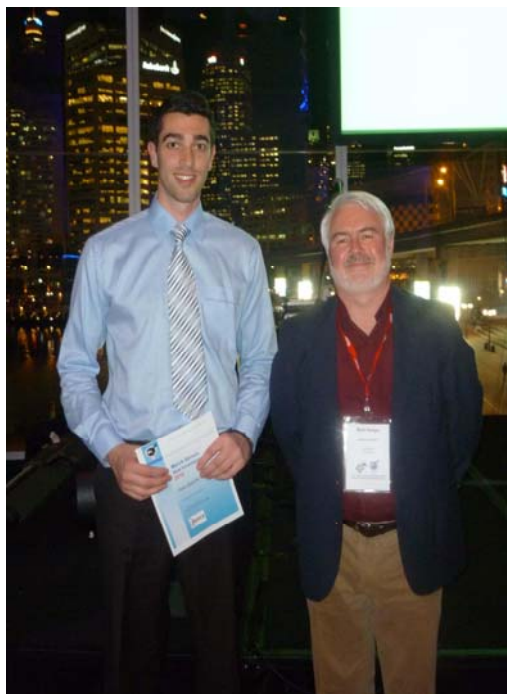
A total of 133 abstracts were submitted and 128 accepted, this continues the trend towards increasing participation when compared to 119 in Adelaide 2009, 128 in Melbourne 2008, 110 in Christchurch 2007 and 106 in Gold Coast 2006. Abstracts have been published in the official journal of SRB **Reproduction Fertility and Development** as an online supplement (see <http://www.publish.csiro.au/nid/44/issue/53/13.htm>) making them searchable online and citable

**We look forward to seeing you all in Cairns 2011.**

---

## SRB awards 2010

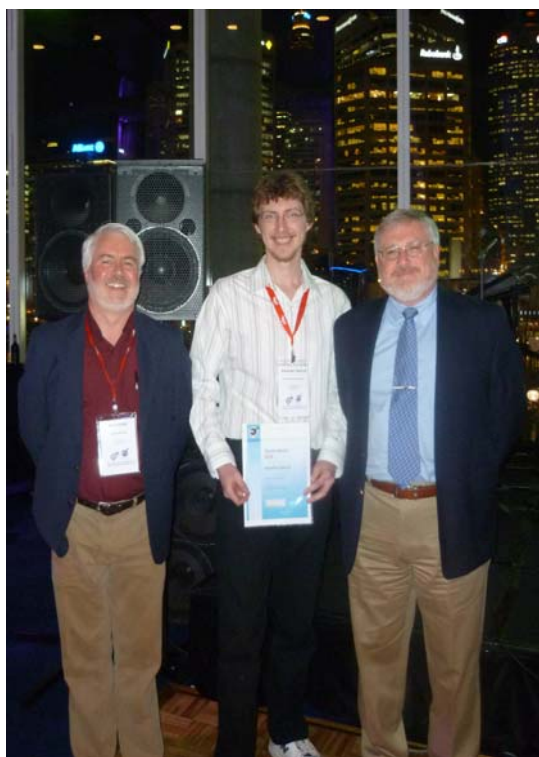
---



Merck-Serono New Investigator award winner Pete Nichols receiving his award from SRB president Mark Hedger



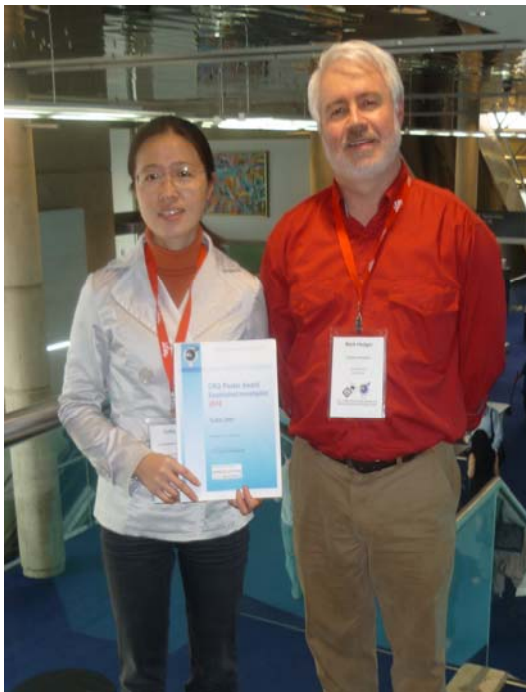
ANZPRA New Investigator award winner Chez Viall accepting her award from ANZPRA president Claire Roberts



Oozoa award winner Alexander Sobinoff pictured with SRB president Mark Hedger and CEO of Oozoa Biomedical David Mortimer



The Centre for reproductive genomics student poster award winner Yu May Soh receives her award from SRB president Mark Hedger



The Centre for reproductive genomics early career researcher poster award winner YuXia Chen pictured with SRB president Mark Hedger

The RCRH Mid-Career award winner Eva Dimitriadis pictured with SRB president Mark Hedger and Merck Serono new investigator award winner Pete Nichols





---

**Report to SRB.  
SRD meeting, Japan, August 2010  
Lois Salamonsen**

---

It was my privilege to represent SRB in a Symposium held within the annual meeting of the Society for Reproduction and Development, (SRD) in Towada, Aomori Prefecture, Japan, on September 2-4, 2010. The Symposium included speakers from each the 4 Societies contributing to the 1<sup>st</sup> World Congress of Reproductive Biology in 2008. Each speaker was asked to tell a little about their Society and to present their newest research data. We also attended the entire SRD meeting and had the opportunity to meet and discuss science with our Japanese colleagues.

The Program for the WCRB Symposium, which was opened by Professor Noboru Manabe, President of SRD was:

**SSR.** Leslie L Heckert. Cell-specific functions of DMRT1 in Sertoli cells and germ cells of the testis

**SRF.** Colin Duncan. Novel specific regulators of ovarian function

**SRB.** Lois A. Salamonsen. Endometrial receptivity: a critical step in establishing pregnancy

**SRD.** Mitsumori Kawaminami. Peripheral function of GnRH: mast cell production of GnRH and mammary involution

The SRD was first established in 1948, and currently has 950 members and students. Its journal, the Journal of Reproduction and Development, is now in its 56<sup>th</sup> volume and has an impact factor of 1.69. It publishes articles in both Japanese and English. The membership of the Society is predominantly from Animal Science and Veterinary Science departments: there are a number of more specialised societies in Japan which focus on Human Reproduction. The meeting was very well attended and I was impressed by the quality of the science presented and the enthusiasm of the young scientists. Apart from the WCRB Symposium there were two other Symposia in English, 'Dynamic Changes in Ovarian Function' and 'Novel Molecular Aspects in Endometrial Remodeling'. Unfortunately, the majority of the young people presented their work in Japanese which made an imperative for one-on-one interaction with them.

This was an excellent opportunity for me to promote our Society, our Journal, Reproduction Fertility and Development and the 2nd World Congress of Reproductive Biology being hosted by SRB in 2011. I am confident that there will be a large contingent from Japan attending.

---

## SRB members around the world

### Mai Sarraj

---

My name is Mai, I am a researcher at Prince Henry's Institute. I have been a loyal member of SRB since 2004 and I have presented my work at every meeting for the past 6 years. This year, I was lucky enough to receive a CASS foundation travel grant which allowed me to visit Professor Barry Hinton's lab at Virginia University, Charlottesville. The lab visit gave me the chance to get new insights into the collaborations we can establish all over the world. The visit also provided me with the opportunity to give a seminar to researchers at VU and to receive their constructive feedback. Following the visit I attended two international meetings; the Ovarian Workshop and the Society for the Study of Reproduction SSR. Both meetings were excellent and were held in Milwaukee, a nice, quiet city by lake Michigan in Wisconsin.

The SSR meeting is similar to SRB but has a larger number of participants. During my trip I had the opportunity to present my work on "characterizing gonad development of the betaglycan knockout mouse embryos". The trip provided me a chance to receive feedback,

constructive comments and I was asked interesting questions from researchers in the field. The visit was an excellent opportunity for me to exchange ideas in the expanding area of reproduction.

I also had the chance to meet some of the well known scientists in the field as well as some lovely bright early career researchers.

The highlight of my trip was the opportunity to listen to many more talks about the early developing ovary than usual. In the last twenty years there has been a huge amount of work on testis formation but very little on the ovary. I don't want to sound like a feminist but I truly think it is time to further our knowledge on the developing ovary as well!

During my trip I caught up with family members who drove from Chicago to see me as well as many old friends whom I haven't seen for a while. I am now back in the lab working enthusiastically in hope of being able to obtain some fresh data to share with my colleagues at SRB and SSR next year.



**Mai with her new friends and colleagues**

---

## Hello from the student reps

### Matt Dun and Chez Viall

---

Two new SRB student representatives were elected at this year's SRB student AGM. We are Matt Dun (The University of Newcastle), a sperm-egg man interested in... well, sperm and eggs!, and Chez Viall (The University of Auckland), a first year PhD student interested in the interactions and effects of Antiphospholipid Antibodies on the wonderful organ that is the placenta.

#### **Matt Dun**

I am a second year Ph.D. student studying at the Reproductive Science Group which is within the University of Newcastle and my Ph.D. focus aims to determine the molecular basis of sperm-oocyte interactions.

I have been in the society for 3 years now since honours, and believe that my association with the society to be critical to my career development.

This years student function was the best and most fun that I've been to since joining the society. It was a fantastic way to meet and talk to early career scientists, as well as more senior and visiting international researchers while cruising beautiful Port Jackson.

I thought the opportunity to "meet the professor" was not only a great way to gain some sound career advise, but it also gave us students a chance to have a conversation with inspiring career researchers. I find it's not always very easy to meet career researchers at conferences

because often I'm too shy and more often I don't want to appear stupid (in my case). So the chance to have a relaxed conversation was great and hopefully next time I see Prof. Renfree I will have the guts to ask her what the evolutionary advantage of diapause is with pregnant Tammar Wallaby living on Garden Island.

Next years meeting is exciting because it'll mean I'm nearly finished my Ph.D. but more importantly the meeting coincides with the Society for the Study of Reproduction meeting and it's being held in Cairns. I'm hoping that during the year leading up to next years meeting we as student representatives can provide students with an online resource that provides information regarding potential post-doctoral positions, listings of recently successful grant applications in our field and source some dormitory style accommodation options for travelling students.

I encourage all members of the society to join our Facebook page, just type in SRB in your Facebook search engine and request to become a member. Soon we will have up some funky photos of this years conference so join and see if you were luck enough to be caught on camera while melting the DF.

#### **Chez Viall**

This year's SRB conference was a great event, with a good student turnout thanks to the generosity of SRB travel grants. There were various social and academic highlights, including a rather

turbulent social boat cruise of the Sydney harbour, and the "Meet the Professor" session which was both daunting and informative.

Next year's meeting will be held in Cairns and is a biggie - we will be meeting with ANZPRA and the World Congress for Reproductive Biology. We have some ambitious plans for the students at this meeting including cheap student accommodation at a single location (which will encourage student mingling!), as well as additional social events if there is support for this.

We would like to thank our predecessors, Louie Ye and Peter Nicholls who have done a great job representing SRB students thus far. Students can contact us on [matt.dun@uon.edu.au](mailto:matt.dun@uon.edu.au) and [c.viall@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:c.viall@auckland.ac.nz) if they have any problems/suggestions for next year's meeting.

Thanks,

Matt and Chez



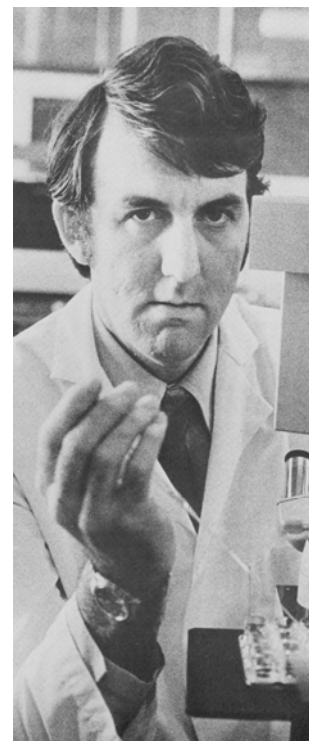
**The 'turbulent' sydney harbour cruise – watch your beer!**

In 2010 Prince Henry's Institute of Medical Research (PHI) is celebrating 50 years of research. Over this period many PHI researchers have contributed significantly to discoveries in reproductive biology. They have also played important roles, through their activities in the Society for Reproductive Biology (SRB) and its predecessor, the Australian Society for Reproductive Biology (ASRB), in the development of this professional society which leads in communicating and promoting outstanding Australian medical research.

It is worthwhile to reflect on the history of this 'special relationship', how it has been nurtured, and acknowledge some of those that have played key roles.

The origins of PHI go back to the Medical Research Centre established in 1960 at Prince Henry's Hospital in Melbourne. Today, PHI is based in Clayton, Victoria at Monash Medical Centre and is well established as a leading centre for reproductive biology research.

Professor Jock Findlay leads the Ovarian Biology team at PHI and his connections with SRB go back more than 40 years. In 1968 Jock was a Foundation Member of the ASRB and he went on to lead the SRB as Chairman between 1983 and 1985. Jock's chairing and leadership skills were particularly important in these years. He helped the SRB continue its course which, to this day, is broadly inclusive of both basic reproductive biology research and its application in clinical and agricultural contexts. In 2009 Jock's professional contributions to the SRB were recognised when he was made a Life Member.



**The name's  
Findlay – Prof  
Jock  
Findlay.....  
back in 1979**



Professor Lois Salamonsen, who leads the Uterine Biology team at PHI, was also involved from the very early days of the Society's development. Lois attended, as a research assistant, the ASRB's second scientific meeting in 1972. She was SRB Secretary in the mid 1990's and served as SRB Chairman / President from 2003 to 2006. In this role, Lois led some of the early discussions and helped secure local commitment for the First World Congress of Reproductive Biology. This conference, held in Hawaii in 2009, provided a global showcase for the excellence of Australian reproductive biology research. The next World Congress will be held in Cairns in October 2011.

In 2010, Dr Sarah Meachem was elected as the SRB Committee Member for Public Relations. Sarah has been a researcher at PHI for over ten years and further, she has an extensive background in research advocacy and educational programs. These experiences are likely to be valuable in effectively promoting the importance of research in reproduction, fertility and development to non-specialist publics including educators and policy makers.

The major contributions of several PHI researchers has also been recognised by their selection to present the SRB's most prestigious

lecture, the Goding / Founders Lecture. Former Institute Director Professor Henry Burger presented this lecture in 1987; he was followed by Jock Findlay in 1992 and last year by Lois Salamonsen.

Over the five decades since conception, clinical and basic research at PHI has led to significant advances in understanding male and female reproductive biology. Many of these discoveries have first been presented to the SRB's annual scientific meeting. At the 2010 SRB Scientific Meeting, about 1 in 5 papers and posters were presented by PHI researchers and students, continuing a long history of SRB as an important training ground for young scientists

At this year's SRB meeting Dr Evdokia Dimitriadis, who leads the Embryo Implantation Laboratory at PHI, received the 2010 SRB-RCRH Award for Excellence in Reproductive Biology Research, an award which recognises new and emerging research contributors to the field. PhD researcher Peter Nicholls also was a recipient of a New Investigator Award.

Even your new SRB Newsletter Editor, Dr Jemma Evans, comes from the Prince Henry's family. Here's to the future of a very special relationship!

**For further information visit**  
[www.princehenrys.org/50yrs](http://www.princehenrys.org/50yrs)

---

## Specification for Fellows of the Society for Reproductive Biology.

Larry Chamley

---

### **Rationale:**

As scientists, we are being increasingly assessed in multiple ways for our productivity, our level of peer esteem and our contributions to our discipline. The creation of the status of Fellow of the Society of Reproductive Biology, along with the publication of the criteria, will enable the Society to assist its members in demonstrating their standing in reproductive biology and will also provide motivation for members to continue their association with the Society. This is intended to be a prestigious award that enhances the standing of both recipient and the Society.

### **Purpose of the Fellowship:**

**1)** This is an opportunity for the Society for Reproductive Biology (SRB) to provide an acknowledgement, to certain of its members, of their high standing in the reproductive biology community, as determined by their peers.

**2)** To allow members to demonstrate their affiliation with their/our professional body (SRB) and to leverage that affiliation for their benefit.

**3)** To provide motivation for mid-career and more senior researchers to retain/seek membership of the Society.

### **Criteria for the status of Fellow of the Society for Reproductive Biology**

Applicants must demonstrate that they have amassed a significant portfolio of contributions to reproductive biology. This portfolio will be evidenced by the following:


**1)** Fellows will be internationally recognised leaders in one or more dimensions of reproductive biology and this will be demonstrated by factors such as invitations to present at international conferences, leadership roles in international and national reproductive biology organisations, and similar contributions.

**2)** Apart from in exceptional circumstances, applicants will have no less than 50 publications in peer-reviewed journals in the broad field of reproductive biology. (Exceptional circumstances, are not limited to, but might include, a smaller number of high profile or high impact publications or where an applicant can demonstrate a particularly strong role in the teaching and a slightly reduced number of publications, or a strong commercial research-based application of reproductive biology, with a slightly reduced number of publications).

**3)** Applicants will be able to demonstrate that they have been able to attract significant funding for their research.

**4)** Applicants must be financial member of the Society for Reproductive Biology of no less than five years standing. In order to retain the status of Fellow, the Fellow must remain a financial member of the Society for Reproductive Biology.

**5)** Applicants must be able to demonstrate a substantial contribution to the broad field of reproductive biology in our region, including the mentoring and training of reproductive biologists in Australia and New Zealand or in our neighbouring countries.



6) Except in special circumstances, those members applying for the status of Fellow of the Society for Reproductive Biology will hold a PhD or equivalent research degree. Members will usually become eligible to apply for the status of Fellow of the Society for Reproductive Biology 16 or more years after completing their PhD or equivalent senior tertiary degree.

7) Applicants may demonstrate how their research has been translated to clinical, practical/field or commercial implementation.

8) There will be no monetary award associated with the status of Fellow of the Society for Reproductive Biology.

#### **Assessment process**

1) Applications for election to the status of Fellow of the Society of Reproductive Biology shall be considered annually and must be lodged with the Fellowship Committee by the 1st May or the last working day preceding the 1st of May.

2) Members who are in good financial standing and who have been financial members of the Society for Reproductive Biology for at least five years shall be able to apply for status as a Fellow of the Society for Reproductive Biology.

3) The Council of the Society for Reproductive Biology shall appoint a Fellowship Committee to assess applications from members to become Fellows of the Society.

The Fellowship Committee shall consist of a Chairperson, who will be a member of the Council of the Society, and of three additional senior members of the Society.

4) Applicants will present to the Fellowship Committee a portfolio of evidence demonstrating that they meet the specified criteria.

5) Upon application from a member for Fellowship status, supported by the relevant documentation, the Fellowship Committee will seek references from a member (or Fellow) of the Society for Reproductive Biology and from a person of high standing in the international scientific community with an interest and expertise in the specific research field(s) of the Fellow. These referees shall be asked to attest to the international standing of the applicant in the field. The applicant may suggest potential referees, as well as identifying researchers who would be unsuitable as referees (with justification), although the Fellowship Committee shall not be bound by the recommendations of the applicant.

6) At least one week prior to the Annual General Meeting of the Society for Reproductive Biology, the Chair of the Fellowship Committee shall advise the applicant(s), as well as the Secretary and President of the Society for Reproductive Biology of the outcome of applications for the status of Fellow of the Society for Reproductive Biology.

7) If the Fellowship Committee assesses the member as meeting the criteria specified for Fellowship of the Society for Reproductive Biology, the Chair of the Fellowship Committee shall present to the annual General Meeting of the Society the names of the successful



applicant(s). The names of Fellows will be recorded in the minutes of the Annual General Meeting and published on the Society's Website.

8) Those members who by recommendation of the Fellowship Committee attain the status of Fellow of the Society of Reproductive Biology shall be entitled, while they remain financial or Life-time members of the Society, to use the title Fellow of the Society of Reproductive Biology and the initials FSRB, to denote their status.

---

## Reproduction, Fertility and Development

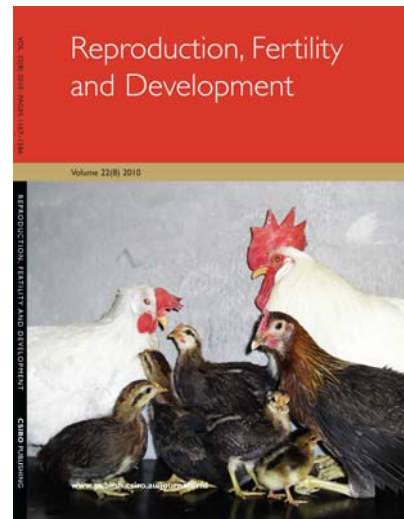
Caroline Hadley

---

**Reproduction, Fertility and Development** is an international journal covering all scientific aspects of reproduction and development, including biology, physiology, biochemistry, endocrinology, immunology, cell biology, genetics, epigenetics and behaviour, and the development of reproductive technologies in humans, livestock, wildlife and pest management. The journal is published 8 times a year and welcomes original research articles, critical reviews, short communications and comprehensive research fronts.

As the official journal of the Society of Reproductive Biology, **Reproduction, Fertility and Development** recently published the abstracts from the SRB's 41st Annual Conference – held in Sydney from 29 August to 1 September, 2010 – as a freely available online supplement. The journal also sponsored the SRB Founders Lecture (presented by Renee A. Riejo Pera) and the RFD

Award Lecture (presented by David J. Handelsman) at this year's meeting, and will publish review articles from these talks.



There are many benefits to publishing in **Reproduction, Fertility and Development**. Authors can expect the first decision on their manuscript within an average of 5 weeks, and accepted papers are published online before print – further reducing the time to publication. There are no page charges, and colour is free online and in PDFs. The number of manuscript submissions, article downloads and Early Alert Table of Contents registrants continues to increase, further confirming the growing interest in **Reproduction, Fertility and Development**. Published manuscripts reach a worldwide audience, as the readership of the journal is truly international.

To submit an original research article, critical review or short communication to **Reproduction, Fertility and Development**, follow the Instructions to Authors online: [www.publish.csiro.au/journals/rfd](http://www.publish.csiro.au/journals/rfd).

To find out more about the journal's scope, or to propose an article, special issue or research front, contact the Editor-in-Chief, Tony Flint:  
anthony.flint@nottingham.ac.uk.

To keep up-to-date with **Reproduction, Fertility and Development**, sign up for RSS feeds and Early Alert emails, or take advantage of discounted subscription rates for SRB members, visit the journal's newly redesigned website at [www.publish.csiro.au/journals/rfd](http://www.publish.csiro.au/journals/rfd).

### 2010/2011 SRB council

Elected		Co-opted	
<b>President</b>	Mark Hedger	LOC Chair	Roslyn Bathgate
<b>Secretary</b>	Jane Girling	WCRB POC Chair	Darryl Russell
<b>Treasurer</b>	Rick Nicholson	Awards Committee Chair	Eva Dimitriadis
<b>Ordinary members</b>		Early Career Representative	Natalie Hannan
POC Co-Chair	Eileen McLaughlin	Early Career Representative	Adam Koppers
POC Co-Chair	Charles Allan	Student Representative (Australia)	Matt Dunn
Membership portfolio	Larry Chamley	Student Representative (NZ)	Chez Viall
Sponsorship portfolio	Wendy Ingman	Newsletter	Jemma Evans
Public Relations	Sarah Meacham Kirsty Pringle	Communications RFD Journal Publisher	David Sharkey Caroline Hadley