



SSR YEAR IN REVIEW

2024 Annual Report

SSR Members Making a Difference

A Year of Progress and Innovation

Dear SSR Members, Partners and Stakeholders,

As we look back on the accomplishments of 2024, the Society for the Study of Reproduction (SSR) extends our heartfelt gratitude to our members and partners for their unwavering commitment to our mission: to advance the science of reproduction, fertility, and development for the benefit of humans and animals.

Thanks to your dedication and continued support, SSR has continued to thrive as a vibrant, collaborative community at the forefront of reproductive science. This year has been marked by meaningful progress, groundbreaking research, and inspiring collaboration. Among the many achievements worth celebrating, highlights from 2024 include:

Annual Meeting: For the first time, the SSR meeting was held outside of North America. The meeting convened July 15-19, 2024, in Dublin, Ireland, bringing together more than 932 scientists from 36 countries. The Convention Centre Dublin housed plenary, focus, and poster sessions that detailed the latest discoveries in reproductive biology and celebrated the impact of SSR awardees and distinguished fellows. Additional details can be found here (<https://ssr.org/57th-annual-meeting-highlights/>).

Trainee and Early Stage Investigators: SSR continued to invest in the future of reproductive science by empowering and educating early career scientists and trainees. Resources and support included targeted symposia and networking opportunities at the Annual Meeting, a New Investigator Bootcamp webinar series, the Rising Stars webinar series, and travel and merit awards. In 2024, SSR launched the Emerging Investigator Grants program which funded six early-stage investigators to promote future funding success.

Biology of Reproduction (BOR): The society's journal thrived under the watchful eye of editors-in-chief, Romana Nowak and Mary Zelinski. BOR continues to publish high quality research that provides mechanistic insight into animal reproduction, reproductive diseases, and embryonic development. During 2024, the scope of the journal was expanded to also include the following topics: reproduction in non-mammalian species, pregnancy, contraception and reproductive technologies, reproductive immunology, reproductive microbiomics, reproductive toxicology, and cancer of the gonads and reproductive tract.

Global Partnerships: Building global connections and advancing collaborative science remain core to SSR's advancement. This year, SSR and Frontiers in Reproduction (FIR) collaborated to deliver the Opening Gates to Access Research in Contraceptives course in Mumbai, India with funding from the Gates Foundation. Gates funding was also used for scholarships and travel awards that support rising talent in low- and middle-income countries. Meanwhile, the development of the International Federation of Reproductive Biologists continues to move forward, laying the groundwork for stronger global communication, coordination, and knowledge-sharing across the field of reproductive biology.

Whether you contributed this year by presenting your latest findings, mentoring Trainees, serving on committees, or simply by staying connected and informed—your engagement has been the driving force behind our shared success and reaffirms the strength and vibrancy of our field.

Thank you for being a vital part of this vibrant community. I look forward to all we will achieve together in the year ahead.

Sincerely,



Jennifer R. Wood, President



Save the Date

2025 SSR Annual Meeting

July 29 - August 1,
Washington DC



Your Support in Action

SSR is grateful for the support of our dedicated members, which has enabled us to make significant strides in our mission and aid the next generation of reproductive scientists and researchers. We are excited to share the impact of your generosity and how your donation dollars were used this year. We invite you to click on any of the funds below to help us continue to further these initiatives in 2025.

General Support

General Endowment Fund

SSR is grateful for the more than \$91,773 in donations that were used to support all our activities this year.

Trainee Support

Bruce D. Murphy Endowment Fund for SSR Trainee Members

The Bruce Murphy Fund supports trainee activities at the SSR Annual Meeting. In 2024, just over \$3,600 was donated to this fund, which was used to support the Trainee/New Investigator Grant Workshop and the SSR Career Center.

SSR Trainee Support Fund

The Trainee Support Fund contributed \$15,000, which enabled 20 trainees to participate in the Annual Meeting, 5 of which were trainees from outside of the U.S.

Emerging Investigator Grants

These grant awards support early-stage investigators with seed grants that generate valuable preliminary data. The 2024 recipients were Arunika Das, Cornell University, Cecilia Rocha, University of Missouri, Rafael Domingues, OSU, Lucia Zalazar, Universidad Nacional de Mar del Plata, Rebecca Poole, Texas A&M, Claire Stenhouse, Pennsylvania State University.

New Investigator Support

Janice Bahr Endowment Fund

A self-nominated award, the Janice Bahr Junior Scientist Travel Award recognizes a Regular Member of the Society, an active Assistant Professor or position of similar rank on the tenure-track and provides them with travel assistance to attend the Annual Meeting. This year the recipient of the award was Xiaoqiu Wang, PhD Assistant Professor, Physiology of Reproduction at North Carolina State University.

Virendra B. Mahesh New Investigator Fund

This fund recognizes members for their outstanding research completed and published within 10 years after receiving their PhD or other equivalent professional degree. Shuo Xiao, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, was the recipient of this award. She was cited for her many achievements in research and her willingness to collaborate with and help colleagues and trainees.

Supporting Mentors

Trainee-Mentoring Award Fund

This award is given to an SSR member who consistently demonstrates support and guidance exceeding the basic responsibilities of an academic advisor. Paula Cohen, PhD Director of Academic Integration at Cornell University was recognized for her unwavering support and encouragement to those she mentored.

International Support

Fuller Bazer International Scientist Fund

This fund recognizes scientific excellence in reproductive biology of scientists outside of North America. The winner of this award was Islam Saadeldin, DVM, MVS, PhD from Chungnam National University, South Korea and Zagazig University, Egypt.

Female Gametogenesis or Follicular Development Research

John J. Eppig Endowment Fund

In 2024, the \$6,316 contributed to this fund covered travel to the SSR Annual Meeting for speakers in a designated module or session on female gametogenesis or follicular development.

Neuroendocrine Research

Virendra B. Mahesh Neuroendocrine Program Fund

This fund supports a symposium, plenary session, or similar event at the Annual Meeting with a focus on neuroendocrinology. This year, the fund contributed \$6,313 to sponsor the Virendra B. Mahesh Neuroendocrine focus session.

Biology of Reproduction Support

Virendra B. Mahesh Legacy Fund

This fund supports maintenance and enhancement of SSR's journal, Biology of Reproduction.

Annual Meeting Support

Anita Payne Endowment Fund

This fund supports the Anita Payne New Perspectives on Reproductive Biology Lecture at the SSR Annual Meeting and SSR trainee participation in leading-edge courses or workshops. The 2024 Anita Payne Scholarship winner was Emily Zaniker, BS, Northwestern University, USA

New Opportunities

New SSR Management Company

January 31, 2025 – Association & Conference Group (ACG), a full-service association management company, and the Society for the Study of Reproduction (SSR), announced they have entered into a strategic partnership. ACG was selected to provide full-service association management services to SSR, including strategic management, membership recruitment and retention, marketing and communications, conference, fundraising, grants management, sponsor management, and more.

Update for BOR

FREE Standard Publication for SSR Members: As of January 2024, SSR members receive free standard license publication in BOR. By eliminating standard page charges for SSR members, our goal is to make the publication process more accessible and seamless for you. As always, SSR members who wish to publish with an open access license are eligible for a discounted member rate. More information on publication charges is available on our website: https://academic.oup.com/biolreprod/pages/Author_Guidelines#Publication%20and%20Open%20Access

New Scope to BOR

At the 2024 SSR Annual Meeting, the board approved a new expanded scope designed to better capture the breadth of work in the reproductive research community. Notable changes in the expanded scope include consideration for descriptive manuscripts that contribute substantial information; research focusing on reproductive cancers such as testicular, prostate, ovarian, cervical and uterine; research on reproductive microbiomics; and methods papers. As always, BOR continues to welcome papers that focus on, or relate to, domestic livestock models and human reproduction.

Special Updates for BOR

A special issue of Biology of Reproduction was published on imaging technology, A deep gaze into the reproductive universe: Revealing reproductive processes with new imaging technology, edited by Humphrey Yao, PhD. Thanks to support from the Society for the Study of Reproduction, the entire issue is Open Access and freely available at this link: <https://academic.oup.com/biolreprod/issue/110/6>. We hope this issue will serve as a valuable resource for the reproductive research community.

Congratulations to BOR Award Winners.

See the full list of awardees here: <https://academic.oup.com/biolreprod/pages/bor-award-winners>

Inaugural Early Investigators 2024 ReproBioArt Contest

We are excited to announce that the winners of the ReproBioArt Contest are Ingrid Carvacho (People's Choice Award) and Martin Estermann (SSR Award)! Their stunning visual representations have captivated the community and highlighted the beauty and importance of reproductive research.

Gates Foundation Training Course, Mumbai, India

Thanks to funding by the Gates Foundation, the SSR and Frontiers in Reproduction (FIR) that hosted 12 early career researchers to participate in a week-long training event in Mumbai, India, December 2-6. Training featured hands-on laboratories and cutting-edge lectures led by distinguished experts, providing invaluable insights into the latest advancements in the field of Female Contraception.

SSR Support of Scientific Meeting

SSR is committed to enhancing reproductive biology research through support of scientific meetings focused on topics of relevance to the society. In addition to organizing the 2024 SSR Annual Meeting, the Society provided support for the following meetings:

Mammalian Reproduction Gordon Conference

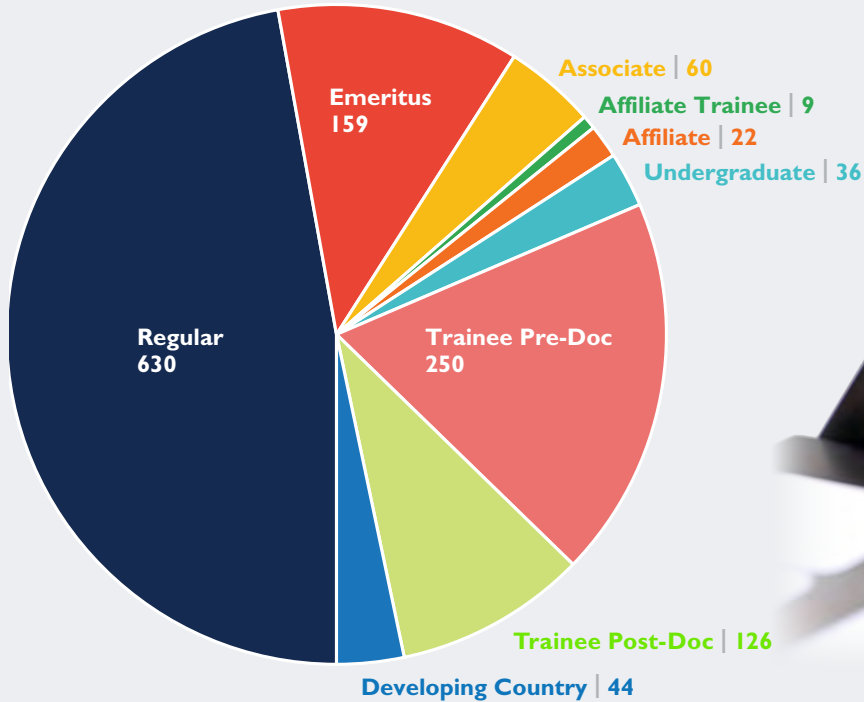
The Rocky Mountain Reproductive Sciences Symposium (RMRS)

The Triangle Consortium for Reproductive Biology
2024 Upper Midwest Summit for Reproductive Science, University of Illinois



SSR 2024 By the Numbers

Members by Type



Rising Stars and Biology of Reproduction (BOR) Winners Series Webinars

Date	Title
January 10th 2024	Dr. Katy Patras , Baylor College of Medicine, USA (Vaginal microbiota; host / microbe interactions) & Dr. Daniel Mathew , University of Tennessee, USA (Bovine Reproductive Physiology and Fertility)
February 7th 2024	Dr. Britt Goods , Dartmouth College, USA (Systems / computational biology, ovulation) & Dr. Azusa Inoue , RIKEN, Yokohama, Japan (Epigenetics/Genomic imprinting, early embryo development)
March 6th, 2024	Dr. Haiqi Chen , UT Southwestern Medical Center, USA (Spermatogenesis and spatial omics) & Dr. Fei Zhao , University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA (Sexual differentiation of reproductive tracts)
April 10th, 2024	Dr. Amanda Patterson , University of Missouri, USA (Uterine biology and endometrial regeneration) & Dr. Xiaoqiu Wang , NC State University, USA (Uterine Biology, Pregnancy, Aging; mouse/pig)

Podcasts

Date	Title
February 20, 2024	Interview with 2023 SSR Jansen Distinguished Service Award Winner Mark Mirando
March 25, 2024	Interview with Dr. Joy Pate, the 2021 Trainee Mentoring Awardee
April 16, 2024	The world's first successful IVF in white rhino, interview with Dr. Thomas Hildebrandt
May 6, 2024	Interview with 2023 Roger V Short Medal Winner, Dr. Niamh Forde
May 28, 2024	Interview with 2023 Carl G. Hartman Award Winner, Dr. Bruce Murphy
June 14, 2024	Interview with 2024 SSR Research Award Winner, Dr. John Davis
June 26, 2024	Challenging Scientific Dogma with Greg Johnson and Ky Pohler
July 13, 2024	Fertility Studies and Reproductive Management in Cheetahs Part II
July 30, 2024	Interview with 2024 SSR Trainee Mentoring Award Winner, Dr. Paula Cohen
August 13, 2024	Interview with 2024 SSR New Investigator Award Winner, Dr. Shuo Xiao
August 27, 2024	Interview with 2024 Janice Bahr Junior Scientist Travel Award Winner, Dr. Xiaoqiu Wang
September 27, 2024	Interview with 2024 Fuller W. Bazer SSR International Scientist Award Winner, Islam Saadeldin
November 20, 2024	Interview with 2024 Carl G. Hartman Award Winner, Dr. Francesco DeMayo
December 4, 2024	Interview with 2024 SSR Jansen Distinguished Leadership and Service Award Winner, Dr. Katherine Loveland



Congratulations to the 2024 SSR Distinguished Fellows!

Each year, the SSR Distinguished Fellowship recognizes active SSR members for their outstanding contributions to the field of reproductive biology and to the Society, illustrated by sustained high impact research, leadership, service, and mentorship. In 2024, SSR recognized these four individuals who have made such an impact in the field of reproductive biology:



Andrea Cupp, PhD
University of Nebraska-Lincoln



Vasantha Padmanabhan, MS, PhD
University of Michigan



Humphrey Hung-Chang Yao, PhD
National Institute of
Environmental Health Sciences



Mary Zelinski, PhD
Oregon Health & Science University

2024 Annual Meeting Statistics



Attendees

In Person **932**

Trainees **426**



Number of Countries Represented

36



Total Sessions

General **3**

Focus **32**

Poster Sessions **3**



Sponsorship Revenue

\$42,358



Revenue Generated

\$506,703

Save the Date

2025 SSR Annual Meeting

July 29 - August 1,
Washington DC



SSR on the Move

SSR Annual Meeting in Dublin, Ireland

SSR gathered in Dublin, July 15-19, with more than 932 SSR members, scientists, trainees, sponsors, and exhibitors. They came together to present groundbreaking data, gain knowledge, and forge connections. The 100+ presentations and 400+ posters truly delivered on the event theme, Reproductive Sciences: Evolution of Reproductive Sciences.



American Society for Reproductive Medicine



SSR was an actively engaged again this year at ASRM's Scientific Congress and Expo, that took place in Denver, Co, October 19-23, 2024. SSR and ASRM continue to partner on their newly formed SPARK initiative, a research network connecting basic scientists with physicians and clinicians through a community platform.

SSR Member Wins National Medal of Science Award

Congratulations to longtime SSR member Teresa Woodruff, who was awarded the highly prestigious National Medal of Science Award by President Biden. Dr. Woodruff is a pioneer in the field of oncofertility, and an outstanding mentor to others.



Annual Meeting Sponsors

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Exhibitors



Looking Ahead

International Federation of Reproductive Biology Societies (IFRB)

International Federation of Reproductive Biology Societies—A grouping of seven international reproductive biology societies (North America, UK, Australia, China, Thailand, Korea and Japan) has initiated a process towards the establishment of an International Federation of Reproductive Biology Societies (IFRB).

Vision

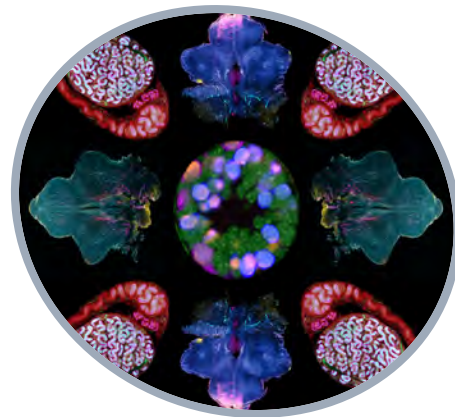
IFRB will bring societies together as a collective global voice for reproductive science in humans and animals.

Initial goals

- Facilitate international collaboration between persons interested in research and/or educational aspects of reproductive science.
- Provide opportunities for early career scientist development.
- Promote educational and public awareness on global concerns around reproductive health.
- Leverage funding opportunities in topics central to fertility and reproduction.
- Hold a tri-annual conference accessible to all members.
- These initiatives will enable us to jointly combat worldwide declining investment in reproductive research.

Requested Action

It is crucial to have representation from around the globe. We are asking our sister reproductive biology societies for expressions of interest and to have one or two societies from each country join in the establishment of a platform representing reproductive science around the world: the IFRB! For more information, contact Richard Lea (Richard.Lea@nottingham.ac.uk), Sarah Robertson (sarah.robertson@adelaide.edu.au) or Mellissa Mann (mrml94@pitt.edu).



Ryuzo Yanagimachi 100th Birthday Celebration at 2028 Meeting

The annual meeting of the SSR in 2028 will be held in Honolulu, the site where Ryuzo Yanagimachi's (Yana) carried out his research for the last 50 years. Yana would have been 100 in 2028, and we will celebrate his life and accomplishments in three ways. First, the Yanagimachi SSR Fund will continue to host a symposium in his honor, which will have a special program. Second, the newly renamed Yanagimachi Institute for Biogenesis Research (YIBR) will host a tour of the institute where a small museum dedicated to Yana's life and work is. Third, we will organize and host a luncheon, either at the YIBR or the Convention Center, in his honor.

Looking Ahead

Roger Short Medal and partnership with SRF and SRB



Congratulations to Professor Francesca Duncan of Northwestern University, Recipient of the RV Short Medal and Lecture. This prestigious international award recognizes early career researchers who possess the same spirit of discovery, creativity, and imagination as Roger V Short, and who has made outstanding discoveries in the field of reproductive science.



Professor Duncan, who obtained her PhD at the University of Pennsylvania, is the Thomas J. Watkins Professor of Reproductive Science in the Feinberg School of Medicine at Northwestern University, and is a world leader in her specialist area of female reproductive aging. Her research has helped define changes that occur within the ovary during the aging process and her work has significantly enhanced our understanding of premature ovarian aging/early menopause and the development of ovarian cancer.

This international award is sponsored by three societies: SRB (Australasia), SRF (United Kingdom) and SSR (North America).

2026 Gates Foundation Trainee Course Training: Africa

Planning is underway to continue our early career researchers opportunities in Africa. Participants will gather again to expand their knowledge, hone skills, and connect with peers and mentors on the latest advancements in the field of Female Contraception.



SSR: The Future, Conceived.

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, publishing meritorious studies, and contributing to the development and mentoring of young scientists. Today we are a global association of more than 1,600 active members, including scientists, veterinarians, students, and physicians, representing over 50 countries.

SSR members have made key contributions to stem cell biology, transgenesis, treatment of infertility, contraception, livestock production, pregnancy health, treatment of reproductive system cancers, and identification of environmental contaminants.

Mission:

Advance the Science of Reproduction, Fertility, and Development for the Benefit of Humans and Animals.

Vision:

A Sustainable World Through the Science of Reproduction, Fertility, and Development.

Board of Directors

SSR is managed by a Board of Directors consisting of the Executive Council, six Directors, an Early Career Investigator, and two Trainee Representatives elected by a ballot of the Regular Members of the Society.

Executive Council (2024-2025)

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Jennifer Wood
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Lincoln, Nebraska

Vice President

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Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Vice President Elect

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Julie Kim
Term: 2022-2025
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Chicago, Illinois

Francesca Duncan
Term: 2023-2026
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Chicago, Illinois

Rocío Rivera
Term: 2023-2026
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Term: 2024-2027
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James MacLean II
Term: 2024-2027
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Pullman, Washington

Early Career Investigator

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Term: 2022-2025
Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX

Editors-in-Chief (ex officio)

Mary Zelinski, PhD
Term: 2021–2025
Oregon National Primate Research Center,
Oregon Health and Science University
Beaverton, Oregon

Romana Nowak, PhD
Term: 2021-2025
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Urbana, Illinois

Trainee Representatives

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Term: 2023-2025
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Lincoln, Nebraska

Savannah Speckhart
Term: 2024-2026
University of Kansas Medical Center
Kansas City, Kansas

Executive Director (ex officio)

Kathleen Doran
Society for the Study of Reproduction