



American Society of Reproductive Immunology Winter Newsletter 2004

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

As the New Year has turned, we have been working on arrangements for the 2004 ASRI meeting in St. Louis. Drs. Morris Cooper and Don Torry have put together a remarkable program that should be educational and interesting. Information on the meeting is enclosed in this newsletter.

Please note the date of **March 1** as the revised deadline for submission of abstracts. The society's website has been designed to make registration for the meeting simple and to provide important information about the meeting easily obtained. Please investigate this resource at www.theasri.org.

Drs. Morris Cooper, Don Torry, Gil Mor, Grant Yeaman, and Surendra Sharma have submitted funding to both NIH and USDA for funding for the annual meeting. The proposal to NIH, if successful, will provide a base of support for the next several years. Regardless of the outcome of our efforts in the

grant arena, funding is available through the ASRI for a limited number of travel grants for young investigators. It is hoped that all these efforts for 2004 will inspire renewal of existing memberships and spur enlistment of new members.

The growth of reproductive immunology as a discipline and of our society as a vehicle for stimulating progress in reproductive immunology has been dependent on accomplishments of scientists both within and outside the ASRI. Our society recognizes these accomplishments through its awards program. Take some time to nominate a deserving colleague for one of these awards. Information about the awards made by ASRI is in this newsletter. This information, as well as a list of past award winners, can also be found at www.theasri.org.

Best Regards

Peter Ahlering MD
Secretary ASRI

**24th Annual Meeting of the American Society for Reproductive Immunology
June 3-6, 2004
Hyatt Regency at Union Station
St. Louis, MO**

Dear ASRI Members:

Be sure to mark your calendar for this event!! Join the rest of your colleagues at the historic Union Station in St. Louis for four days of exciting science and warm collegiality at the 24th ASRI meeting. The program committee has worked diligently to arrange what will prove to be an enlightening meeting. Plenary topics include: Biology of Preeclampsia; NIH and Research in Women's Reproductive Health, Immune Responses to Infectious Diseases of the Female Reproductive Tract; Immune Responses in Male Reproductive Tract; Cell Biology of the Maternal-fetal Interface; Immunobiology of the Placenta; Autoimmunity, Thrombophilia and Reproductive Performance; Recurrent Miscarriage and Immunotherapy; Immunobiology of the Ovary and Testis; Immunobiology of Reproductive Vaccines.

A poster session and numerous social activities for attendees are planned. Category 1 CME credits and a number of travel awards for trainees are available; women and minorities are especially encouraged to apply.

Some special dates: Abstract submissions are due **March 1, 2004**. A number of abstracts will be chosen for oral presentation in the plenary sessions. Be sure to book your hotel reservations by **May 11, 2004** as St. Louis is a popular vacation destination during the summer months. A special room rate has been arranged for meeting attendees,

be sure to mention that you are with the ASRI meeting to receive the special rates. There is an even greater room discount for trainees - book early to reserve these limited rooms.

For further information, to view the entire program, and to register and submit your abstract online see the ASRI website (<http://theasri.org/index.html>). For additional questions, please contact the Office of Continuing Medical Education, Southern Illinois University School of Medicine at (217) 545-7711 or Dr. Morris Cooper at mcooper@siumed.edu.

We look forward to welcoming you to St. Louis in June!

Morris Cooper and Peter Ahlering
Co-Chairs, 2004 ASRI Meeting

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR AWARDS

The society recognizes the accomplishments of its colleagues in many ways including the presentation of various awards. Awards bestowed by the ASRI are as follows:

The Blackwell Munksgaard Award is awarded annually to a senior investigator who has made outstanding contributions to the area of reproductive immunology. Contributions can be in the area of clinical or basic research. Awardees do not need to be members of the ASRI.

The J. Christian Herr Award is given annually to a member of the ASRI or ISIR, typically in the first 10-15 years beyond accepting a faculty position, who has made outstanding achievements in

basic or applied research in reproductive immunology, particularly for investigators involved in technology transfer. The J. Christian Herr Award was established to recognize J. Christian Herr, who worked for many years to promote small business through the SCORE program [Service Core of Retired Executives] of the Small Business Administration.

The spirit of the award may be found in the words of Louis Pasteur: "There is no true distinction between fundamental and applied science; there is only science in the cause of humankind."

The Dr. John Gusdon Memorial New Investigator Award is awarded to a new investigator with trainee status (graduate student, postdoctoral scientist, or resident) who has made a significant contribution by presenting an outstanding research paper during the annual meeting of the ASRI. This award is given annually in memory of Dr. John Gusdon, a founding member of the ASRI, and an advocate of student participation in ASRI meetings.

The Distinguished Service Award is awarded periodically, and not more than annually, to a member of the ASRI who has provided distinguished service to advance the goals and mission of the society.

Award nominations for the Blackwell Munskgaard, Herr, and Distinguished Service Award are due **April 15, 2004**. Please send a letter of nomination plus supporting materials to Pete Hansen at hansen@animal.ufl.edu or PO Box 110910, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611-0910.

Any trainee (graduate student, postdoc, or resident) presenting a paper at the annual ASRI meeting can select to have his paper considered for the Gusdon Award. Persons interested in doing so should notify the chair of the Program Committee when submitting their abstract.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR ASRI OFFICERS

Dear members of ASRI:

This year we have four vacancies to be filled for outgoing members of the Executive Council of the society. Nominations for the offices of President-elect, Vice President and two (2) Councilors are due no later than **March 31, 2004**. Please send a letter of nomination and a brief bio of your candidate to Heinz W. Kunz at hwk1@verizon.net or 611 Essex Courts, Pittsburgh, PA 15238. Tel: 412-967-9123, Fax: 412-967-6039. Participation in the election process is an important obligation for members in good standing of the society and I hope that there will be a good response to this call. Thank you for your active participation in society affairs and I am looking forward to receiving your nominations. Ballots will then be sent to the members and the results of the elections will be announced at the 2004 ASRI meeting in St. Louis.

With best regards,

For the Nominating Committee,
Heinz W. Kunz, Ph.D.
Past President

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