

Society for Reproductive Biology Newsletter May 2011



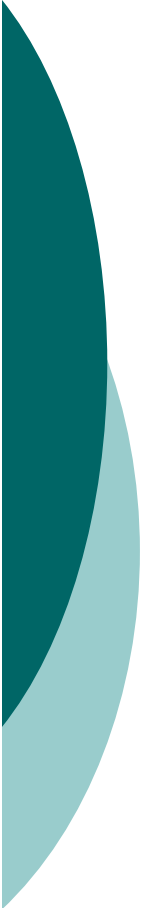
President's Message

The World Congress on Reproductive Biology is almost upon us. As Congress host, the SRB will be holding its Annual Conference back-to-back with the WCRB, and we encourage all SRB members to seize this opportunity to attend a major International Meeting on our own shores, and to make a strong showing for Australian reproductive biology. The Congress features an exciting program put together by an International Program Committee, with many prominent local and international speakers, including our own Peter Koopman, together with John Eppig (SSR), Hiroshi Nagashima (SRD) and John Carrol (SRF). Satellite workshops have also been organised by ANZPRA and another by ESHRE entitled "Human reproductive tissues, gametes and embryos: innovations by science-driven culture and preservation systems".

The SRB Program will be a little stripped down this year, but the intention is to encourage SRB Members to stay on for the WCRB – who wouldn't want a few extra days in Tropical North Queensland? - and we are hoping that many of our International guests will want to contribute to the SRB meeting as well. This year's Founders lecturer will be Chris O'Neill from Sydney and the Presidents Lecture this year will be Ray Rodgers from Adelaide. All the usual SRB prizes and awards will be featured this year, including generous student travel awards. Thanks to Matt Dunn and Chez Viall for organising cheap accommodation options for students as well (see this Newsletter for details). We are pleased to announce that there will also be a new Award this year for emerging research leaders, sponsored by the Priority Research Centre in Reproductive Science at the University of Newcastle. We are very grateful for them for this wonderful new initiative, and to all our sponsors for their support.



Post conference
relaxation opportunities
in tropical North
Queensland

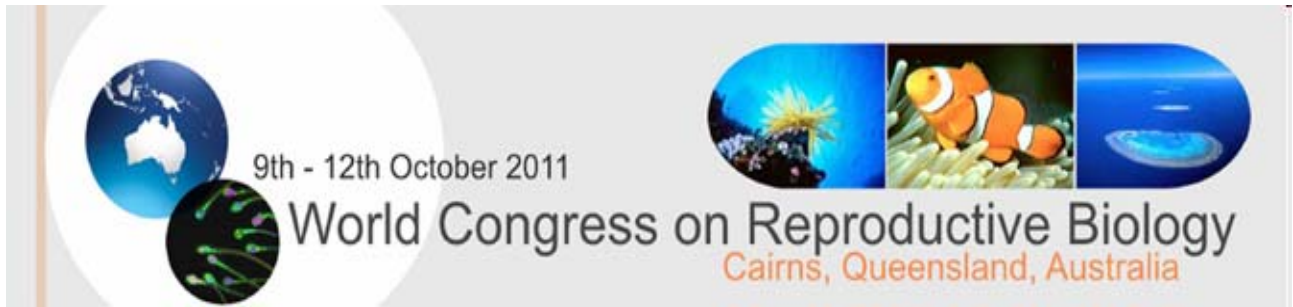


Please take careful note of the abstract submission and registration details, as the process is a bit more complicated than usual. Competition for Platform Presentations at the WCRB will be fierce, but, if you are feeling lucky, you will need to get your abstract in for consideration by June 3rd. Otherwise, the deadline for all SRB abstracts and for Poster Presentations at the WCRB closes on July 15th. Early-bird registration will close on 29th July. It is possible to register just for the SRB Annual Conference, but we really expect that everyone will want to come to the WCRB as well to help us welcome our international guests, and make this a memorable meeting in the future history of the WCRB.

In other good news, we were all pleased that NHMRC funding was protected in the Federal Budget this year, after dire warnings that it was seriously under threat. Congratulations to everyone for their efforts attending rallies and in the letter-writing campaigns, which highlighted the importance of the work we do and the passion researchers have for doing it. This episode is a timely reminder of the importance of continuing Advocacy for Scientific Research, and for our discipline in particular, and the need for us to keep ourselves and our achievement in the eye of the public and the politicians. As part of this continuing process, Sarah Meacham and Natalie Hannan will be representing the SRB at the Annual “Science Meets Parliament” in June (see this Newsletter).

In one final piece of good news, this year the SSR and SRB agreed to jointly support a new award to build linkages between our two Societies in the form of an International Postdoctoral Partnership Travel Award. This Award will facilitate the attendance of two SRB members at the Annual SSR meeting. Congratulations to Helen Irving-Rodgers (Adelaide) and Kaye Stenvers (Melbourne) who will be flying the SRB flag in Portland in July 2011. The Award will be presented as part of the formal SSR Awards Ceremony, and I shall be formally representing the SRB at the Ceremony as well.

A/Professor Mark Hedger
President, SRB



Important Dates!

June 3rd 2011 – deadline for WCRB oral abstract submission

June 15 2011 – deadline for 2011 SRB RCRH Award for Excellence in Reproductive Biology Research and 2011 Priority Research Centre in Reproductive Science Emerging Research Leader Award applications

July 15 2011 – deadline for WCRB poster abstracts

July 15 2011 – deadline for SRB abstracts

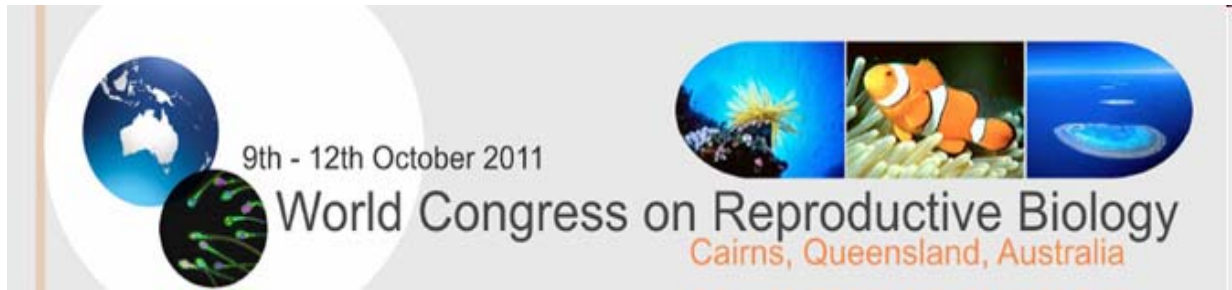
July 15 2011 – deadline for The SRB New Investigator Award, Meat & Livestock Association (MLA) New Scientist Award, Oozoa Student Award, ANZPRA Award and Centre for Reproduction and Genomics Poster Awards applications

***All abstracts must be submitted via the WCRB web-site.
<http://www.wcrb2011.org/>***

Please ensure all documentation is submitted by the appropriate date if you are applying for an award



Cairns Convention centre – lovely!



Calling all SRB student members!

We hope you are all coming along to the SRB Annual Conference (8-9 October) and the World Congress on Reproductive Biology (9-11 October) in Cairns later this year. If you are looking into accommodation options, here is one possibility.:

A cheaper conference accommodation option in Cairns is the Caravella Backpackers Resort (<http://www.caravella.com.au/>). The resort is only a 20 minute walk (approx 2 km) from the Convention Centre along the beach. The Dorm rooms are \$22 per night (per person) in a room for 6 people, \$57 per night for a twin room, and \$47 per night for a single room. The Resort also offers a \$5 shuttle from the airport. They have a bar, pool and TV facilities.

If this option is of interest to you, please contact the Caravella Backpackers Resort directly and indicate that you will be attending the SRB and/or the WCRB conferences (there is a 10% discount for those attending the meetings).

See you all in October!
Matt Dunn & Chez Viall

SRB Student Travel Grants

All students who are financial members or who have applied to be members are eligible to apply for travel grants to attend the Annual Scientific Conference. For eligibility requirements and to apply, please print out a copy of the application form (see SRB web-site) and send it together with a copy of your abstract to the Treasurer.

Professor Rick Nicholson, Mothers and Babies Research Centre, John Hunter Hospital, Newcastle NSW 2305 Australia Rick.Nicholson@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au



Session finished?
Head to the pool for
some post
conference chillaxin

2011 – SRB Awards

At this year's annual SRB scientific meeting there are a large number of awards to apply for, including the new award available for early career researchers. Please take careful note of the guidelines and dates below and refer to the SRB web-site for further details and forms for submission.

2011 SRB RCRH Award for Excellence in Reproductive Biology Research

To recognize an excellent contributor working in the field of Reproductive Biology who is a **member of the SRB**. Recipients must be less than 15 years post-receipt of their Doctorate at **15th June 2011** and agree to attend and present at the 2011 SRB annual meeting if application is successful.

Send all documents by email to: A/Prof Kate Loveland, Chair, Monash University, Melbourne, Kate.Loveland@monash.edu by 15 June 2011

2011 University of Newcastle Priority Research Centre in Reproductive Science Emerging Research Leader Award

To recognize an emerging and excellent contributor working in the field of Reproductive Biology who is a **member of the SRB**. Recipients must be more than 2 years and up to 8 years** post-receipt of their Doctorate at **15th June 2011** and if shortlisted for the final, agree to attend and present at the 2011 SRB annual meeting in the Newcastle Reproduction Award Session. ** Time away from research will be taken into account within the 2-8 year time frame (for example maternity leave).

Send all documents by email to: A/Prof Kate Loveland, Chair, Monash University, Melbourne, Kate.Loveland@monash.edu by 5 pm EST June 15, 2011

SRB New Investigator Award

This award is given to the oral best presentation at the Annual Scientific Meeting by a postgraduate student or researcher within 2 years of receiving their PhD award on 15th July 2011. Applicants **must** be members of the Society for Reproductive Biology.

Send all documents by e-mail to Dr Eva Dimitriadis, Chair Awards Committee, PHIMR, Monash University Melbourne, evdokia.dimitriadis@princehenrys.org by 15th July 2011.



Meat & Livestock Association (MLA) New Scientist Award

This award is given to the best oral presentation on reproduction in livestock (cattle or sheep) at the Annual Scientific Meeting by a postgraduate student or researcher within 2 years of receiving their PhD award on **15th July 2011**. Applicants **must** be members of the SRB.

Send all documents by e-mail to Dr Eva Dimitriadis, Chair Awards Committee, PHIMR, Monash University Melbourne, evdokia.dimitriadis@princehenrys.org by 15th July 2011.

Oozoa Student Award

This award is given to a presenting author who is a current SRB member for the best oral presentation, by a **postgraduate student** (pre-award of PhD at time of abstract submission), **on gametes (oocytes or sperm)**. Applicants **must** be members of the Society for Reproductive Biology.

Send all documents by e-mail Dr Eva Dimitriadis, Chair Awards Committee, PHIMR, Monash University Melbourne, evdokia.dimitriadis@princehenrys.org by 15th July 2011.

ANZPRA Award

This award is given to a presenting author who is a current ANZPRA member for the best oral by a postgraduate student or researcher within 2 years of receiving their PhD award on **15th July 2011, on placental biology**. Applicants **must be current members** of the **SRB** and ANZPRA. Applicants **must** submit a 100 word statement describing their career stage (i.e. degrees and date of award) and progress toward PhD or beyond and listing each author(s) contribution to the work to be presented.

This statement must be signed by all authors and emailed to Prof Claire Roberts, Chair Awards Committee, University of Adelaide, claire.roberts@adelaide.edu.au by 15th July 2011.

Centre for Reproduction and Genomics Poster Awards - to be held in the WCRB poster session

Two awards are given to presenting authors who are WCRB delegates for the best poster presentations in **reproductive biology** by a **postgraduate student** (pre-award of PhD at time of abstract submission) or **early-career** (up to 7 years post-doc) on **15th July 2011**. Only applicants who are chosen for WCRB poster presentations will remain eligible for these awards.

Send all documents by e-mail to Dr Eva Dimitriadis, Chair Awards Committee, PHIMR, Monash University Melbourne, evdokia.dimitriadis@princehenrys.org by 15th July 2011.

Government take note!

Getting our science across at Parliament

Reproductive Biologists, Drs Sarah Meachem and Natalie Hannan, long standing members of SRB and advocates of reproductive biology, will be pounding the pavement at Parliament House at Science Meets Parliament next month to educate and inform politicians about the benefits of reproductive biology research. SRB's participation in this event is part of the multi-pronged approach to influence policy makers and our political masters to raise the profile of reproductive research and the value of our workforce ultimately to increase the amount of investment in reproductive research and improve the reproductive health of Australians.

Participating in this event also has another purpose and that is to train new advocates of reproductive biology necessary for SRB to continue to roll out a long term approach to influencing government policy related to health and workforce issues. This will provide us a voice at high level meetings and on strategic committees at the state, national and even regional level (Asia-pacific region) to widen and deepen the pipeline of research from basic discoveries and translational into clinical practice. In addition this is a career development opportunity for an early career researcher that will undoubtedly broaden their skills, experience and knowledge of politics. A major gap between science and politics is evident and having more scientists comfortable speaking to politicians will help bridge that gap



Our representatives at government Drs Sarah Meacham (left) and Natalie Hannan (right)

Science Meets Parliament will be held in Canberra on June 20-21



Upcoming conferences

World Congress on Reproductive Biology: 9-11 October. Cairns, Queensland. **Abstract deadline orals – June 3. Abstract deadline posters – July 15**

SRB: 7-9 October. Cairns, Queensland. **Abstract deadline – July 15**

ESHRE workshop: 9 October. Cairns, Queensland.

ANZPRA workshop: 7 October. Cairns, Queensland.

US Endocrine society: 4-7 June. Boston, Massachusetts.

EHSRE: 3-6 July. Stockholm, Sweden.

SRF: 11-13 July. Brighton, UK.

SSR: 31 July – 4 August. Portland Oregon

ESA: 28-31 August. Perth, Western Australia.

IFPA: 14-17 September. Geilo, Norway

ASRM: 15-19 October. Orange County, Florida.

World Congress on Human Reproduction: 30 November – 3 December. Melbourne, Victoria. Abstract deadline – June 30.