

November 12, 1999

Dear Colleagues:

From student trainees to seasoned investigators, we all struggle to negotiate the hurdles and frustrations of scientific discovery. Designing projects to reveal the secrets of nature is just one part of the struggle; it is confounded by grant applications, reviewers, papers, politics.... Fortunately, we do not have to confront the obstacles in isolation; we have our colleagues and friends, fellow members of the SSR. The SSR is a family of individuals who share not only the struggles but also the exhilarating highs that accompany discovery. Our Society provides encouragement, nourishment, advocacy, and forums for our research (and the NAKED party, too).

Where is this leading? Several years ago the Board of Directors set out to insure that the SSR will always be able to move forward and serve the evolving needs of its membership. The Board's objective is to build an endowment fund of a million dollars. The original plan was to raise about half of this from the membership and seek the remainder from industry and philanthropy. I am not sure that the industry and philanthropy part will work out, but we have had considerable success due to the foresight and generosity of our members. Our General Endowment now stands at \$237,443.58. So far this year, 75 members have contributed \$12,260. I think that we could raise the entire million from our membership with time. This would give us security that our purpose will float regardless of the tide.

I ask you to consider making a(nother) tax-deductible donation to the SSR. Your Society will be grateful for your contribution regardless of its size. As you know, your contribution will be recognized in the Newsletter, unless you wish to remain anonymous. I also ask you to consider making the SSR a part of your bequest, as one very generous member already has done. Thank you for helping.

Best wishes,

John J. Eppig
President
Society for the Study of Reproduction