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18 September 2017

Dear SSR Members and Friends,

It is time to think ahead to SSR 2018!!!

Our 50th Anniversary celebration at our 2017 annual meeting in Washington, DC was fantastic and set the stage for progress in reproductive biology research for the next 50 years.

Announced at the annual meeting was the retirement of Judy Jansen, SSR's first Executive Director, and our longtime partner as SSR developed its journal *Biology of Reproduction* and transitioned into a full service scientific society. I believe I speak for the entire membership when I say that we truly appreciate the exceptional service and comradery provided by the entire team at Jansen Editorial Services (JES).

I am pleased to announce that your Board of Directors has selected Drohan Management Group (DMG) as the organization's new management service and support team. DMG will provide full-service management for the Society for the Study of Reproduction. DMG is a full-service Association Management Company based in Reston, Virginia. DMG has been in business for over 30 years, and its executives have over 200 years of combined experience in the association field. DMG has a staff of 60 and manages 30 national and international organizations on both a full-service and project basis. For more information about DMG, visit www.drohanmgmt.com. A search is underway to identify a new Executive Director for our society. The location of DMG in the Washington DC area provides SSR with an opportunity to interact with our stakeholders like USDA, NIH, and FASEB on a more frequent basis during our midterm board of director's meetings.

The SSR has begun to conduct strategic planning. Elissa Myers at DMG will facilitate this process. A survey is being developed to get input from SSR members and from our stakeholders. Some of you will be contacted by Elissa in the next few months for a phone interview. Using the input from interviews and surveys the Board of Directors will develop a strategic plan during our winter board meeting in January 2018. The results of the strategic planning process will be made available for your input prior to finalizing the strategic plan. I welcome your input as we develop a plan to guide our society in the coming years.

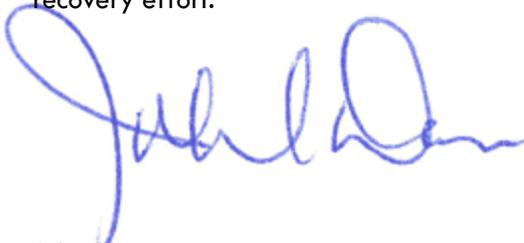
Start planning to attend the 51st SSR Annual Meeting, 10–13 July 2018, at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside, New Orleans, Louisiana. The Hilton New Orleans Riverside has excellent facilities, including spacious centrally located meeting rooms, and excellent room rates. The hotel is connected to the Outlet Collection at Riverwalk; adjacent to Harrah's and the convention center and three blocks from the French Quarter. Our opening reception will be held at the Audubon Aquarium of the Americas, which is walking distance from the hotel. At the Audubon Aquarium you can walk through an underwater reef tunnel, see the tropical shark exhibit and watch penguins play. New Orleans is a popular travel destination with a wealth of restaurants of all sorts—from fast food to world famous New Orleans dining. The Southern hospitality will make you feel at home while the one-of-a-kind culture will make you feel as though you have truly been somewhere different. New Orleans has an abundance of things to see and do, with distinct neighborhoods offering their own unique charm, personality and benefits. Yet the city is surprisingly compact so no matter where you are, you will have convenient access to a variety of [attractions](#), [event venues](#) and [transportation](#) so bring your family or

friends and enjoy the city together!

The meeting's theme for the 51st Annual Meeting, "Pathways to Discovery: Signals for Reproduction, Development, and Longevity," will have an outstanding series of plenary presentations, including talks on nuclear receptors, mitochondrial function, and longevity and the microbiome, with a focus on the various ways in which physiologic and pathologic signals regulate reproductive processes. State-of-the-Art talks will explore pathways used by stem cells for spermatogenesis and embryonic development. The Program Chairs for the 2018 meeting are Moira O'Bryan from Monash University and Bo Rueda from Harvard Medical School. They and their committee are working hard to structure an exciting program. Please check the SSR meeting site for updates on the program, abstract deadlines and registration information. We anticipate that the abstract deadline be late February 2018, so start planning your experiments now!

In order to attract new members and provide our membership greater access to new developments in the reproductive sciences we are planning new initiatives. First, the requirements for becoming a [Regular Member have been streamlined](#). This is a great opportunity to attract new members and for those completing trainee memberships to enjoy the benefits of becoming a Regular Member. In July the SSR Board of Directors approved development of a process to provide support for regional reproductive biology conferences. This will introduce our society to new trainees and other investigators working in the many fields related to reproductive biology. We anticipate that a formal announcement will be in early 2018.

On behalf of the Society for the Study of Reproduction Staff and Executive Council, our thoughts and best wishes go out to our members, their families and the people of Texas, Louisiana, Florida, Puerto Rico and elsewhere whose lives have been impacted by hurricanes Harvey and Irma. We urge everyone to support those affected and contribute in some way to the recovery effort.



John S Davis
President