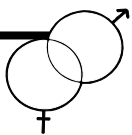


SOCIETY for the STUDY OF REPRODUCTION



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12 November 2007

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Dear Fellow SSR Members:

I have been searching for about 30 minutes now for a nice series of phrases that would essentially say, "I WANT your money!" Thinking this perhaps too blunt and personal, I considered "WE want your money." I also kicked around what is probably the most accurate statement that I could come up with: "We NEED your money." Take your pick, but in the end they all say the same thing and reflect a very real need for the SSR. Therefore, I am writing to ask each of you to consider making a donation to our beloved Society. I dare say that no one reading this request, from the newest trainee to the most seasoned veteran of the SSR, does not feel a warm relationship with all the things that the SSR has done for them and meant to them. Our Society takes great pride in being a friendly Society that holds both science and collegiality at high levels. The quality of our annual meeting and of our journal, *Biology of Reproduction*, are excellent as a result of the tireless efforts of the membership and our wonderful administrative staff. Our goal as a Society should be to do all that we can, not only to maintain this level of excellence, but to improve upon it. Indeed this takes time and effort; it also takes resources, and I am asking that you all take part in increasing our resources for the collective good of the SSR and all that it means to you.

The long-term fiscal health of our Society is a must. In today's climate of decreases in funding and support for science, this becomes an even more difficult task. Like so many other worthy societies and institutions, we need the help of our membership to improve and to keep up with the competition. We will be challenged in future years to continue to provide the quality that you have come to expect from the annual meeting and the journal. In 1995 the Society foresaw this need and acted on it by establishing the SSR Endowment Fund for this purpose. The goal was to raise \$1 million; in the ensuing decade, we have reached in excess of one half of that amount. Currently we have \$563,000 in the General Endowment, \$120,000 in the Mahesh Neuroendocrine Program Fund, and \$40,000 in the Mahesh New Investigator Fund for a total of \$723,000. As you can see, we are making progress, but we are still a significant way from attaining our goal. When the \$1 million total is reached, the proceeds from the investment of this money will be used to support the long-term educational and research mission of the Society. Lastly, another fund has been established within our Society: the Legacy Fund. This Fund was established to support the conversion of all back issues of *BOR* into a digital, indexed format and to sustain the archive. The initial project was highly successful, and all

issues of the journal—from its first issue published in 1969—are available and readily searchable online. The Legacy Fund now has another mission: to help sustain the excellence of *BOR* in the face of challenges such as open access with a concomitant decrease in revenue from library subscriptions and hence, journal-generated revenue. The Legacy Fund must grow in order to meet these challenges. At present, the Legacy Fund has a balance of nearly \$73,000; your generosity in supporting this fund will be appreciated and it is necessary. Our current Development Committee under the very capable guidance of David Schomberg will be making significant efforts to raise funds for every facet of the SSR during the coming years. Let us all join together to make the Committee's task a bit easier by starting them off with whatever level of donation you are comfortable.

In summary, we need you and your support to keep the SSR fiscally sound and to ensure the quality of our Society's future endeavors. Your contributions will be tax deductible and your generosity will be noted in the SSR Newsletter. I strongly urge you to take a few minutes (and a few dollars from your bank account) to help your Society secure its future. The enclosed card will allow you to donate to the fund of your choice, each of which will help the Society in a special way. You can donate at the Platinum level (>\$5000), the Gold level (\$2500-\$5000), the Silver level (\$1000-\$2499), the Bronze level (\$250-\$999), and the Contributor level (\$1-\$249). EVERY contribution is important, no matter how small, and of course, no matter how large!!!! I will thank each of you in advance for what I know will be an outpouring of generosity on behalf of the SSR, the Society we all love dearly.

With my very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Douglas W. Stocco". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Douglas" being the most prominent part.

Doug Stocco
President, SSR