

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

We are starting 2011 with a new edition of the ASRI newsletter. Our purpose is three fold: to keep all members informed on important contributions made by the ASRI faculty, share research updates, and present funding opportunities.

Our president, Dr. Surendra Sharma, is known for his extensive contribution to the field Reproductive Immunology. A plethora of studies developed in his lab have been widely appreciated and have received ample attention from the media. Recently, Dr. Sharma's group identified a serum protein that seems to be a 'blueprint' for preeclampsia and which can be detected as early as 12-14 weeks of pregnancy. This remarkable study was recently published in *Am J Pathol* (177(5):2387-98), 2010).

Congratulations are also due to Dr. Peter Hansen, ASRI Treasurer, for his nomination as Professor (Distinguished Professor & L.E. "Red" Larson Professor) of the Department of Animal Sciences, at the University of Florida, USA.

Dr. Charles Wira, former ASRI president, recently organized a very successful meeting on HIV and female genital tract that took place at the Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center, in Lebanon NH, USA from June 30 to July 2, 2010. The main objective of this workshop was to emphasize the importance of mucosal immunity in the male and female reproductive tracts in the transmission of HIV and to identify the means which can optimize the mucosal immune system and thus improve protection against HIV infection. This conference was the first of its kind to offer insights into the biology of sexual transmission, both male to female and female to male. A special edition of ASRI on HIV and mucosal immunity will be published next March.

Dr. Gil Mor, Editor-in-Chief of the *American Journal of Reproductive Immunology*, announces that special issues of the journal are available. The first one, published in June 2010, was about Human Reproductive Immunology. In October, another special edition was produced on domestic animal models for Reproductive Immunology. This year's March issue will be on HIV and

mucosal immunity. These special editions summarize research updates for those interested in reproductive immunology and allied fields.

Dr. Silvia Daher and her colleagues from five distinguished Brazilian universities organized a Post-Graduate course on Maternal-Fetal Interaction with the participation of keynote international speakers. This course was held last October in Sao Paulo, Brazil, and was attended by world renowned investigators.

We are starting a new year and now is the right time to recruit new members for our society! We have to encourage reproductive immunologists from all over the world to join our society and participate in our annual meetings. We have to send a reminder to all our colleagues, inviting them to our next meeting and telling them about the special ASRI advantages offered to developing countries, including special membership rates and publication opportunities. One of our goals is to increase the participation of international colleagues on ASRI and in our Meetings

ASRI 31th Meeting is coming soon and we sincerely hope to see you all there.

Dr.Chris Davies and Richard Bronson will host the Conference that will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah on May 19-22, 2011.Together with the Scientific Committee, they have prepared an outstanding program including on the first day a post graduate course on “ New Frontiers in Reproductive Immunology Research: Bringing Bedside Problems to the Bench” , followed by an important meeting covering the most exciting basic and clinical topics on Reproductive Immunology.

Every year at the annual Meeting, the ASRI Award Committee announces the new winners of ASRI Awards. The *ASRI* award (previously named Blackwell Munksgaard Award) is presented to a senior investigator who has made outstanding contributions to the area of reproductive immunology. The *J. Christian Herr* Award is given to a member of the ASRI, International Society for Immunology of Reproduction, or European Society for Reproductive Immunology, typically in the first 10-15 years after accepting a faculty position,

who has made outstanding achievements in basic or applied research in reproductive immunology and is especially targeted at investigators involved in technology transfer. The 2010 winners were Roberto Romero (AJRI Award) and Charu Kaushic (John Herr Award).

Save the date and encourage your colleagues to do so!

Best wishes from Brazil!

Silvia Daher

ASRI - Secretary

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