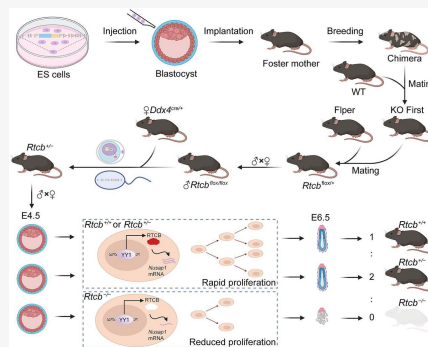


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BOR EDITOR'S CHOICE

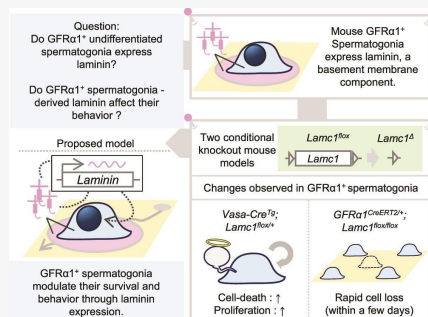


RTCB is essential for early mouse embryogenesis

Yu-Qi Chen and colleagues found that a gene called RTCB is critical for early embryo development in mice—without it, embryos fail to develop properly and do not survive. They showed that RTCB helps cells grow and divide during a key early stage, and when it's missing, cells die off and normal development breaks down.

Undifferentiated spermatogonia modulate their behavior via the expression of basement membrane protein laminin

Yusuke Kawabe and colleagues found that early sperm stem cells can actually shape their own environment by producing a protein called laminin, rather than relying only on surrounding cells. This self-made support system helps them balance survival, growth, and development, ensuring stable sperm production over time.





This prestigious international award is a joint initiative of the Society for Reproductive Biology (SRB, Australia and New Zealand), the Society for Reproduction and Fertility (SRF, UK), and the Society for the Study of Reproduction (SSR, North America) to support and encourage outstanding young researchers in the reproductive sciences.

[Submit a Nomination](#)

SSR Spotlight

We want to feature YOU! Do you have exciting research, a recent publication, or a significant achievement you'd like to share with the reproductive biology community? [Submit](#) your spotlight today and help us highlight the diverse and impactful contributions within SSR.



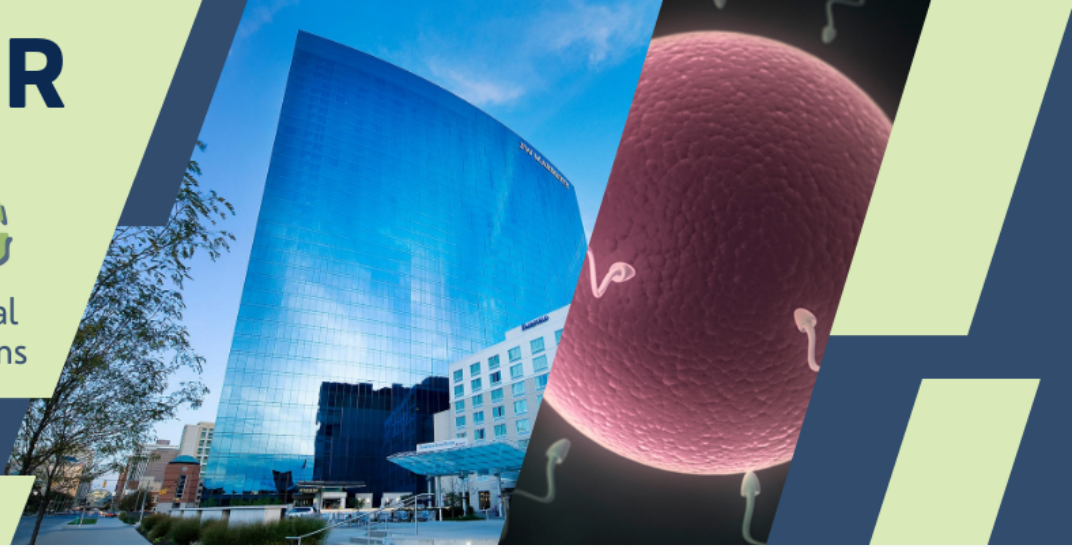
ANNUAL MEETING

2026 SSR ANNUAL MEETING

Back to the Future, Foundational
Knowledge for Future Innovations

SUNDAY 19 JULY 2026
WEDNESDAY 22 JULY 2026

JW Marriott Indianapolis



Join us for the SSR 2026 Annual Meeting in Indianapolis, IN, from July 19 to July 22, 2026. This premier event, themed “**Back to the Future, Foundational Knowledge for Future Innovations**”, will bring together leading experts, researchers, and industry professionals dedicated to advancing reproductive science. **To secure the early bird rate, register on or before June 1, 2026.**

The meeting and overnight accommodations are hosted at the **JW Marriott Indianapolis**, located at 10 S West St, Indianapolis, IN 46204. We encourage you to book your room on-site to stay close to the action, maximize networking opportunities, and connect with your colleagues.

[Register](#)

[Book Room](#)

Late-Breaking Abstracts are now being accepted! Looking for an opportunity to share your research with hundreds of leading industry scientists and reproductive biologists? The 2026 late-breaking submissions are for in-person poster presentations only and are not eligible for awards or oral presentations. You must be available to present at the conference. We’re welcoming abstracts reporting new basic, clinical, and/or translational research findings in the field of reproduction. You do not need to be a member of SSR to submit an abstract. There are no restrictions on the species involved. The deadline to submit a late-breaking abstract is **Thursday, May 7, 2026**. The deadline will NOT be extended.

[Submit Late-Breaking Abstract](#)

FUNDING AND GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

SSR Emerging Investigator Grant

These grant awards support early-stage investigators with seed grants that generate valuable preliminary data. As a global society whose mission is to advance the science of reproduction, fertility, and development for the benefit of humans and animals, the SSR welcomes proposals from all countries and on all reproduction-related subject areas.

Application Deadline: May 29, 2026

Needs Based Trainee Travel Grants

To help offset the impact of ongoing federal agency funding challenges on budgets and travel, the SSR Board has reinstated the Needs-Based Trainee Travel Awards for the 2026 Annual Meeting.

Awards of \$500 per recipient will be provided to up to 40 trainees. Selected applicants must register for the conference in order to receive the award. Priority will be given to trainees who demonstrate financial hardship, with supporting documentation encouraged.

[Apply Here](#)

Application deadline: June 15, 2026

Burroughs Welcome Travel Fellowships

Underrepresented minority trainees and junior faculty are invited to apply for travel fellowships (*supported by Burroughs Wellcome Fund*) to attend the 59th Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Reproduction, July 19-22, 2026, at the JW Marriott Indianapolis Convention Center. The theme of this year's meeting, "Back to the Future, Foundational Knowledge for Future Innovations," will bring together leading experts, researchers and industry professionals dedicated to advancing reproductive science.

[Apply Here](#)

Application Deadline: June 1, 2026

Annual Meeting Child Caregiving Grant Application

SSR's Women in Reproductive Science, Diversity, and Trainee Affairs committees have developed a small-grants program for SSR Members with young children to help offset childcare costs during the annual meeting.

[Apply Here](#)

Application Deadline: June 1, 2026

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Public Affairs Committee

The first-ever **ReproBioArt Calendar** is here!

Download, print, share, enjoy.

Although it comes a few months later than planned, the SSR Public Affairs Committee is thrilled to share the very first ReproBioArt Calendar with you! We hope this marks the beginning of an annual tradition following the ReproBioArt Image Contest. You're welcome to download and print the calendar for your lab, colleagues, and friends. We can't wait to see it hanging in your labs and shared across our community."

[Download Calendars](#)

WEBINARS

Upcoming Webinars



SSR Society for the Study of Reproduction

TRAINEE JOURNAL CLUB

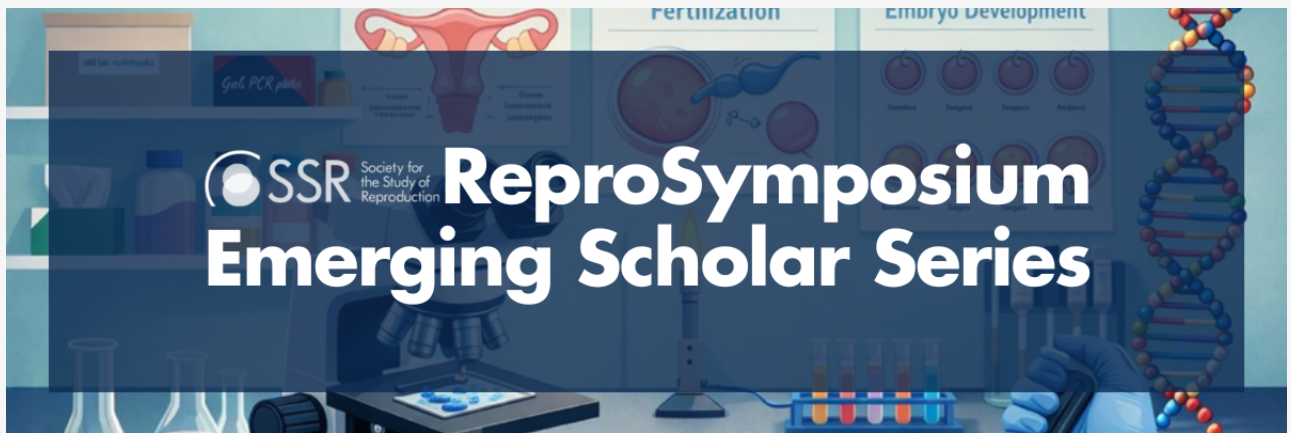
Session #4

Tuesday, April 28, 2026 • 12:00 - 1:00 PM Eastern

Not an SSR Member and want to attend multiple Trainee Journal Club Events?
Purchase the Non-Member Pass for only \$30 for access to all 2026 Journal Club events!

[Click Here to purchase non-member pass](#)

[Register Here](#)



SSR Society for the Study of Reproduction

ReproSymposium Emerging Scholar Series

**Is your lab hosting summer interns?
Are they interested in learning more about all areas of reproductive biology research?**

SSR ReproSymposium Emerging Scholars Series is a weekly seminar program providing opportunities to interact with experts from academia, industry, and clinical research.

Every Friday, June 5 - July 24 | 12-12:45 ET

[Register Here](#)

PODCAST



[Listen Here](#)

EP56: Embryo Development: Metabolism and the Uterine Microenvironment with Dr. Kosta Simintiras



In today's episode, we have the pleasure of chatting with Dr. Kosta Simintiras, Assistant Professor of Reproductive and Developmental Biology at Louisiana State University. Dr. Simintiras studies mechanisms of communication between maternal and embryonic tissues that are essential for establishing early pregnancy in mammals. His lab uses a combination of model systems including cattle, transgenic rodents, and organoids grown from human cells, with the ultimate goal of understanding of how pregnancy works both when it goes well, and when it doesn't.



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.

Society for the Study of Reproduction | 673 Potomac Station Drive #801, Leesburg, VA 20176

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