

Dear Colleagues:

The Society for the Study of Reproduction is the foremost, worldwide organization devoted to the scientific discipline of reproductive biology. Founded in 1967 by a collection of researchers focused on reproductive processes and working predominantly within the disciplines of domestic animal and medical sciences, SSR now represents the entire spectrum of reproductive science. We share a common purpose: we are dedicated to the advancement of reproductive biology through active and rigorous research and by fostering development of the next generation of reproductive scientists. Commitment to these objectives has never been more important.

I am writing to urge you to contribute to SSR's Endowment Funds. Our goal is to attain \$1,000,000; we have reached \$550,000 (\$420,000 in the General Endowment; \$78,000 in the Mahesh Neuroendocrine Endowment; \$32,000 in the Mahesh New Investigator Fund, and \$20,000 in the Legacy Fund). The purpose of the Endowment Funds, ultimately, is to provide essential missing pieces in the fabric of our collective efforts to support research by facilitating communication among scientists, our members, and our trainees. We believe fervently that basic research in reproductive science and the education of trainees—the researchers of the future—are central to advancement in animal and human reproductive biology for the 21st century. The Endowment Funds for the SSR will make a crucial difference in allowing us to sustain SSR's mission in the face of sweeping changes in the nature and economics of scientific publishing. We need a level of endowed funds from which subsequent income can support programs such as travel awards to the annual meeting, expenses for outstanding speakers who will continually challenge us intellectually, and the continuing enhancement of our journal. The Endowment Funds will augment meeting support and help us retain our independence, flexibility, vitality, and strength—allowing us to continue to meet the opportunities and challenges of the future.

The Endowment Committee has worked diligently to build the Endowments and you, the membership, have been generous in your contributions. As your President, I am appealing for a wider participation by the membership for whatever amount you are willing to contribute. Every gift is precious, and no gift is too small; together we can reach our goal. The following are categories for recognition: Platinum, >\$5,000; Gold, \$2,500–\$4,999; Silver, \$1,000–\$2,499; Bronze, \$250–\$999; and Contributor, \$1–\$249. You may designate that your contribution be allocated to the General Endowment Fund or to one or more of the other Endowment Funds. All gifts will be acknowledged and contributors will be recognized in the SSR Newsletter and at the 2006 Annual Meeting.

The mission of SSR, our Society, is to promote the study of reproduction by fostering interdisciplinary communication among scientists, holding conferences, and publishing meritorious studies. This mission is worthy of our continued commitment and our generous and active support.

I strongly appeal to you for your support of the Endowment Funds of the SSR. If you have already made a contribution—thank you.

With warmest regards,

Bill Thatcher
President, SSR

Enclosure