ASRM announces multi-million dollar research program

What you should know about the ASRM Research Institute

ASRM 2017-2018 President, Dr. Christos Coutifaris, announced the launching of the ASRM Research Institute at the 2018 Scientific Congress & Expo in Denver, CO. Dr. Coutifaris’s announcement followed the release of the 2018 ASRM Research Blueprint, which outlines initial plans for the institute. Follow our quick guide on the current state of the institute and what you need to know to get involved.

The Institute is a result of the 2014-2019 Strategic Plan.

One of the main goals of the Strategic Plan is to focus on research and call for the development of specific initiatives to enhance the activities and support for ASRM-sponsored reproductive research programs.

The goal states that the initiative should “Spearhead the agenda for research in reproduction and the development of both the current and future generations of clinical (translational and basic) investigators in the reproductive sciences.”

ASRM assembled a task force to outline goals.

On January 18-20, 2017, a task force composed of ASRM leaders in reproductive research was assembled at the home offices of ASRM in Birmingham, Alabama. The task force included both seasoned and younger investigators with track records in basic, translational or clinical investigation, and with expertise in male or female reproduction. Representatives from ASRM affiliated societies were also invited to participate.

The two-day retreat was spent in four talks and three breakout sessions, followed by a regrouping and prioritization session addressing current and potential future ASRM research focus and support. The goal of the retreat was to develop a comprehensive plan for ASRM to move reproductive research forward by focusing on specific areas of investigation, expansion of investigator-initiated research programs, and the development of collaborations with other organizations. In addition, the task force focused on the identification and development of solutions for the training, mentoring and advancement of the next generation of researchers in the reproductive sciences.

See RESEARCH, page 8
What’s New?

ASRM QBoost now open for enrollment

ASRM QBoost, which features an educational strategy known as spaced learning, uses automated technology to quiz learners on ASRM committee documents and other materials. Questions are sent to learners via email and can also be sent via app to a personal device, such as a smart phone. The goal of the program is to increase content retention while using a fun learning methodology that can be accessed at a learner’s convenience.

To enroll in ASRM QBoost, visit www.asrm.org/resources/Qboost. You must be logged in as a member to access the enrollment links.

ASRM welcomes new staff

ASRM is pleased to announce the recent employment of Cara Dawn Byford, M.S.

Cara Dawn is a Senior Administrative Assistant and Human Resources Coordinator, working on a variety of projects related to the ASRM Scientific Congress & Expo and other events. She also manages portions of ASRM’s employee benefits and new hire orientation, and ensures staff have what they need to operate efficiently.

Before joining ASRM, Cara Dawn worked in marketing and sales, higher education, and nonprofit organizations. She holds a master’s degree in counseling and more than 20 years’ experience in management, program administration, event planning, and human resources.

ASRM to celebrate 75th anniversary with one-of-a-kind exhibit

ASRM has commissioned the “American Society for Reproductive Medicine Legacy Exhibit,” a unique piece of three-dimensional commemorative art to mark the Society’s 75th Anniversary in 2019. The anniversary art will be 82” x 51” x 5”, with more than 180 miniaturized photographs, publications, memorabilia and 3-D items that mark the history of ASRM along with the field as a whole.

The art will be unveiled at the ASRM 2019 Scientific Congress and Expo, and will be displayed at subsequent Congresses before being permanently installed in the ASRM headquarters office. Members are invited to support the exhibit, with all funds benefiting the ASRM Research Institute.

To learn more about supporting the Legacy Exhibit, visit www.asrmresearch.org.

ASRM adds third installation of the Mental Health Professional Certificate Course

Part 3 of the ASRM’s online Mental Health Professional Certificate Course: Special Populations, is set to be released in December 2018. The course outline includes 11 lessons centered around topics such as counseling same-sex couples, adoption and fertility challenges, and counseling transgender patients.

Parts 1 and 2 are already available in the ASRM airLearning™ course catalog at https://store.asrm.org/Learn/FindACourse.aspx.

SART releases mobile app

The Society for Assisted Reproductive Technology (SART) recently released a mobile app that provides direct access to tools, information, and member clinics to help patients have the best experience possible.

SART Mobile connects patients and SART members with resources and information about infertility, including features such as the “Find a Clinic” directory; a “Predict My Success” calculator; a pregnancy wheel; and patient access to clinical information for participating clinics.

SART Mobile may be downloaded by visiting https://sartivf.org and navigating to the iOS or Google Play store.
Dr. William Hurd welcomed as ASRM Chief Medical Officer

After a six-month search, ASRM welcomed William W. Hurd, M.D., M.P.H., to the post of Chief Medical Officer in November 2018.

Hurd holds a B.A. in Chemistry from the University of Alabama in Huntsville, an M.D.-M.Sc. from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and an M.P.H. from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Dr. Hurd did his OB/GYN residency at the University of Cincinnati and his fellowship training in Reproductive Endocrinology at the University of California, San Francisco.

Hurd has a long and distinguished academic career. Most recently a Professor Emeritus at Duke where he served as Professor and Division Director, he previously worked at the University of Michigan, Indiana University, Wright State University and Case Western University. Hurd also is a veteran of the United States Air Force, retiring from the Reserves in 2006 at the rank of Colonel.

Dr. Hurd has served on the board of ASRM and as President of the Society of Reproductive Surgeons, an ASRM affiliate society. Hurd’s work as a teacher, clinician, and researcher has been recognized by multiple organizations. He has been a recipient of a number of NIH grants, and served on NIH study sections. Dr. Hurd is the co-editor of Clinical Reproductive Medicine and Surgery, now in its third edition, and author of many peer-reviewed journal articles, book chapters, and lectures presentations.

“I am very excited to join the ASRM team,” said Dr. Hurd. “ASRM and its missions have always been central to my career, and the chance to serve our members and patients in this role is an honor. An important part of my job will be to coordinate the details for the ASRM Scientific Congress & Expo. As such, I will focus my efforts on continuing to make the meeting rewarding and enjoyable for participants from all the membership groups, including physicians, nurses, embryologists, psychologists and other interested clinicians and scientists.”

Enroll now at www.asrm.org/resources/Qboost

QBoost is an innovative way of learning. It consists of a catalog of question banks based on ASRM committee documents and educational material. You choose a question bank, and your learning will begin at times convenient to you. Why should you try QBoost?

• “Spaced learning” concept increases retention
• Questions are sent to your email or pushed to your device
• You can test your knowledge in short time spurts

Supported in part by the ASRM Corporate Member Council
ASRM 2018 Twitter Recap

Steven Mavros @smavros
Getting ready to head to #asrm2018 and have all the fertile thoughts. See you all in Denver!
9:21 AM - 7 Oct 2018

Dr. Eric J. Forman @EricFormanMD
The @ReprodMed #asrm2018 pre-congress course I am chairing is off to a great start. I reviewed the RCTs on PGT-A & Mandy Katz-Jaffe from @CCRMFertility now speaking about mosaicism.

#ASRM2018 Scientific Congress & Expo kicks off with Opening Ceremony Continental Breakfast at 7AM tomorrow morning! See you there!
3:00 PM - 7 Oct 2018

California Cryobank @cryobank
So excited to be at #ASRM2018! Come say hello and try your luck at cornhole at Booth 507 - we have rocking shirts for the winners!
8:22 AM - 10 Oct 2018

Stephanie Caballero @SavvageJewelry
We are at the ASRM Scientific Congress & Expo! #asrm2018 #ReproductiveLawMadeEasy
8:05 AM - 8 Oct 2018

Olaiz Musigweh @Olaiz_MD
Bear!!
12:20 PM - 8 Oct 2018

Dr. Kurt Barnhart, Video and New Media Editor for F&S, gives a talk on the Fertility and Sterility Dialog at #ASRM2018 in Denver. fertsterdialog.com

Dr. Angela Lawson kicking off the #ASRM2018 Pre Congress Course on Reproductive Care for #transgender patients @IVF_JRMS @ReprodMed #LGBTQ #Lgbthealth
JOIN US IN PHILADELPHIA FOR THE ASRM 2019 SCIENTIFIC CONGRESS & EXPO OCTOBER 12-16, 2019

#asrm2018 meeting in full swing #Denver #ivf

Standing ovation for Holly Austin Gibbs, Human Trafficking Response Program at Dignity Health after her talk on Human trafficking. Thank you for speaking on this topic, and your strength is amazing! #ASRM2018

You know you’re a long way from Australia when you get that mid conference snow! #Denver #ASRM2018

Looking forward to the last day of #ASRM2018 @ReprodMed Back to reality tomorrow, but feeling inspired for another great year of research

Exciting new ideas

ME AT ASRM

Grant due tomorrow

Witchy & Wise 🎃
@LauraleeHoWise

Enjoying our discussion at the ASRM roundtable on endocrine-disrupting chemicals and uterine fibroids! @ReprodMed #asm2018

So proud to present the largest controlled study to date on the relationship between advancing paternal age and embryo aneuploidy at #ASRM2018 - advancing paternal age has no effect! @BIDMCUrology

What do you get when you have Scientific Congress Prize Paper O-1, Health Disparities Prize Paper, 3 travel awards, and 15 oral presentations totaling over 5 percent of all the orals? You get the fellows and faculty of the Federal Fellowship in REI at #ASRM2018! Way to go!

Rounding out @ExtendFertility and CFRE’s posters at #ASRM2018 with abstract #5. Where most of the fertility care is given in this country? Answer: East Coast/West Coast. #accesstocare

HIMANSHU ARORA @ar impart

All well that ends well #ASRM2018

THANK YOU to our chairs, speakers, presenters, and members for making #ASRM2018 a huge success!
The European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology (ESHRE) and ASRM will hold a combined meeting March 14-16, 2019 in New York City. This is the sixth joint meeting of the societies, which occurs every other year in either the U.S. or Europe.

This year’s topics will include a variety of updates on the most current concepts in reproductive medicine and biology. Educational objectives and learning events have been designed to address important topics in male and female reproductive health including infertility, reproductive endocrinology, transgender care, embryology, andrology, and genetics, along with the cutting-edge topics of stem cells, in vitro gametogenesis and germline editing. The goal of the meeting is for every professional in the field of reproductive medicine and biology to leave the meeting as a better practitioner, stimulated to make new discoveries that will advance reproductive health care.

The program schedule includes lectures, debates, back-to-back sessions, and more. Faculty from the European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology and the American Society for Reproductive Medicine will compare and contrast global procedures and technologies for diagnosis and treatment of reproductive disorders. Participants also will have the opportunity to socialize with colleagues and to enjoy a variety of activities offered in the heart of Times Square.

Visit www.asrm.org for meeting information and registration.
Residents participate in robust learning opportunity

2018 marked the 30th year of a formal resident education program incorporated into ASRM’s annual Congress.

On Monday and Tuesday of the Congress, residents gathered for an interactive learning session with a prominent educator and content expert from the day’s corresponding symposium.

Residents were able to prepare with materials for the session prior to the Congress. They then attended the afternoon symposium corresponding to the day’s learning session.

Monday’s symposium title was MEFS Symposium: The Art and Science of What Embryo(s) to Transfer: Fresh or Frozen, Cleavage or Blastocyst, PGT-A or Not with content expert Suheil Musasher, M.D. and education faculty, Alice Rhoton-Vlasak, M.D.

Tuesday’s symposium title was BRCA Mutations, DNA Repair, Reproductive Aging, and Fertility with content expert Ertug Kovanci, M.D. and education faculty, Ranjith Ramasamy, M.D.

On Wednesday, the learning session was held in the expo hall where residents saw and participated in a simulation demonstration in the expo theater. The session was comprised of experiential breakout groups using the embryo transfer simulator and simultaneous, stand-alone interactive learning sessions on various topics. Keith Ray and Richard Reindollar, M.D. served as content experts/caculty and Ann J. Davis, M.D. served as education faculty.

The sessions were designed by experts in medical education to educate, engage, and interact with resident learners. Attendance of this year’s program was near capacity on Monday and Tuesday, with nearly 100 residents registered.

For more information about education for residents, visit asrm.org.
The task force prepared a summary of its retreat, which was reviewed with the leadership of the Fertility and Infertility branch of NICHD. On February 13, 2018, A Strategic Research Steering Committee was assembled to develop a focused blueprint from the task force summary. The 2018 ASRM Research Blueprint is currently available at asrmresearch.org.

The Institute is currently in Phase I.

ASRM is currently in Phase I of planning and funding for the institute. This stage is expected to last three to five years. In this stage, the primary functions of the institute will be to:

- Set the research agenda and develop a budget for supporting that agenda in collaboration with ASRM leadership
- Periodically sponsor or co-sponsor workshops/conferences for exploring areas of potential research support
- Oversee the requests for applications (RFAs) for both institute and investigator-initiated research proposals for funding
- Follow the progress of awarded grants on an annual basis

During Phase I, the ASRM Research Institute will be funded through the following sources: ASRM funds, affiliate society funds, the General Research Endowment funds, and endowments specific to the Research Institute. A major fundraising initiative is underway so that the ASRM Research Institute will be in the position to move into Phase II of its development with the goal of expanded infrastructure and expanded, but targeted, research initiatives.

To learn more about the institute, read the blueprint, or donate, visit asrmresearch.org.

Research Institute

Become a founding donor of the ASRM Research Institute!

Lead the path to innovation by being one of the first to make a gift that will fund new breakthroughs in reproductive medicine. Individuals that make a gift of $1,000 or more by August 1, 2019 will be considered a member of the ASRM Research Institute Founder’s Club.

Visit asmresearch.org to make a donation by credit card, or mail your gift to:

American Society for Reproductive Medicine  
Attn: Fund Development  
1209 Montgomery Highway  
Birmingham, AL 35216

Donors will enjoy the following benefits:

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<th>$25,000+</th>
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<td>Founders Club lapel pin</td>
<td>Gold</td>
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<td>Recognition on plaque permanently displayed with Legacy Exhibit</td>
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<td>Tickets to Legacy Exhibit Sneak Preview Reception at ASRM 2019</td>
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For additional information or to discuss major gifts, please contact Sean Tiption at stipton@asrm.org or 202-863-4985.