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January 2, 2015

Dear SSR Trainees,

The SSR 2015 program Chairs look forward to welcoming you at the upcoming annual meeting to be held June 18–22 in San Juan, Puerto Rico (<http://www.ssr.org/15Meeting>). As the abstract deadline of January 30th is fast approaching (<http://www.ssr.org/15Abstracts>), we would like to share with you the highlights of this year's meeting and why it will be a particularly valuable experience for SSR trainees. The meeting theme is "The Evolution of Sex" and like the theme, the structure and content of the meeting has also been evolving. One of our goals has been to generate a scientific program that not only presents the highest quality science, but also is linked to enhancing the trainee meeting experience.

Features of the 2015 program include morning sessions with world-renowned keynote speakers who will expound on the meeting theme. These speakers will inspire and stimulate discussion, touching on topics of controversy and cutting-edge techniques, and offer insight as to the future directions in Reproductive Sciences. New this year, in the afternoons, you may choose from six concurrent focus sessions designed to feel like a meeting within a meeting. Focus sessions were designed by SSR faculty on current hot topics in reproduction with four invited world-leading speakers in each afternoon session. Each afternoon focus session will feature six short talks from selected abstracts that will be integrated with the invited speakers. The opportunity for trainees to present side-by-side with world leaders adds prestige and scope to the short talk experience.

Also new this year is the addition of an evening reprise poster session providing another opportunity for poster viewings and for networking over cocktails with senior SSR members and invited speakers. We encourage you to embrace the evolution of our poster sessions, which will now incorporate a pre-recorded audio component. The audio component, termed "posters at an exhibition," allows attendees to visit posters at any time over the course of the meeting and to capture a pre-recorded 5-minute audio presentation of the poster of interest using the QR code reader application on your cell phone. This 5-minute audio teaser will entice viewers to your poster and provides a new tool to showcase your presentation skills. The QR code can also be added to your CV and serve as an example of your communication skills and a snapshot of your research.

We are confident you will be impressed with the conference center, the quality of the hotels, and all that San Juan has to offer in terms of culture, history, and fabulous dining. There are many opportunities for swimming and snorkeling at the gorgeous beaches, kayaking at night in bioluminescent mangrove-lined canals, and hiking in the rain forest. This is a great location to enjoy the meeting and to consider staying on for an extra few days for vacation; see <http://ssr2015news.blogspot.ca/> for details of available activities. Excellent rates have been negotiated for SSR meeting attendees for the shoulder nights before and after the meeting.

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting!

Richard Schultz (Chair & SSR President), John Eppig (Co-chair), and Sarah Kimmins (Co-chair)