

1997 NEW INVESTIGATOR AWARDS

The New Investigator Awards, sponsored by Serono Symposia, Inc., Norwell, Massachusetts, are given in recognition of outstanding research by young scientists. Each year, many excellent abstracts are submitted for the competition. From these, six are selected for final evaluation during presentation at the Society for the Study of Reproduction's annual meeting. Although only presenters of the top two abstracts receive a plaque and monetary award, all finalists are acknowledged at the annual meeting and are commended for their outstanding research.

The 1997 recipient of the first-place award is **Todd W. Sandhoff** for his abstract entitled, "Repression of the rat steroidogenic acute regulatory (StAR) protein gene promoter by the



negative transcription factor DAX-1," coauthored by X. Lei and M.P. McLean. Todd Sandhoff graduated from Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas, in 1993 with a bachelor's degree in Music. In the fall of 1993, he joined the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular

Biology at the University of South Florida where he pursued a doctoral degree under the direction of Dr. Mark P. McLean. He completed his Ph.D. degree in September of 1997 and is continuing studies with Dr. McLean while he investigates postdoctoral opportunities. Dr. Sandhoff plans to pursue a career in pharmaceutical research.

The recipient of the second-place award is **Vinayak Doraiswamy** for his abstract entitled, "Immunohistochemical localization of vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) in the ovine ovary during the periovulatory period," coauthored by R.M. Moor, Y.

Dai, L.P. Reynolds and D.A. Redmer. Mr. Doraiswamy received his B.S. in Zoology from Presidency College in Madras, India, where he was awarded the PK. Menon endowment prize in 1991-92 for outstanding academic performance. He remained at Presidency College to pursue his M.S. degree in Zoology, which he received in 1994. He currently



is pursuing his Ph.D. degree in Cellular and Molecular Biology at North Dakota State University under the supervision of Dr. Lawrence P Reynolds and Dr. Dale A. Redmer. He plans to complete his Ph.D. in 1998 and then would like to pursue postdoctoral studies in reproductive oncology.