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## **ANNUAL CONFERENCE UPDATES**

### **Have You Checked Out Our Networking Events?**

We are so excited for the [SSR 2023 Annual Conference](#), are you? Check out some of the activities we have planned:



**Ottawa Boat Cruise** - Enjoy a special night on the Ottawa River with an exclusive SSR Dinner Cruise event! This event will take place on Wednesday, July 12, 2023 from 7:00 PM – 10:00 PM EDT. Transportation from the Shaw Center to the river dock will be provided. The ticket price also includes a hot buffet dinner. Sign up in our [registration portal](#)! **Just 20 spots left!**



**The Annual 5K Fun Run** is back and in-person! Join us on July 12th at 6:30 AM EDT for a run around Ottawa! There is a small fee to cover beverages and a fun commemorative T-Shirt! Sign up in our [registration portal](#)!

For a full list of activities, check out the [activities](#) page. You can add any of our networking events while registering. If you have already registered and want to add any of these events, please go to the [registration page](#), log in with your SSR username and password, and add any program items you want to participate in. *Please note that you can also purchase guest tickets.*

Register for the Meeting Here

Visit the Website

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## Hotel Raffle Reminder

*Plus, Room Block Deadline Extended!*

ICYMI: All SSR 2023 Annual Meeting registrants who book a room at the [Westin](#) by **June 23rd** will be automatically entered into a raffle to win **1 free room night**. A total of 4 winners will be chosen. Book now for a chance to win!

*\*Please note that the SSR guaranteed room rate has been extended through June 23rd.*



Book Your Stay

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### Meet Dr. Huanyu Qiao



In celebration of AAPI Heritage Month coming to a close, Dr. Zhibing Zhang (SSR's Diversity Committee) sat down with Dr. Joe (Huanyu) Qiao. He is the Assistant Professor of Comparative Biosciences in the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. To learn about his work and career, read the [full blog](#).

[Read the Full Blog](#)

## NEWS & UPDATES

### The Call for the Next Editor in Chief of Biology of Reproduction Closes This Month

The Society for the Study of Reproduction is searching for successors to the current Editors-in-Chief of Biology of Reproduction. We are now seeking applicants for the position of Editor(s)-in-Chief, whose **duties will start officially on July 1, 2025 and extend through June 30, 2029**. To learn more about the responsibilities of the Editor(s) in Chief and the application process, please visit [this page](#).

[Learn More](#)

## ESHRE is Just a Few Weeks Away!



## Reminder - US DOHaD Society Annual Meeting



The European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology (ESHRE)'s Annual Meeting in **Copenhagen, Denmark** is **taking place 25-28 June 2023**. SSR welcomes members to help us spread the word and answer any questions about the Society alongside SSR's Executive Director.

*Can't volunteer? Stop by and say hello, we'd love to see you. Please email [membership@ssr.org](mailto:membership@ssr.org) if you are interested!*

[Learn More](#)

The program preview has been announced for the 7th annual meeting of the US DOHaD Society! Children's Mercy Kansas City and The University of Kansas Medical Center invite you to join us in Kansas City, MO, **September 17-19**. Find additional details and register at <https://www.usdohad.org>.

[Learn More](#)

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## In Honor of Kenneth Patrick McNatty

**Kenneth Patrick McNatty**, known to all as Ken, died on April 9, 2023, aged 78, doing what he loved while walking the Camino in Spain. His research career was spent at AgResearch and, since 2005, at Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand where he was professor of cell biology and biotechnology. An unassuming person, Dr. McNatty was a highly accomplished reproductive biologist who was a Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand (1992) and recipient of the McMeekan Memorial Award (1992), Pickering Medal (2009), Shorland Medal (2010) and Pioneer Award from the International Ruminant Reproduction Symposium (2014).

McNatty graduated with a BSc in 1966 and MSc with First Class Honours in Chemistry in 1967 from Victoria University of Wellington. In 1993 he was also conferred with a DSc. He studied for the PhD at University of Edinburgh under Roger Short and graduated in 1975. After 3 years of postdoctoral study at Harvard with Ken Ryan, he spent two years as Boerhaave Professor of Reproductive Endocrinology at the University of Leiden Medical School in the Netherlands where he worked with Steve Hillier on ovarian follicular function. He then moved home to New Zealand. He spent 22 years at the AgResearch Wallaceville Campus before returning to his alma mater in 2005.



McNatty's accomplishments were many and he conducted research on a wide variety of mammals. His focus was on the ovary. Among his most noted accomplishments, he was leader of the research team and co-discoverer of the *BMP15*, *GDF9* and *ALK6* genetic mutations in sheep and immunization strategies targeting BMP15 and GDF9 to regulate fertility in mammals. He was a co-inventor of the sheep twinning vaccine Androvax which is widely used today.

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## New EndoFound Grant

The Endometriosis Foundation of America (EndoFound) has released an RFA for grant funding. They are releasing grants with a maximum \$50k each, which will be dispersed over a two year period (\$25k/year). Click [here](#) for more information on these grants. The **deadline to submit for one is September 1, 2023**. For any questions and proposals, please reach out to [research@endofound.org](mailto:research@endofound.org).

## More Exciting News!

Currently, there are no contraceptives capable of producing permanent sterilization in companion animals. For the first time, researchers at [Massachusetts General Hospital \(MGH\)](#) and their collaborators have demonstrated that a single injectable dose of a gene therapy-based treatment can induce long-term contraception in female domestic cats, potentially providing a safe and effective alternative to surgical spaying. The research is published in the latest issue of [Nature Communications](#).

[Read the full publication here](#) to hear from David Pepin, an SSR award winner and member.

*This edition of the SSR Newsletter is sponsored by Merck-AstraZeneca Alliance.*



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*Thank you!*

## Connect with SSR



**About SSR:** The Society for the Study of Reproduction (SSR) was founded in 1967 to promote the study of reproduction by fostering interdisciplinary communication among scientists, holding conferences, and publishing meritorious studies. Today, our members come from 50 countries around the world.

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