

## Society for the Study of Reproduction Receives Grant to Advance Global Reproductive Science and Research

*A New Grant Valued at more than \$1M Will Fund Efforts to Expand Reproductive Science Initiatives Across India and Africa*

Reston, VA – January 23, 2024 – [The Society for the Study of Reproduction \(SSR\)](#), in partnership with Frontiers in Reproduction (FIR), today announced that they were awarded a grant to advance critical research in reproductive science across India and Africa, funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Valued at more than \$1M, the grant will help fund a comprehensive three-year project that provides advanced research training, expands access to technology, increases the knowledge base, and opens new international networks for low- and middle-income country (LMIC) researchers in India and Africa.

SSR is one of the world's leading associations supporting the scientific study of reproduction. The group promotes interdisciplinary communication in the scientific community, organizes scientific conferences, and publishes original studies to advance reproduction and fertility for both humans and animals. Funds from this grant will fuel an initiative to advance research in reproductive sciences worldwide, focusing on improving human health via developing female contraceptive technology in LMICs. The grant will run through October 31, 2026.

The SSR initiative presents a five-pronged approach to help build contraceptive research capacity over the coming three years in India and Africa. Plans include:

- **Two training courses for LMIC researchers, one in India in 2024 and one in Africa in 2026.** The courses will provide intensive hands-on, state-of-the-art basic science techniques training in contraception research and reproductive science for 12 trainees. Each course will last one week.
- **Two six-month Basic Science Research Fellowships** in select reproductive science labs in the US for two LMIC alumni annually. These fellowships will provide the opportunity to build on the training received in the initial courses and enable those alumni to further educate future colleagues.
- **Six Frontiers in Reproduction (FIR) Scholarships** will support LMIC trainees at the annual six-week FIR training course at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Massachusetts, USA. Investing in FIR training is among the best available methods for developing and empowering LMIC researchers with the skills they need to both serve and educate their communities.
- **LMIC Integration into SSR/Support for Ongoing SSR Activities** includes complimentary membership and funding for six LMIC early-career researchers to attend the SSR annual conference in person each year. Grant funds also support the ongoing production of SSR's international webinar series on basic science research in contraception. Additionally, there will be funds available for trainees to assist with any open-access publishing.
- **Sustained Support** providing ongoing assistance, encouragement, and career development for course alums.

“The funds provided by this grant enable SSR to make great strides in achieving our goal of advancing contraceptive research and reproductive science worldwide,” said Jennifer Wood, SSR Vice President. “This support delivers the resources needed to train and inspire the next generation of LMIC researchers, equip them with the tools they need to build local capacity in their communities, and ultimately advance both reproductive care and overall health for patients the world over.”

### **About the Society for the Study of Reproduction**

Founded in 1967 with members in more than 50 countries, The Society for the Study of Reproduction (SSR) is the world’s leading association for scientists and physicians dedicated to advancing knowledge of reproductive processes in animals and humans. Pioneering scientific contributions from SSR members have been made in the following areas: stem cell biology, transgenesis, treatment of infertility, contraception, livestock production, pregnancy health, treatment of reproductive system cancers, and identification of environmental contaminants. To read the official journal of SSR, *Biology of Reproduction* (BOR), [click here](#). For more information or to join SSR, visit [www.ssr.org](http://www.ssr.org).