

# History of the Australian Society for Reproductive Biology 1968-1994\*

B. P. Setchell

Department of Animal Science, University of Adelaide, Glen Osmond, SA 5064, Australia.

The Australian Society for Reproductive Biology was formed at a meeting held at the Ian Clunies Ross Laboratory of the CSIRO Division of Animal Physiology, Prospect, on Tuesday, 20 August 1968. I had recently returned to Australia from a period of study leave in Cambridge in 1967, during which time I had attended the annual meeting of the Society for the Study of Fertility (SSF) in Exeter. This meeting had been an eye-opener for me. In Australia, I had been to meetings of the Australian Physiological and Pharmacological Society and ANZAAS, which covered an even greater range of subjects. In contrast, at the SSF, all the papers were devoted to some aspect of reproduction, but included studies in humans, agricultural animals and more exotic species as well. One of the hosts at that meeting was Margaret Jackson, one of the founders of the SSF, and a prominent early advocate for research in reproduction and for scientifically based family planning, and one of the things which impressed me most at the Exeter meeting was the interaction between the clinicians, agriculturalists and basic scientists, to the benefit of all.

Consequently, when I returned to Australia at the end of 1967, it seemed to me that there was a real need for an equivalent forum in Australia for the exchange of information and ideas among those interested in the various aspects of reproductive biology. Therefore, after discussion with a number of my contemporaries, most of whom were, like me, in their 30s, I sent out a circular letter (Fig. 1) to all those I knew, or knew of, who were interested in the general area of reproductive biology, and to others in Australia listed in the directory recently issued by Donn Casey, who was then running the Bibliography of Reproduction. The response was amazing. Obviously I had put into words what many people had been thinking, and it was clear that there was general enthusiastic support for the idea of a meeting to present papers on the various aspects of reproductive biology, and to consider possibilities for some sort of future regular meetings. Only two of our senior colleagues were less than enthusiastic. One wrote 'I am somewhat opposed to the proliferation of Societies. I am not wildly enthusiastic about the contribution of the Endocrine Society of Australia for example', then went on to give qualified support, but

CSIRO

17 JUN 1968

DIVISION OF ANIMAL PHYSIOLOGY — IAN CLUNIES ROSS ANIMAL RESEARCH LABORATORY — PROSPECT

P.O. BOX 144, PARRAMATTA, N.S.W. TELEPHONE 631 8022. TELEGRAMS ROSSLAB SYDNEY

14 JUN 1968

Dear *Professor Robinson*

A few members of the Society for the Study of Fertility who live in Australia feel that it would be a good idea to hold occasional (perhaps annual) meetings of people interested in reproductive physiology and that this might best be done as a local branch of the Society. The parent Society was receptive to the idea when I mentioned it to some of them last year and a formal decision on whether this would be possible will be taken at the Newcastle-upon-Tyne meeting this July. The Society may also be able to arrange publication of abstracts of our meetings in the Journal of Reproduction and Fertility if we wish.

Would you be interested in meetings of such a group? Initially, it might be appropriate to hold a one day meeting here at Prospect where a few papers could be presented and the possibilities discussed. Tentatively, a date of Wednesday, 28th August, might be suggested. Could you let me know your reactions and bring this letter to the attention of others you think may be interested. Initially, I am circulating those whose names appear in the World Directory of Research Workers in Vertebrate Reproduction.

Could you also let me know if you would like to present a 15-minute paper at the meeting if it is held and what the title might be?

Yours sincerely,

*B.P. Setchell*

B.P. SETCHELL

COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANIZATION, AUSTRALIA

Fig. 1. Letter proposing meetings of people interested in reproductive physiology.

ended by saying 'Unhappily, the date you suggest for the inaugural meeting would not suit me. It clashes with the skiing season!'. The other rang me, reprimanded me for daring, as a young inexperienced research worker, to initiate anything like this without discussing it with him and pointed out to me that, although I obviously would not be aware of the fact, the Endocrine Society of Australia (a society of which at that stage I was not a member) was already planning to emphasize its

\* Presented at the 25th Anniversary Symposium of the Australian Society for Reproductive Biology ('Reproductive Biology — Bright Future or Just Fond Memories?'), Brisbane, September 1994.

commitment to reproduction. I was finally forced to point out that I and others thought that there were many aspects of reproductive biology that did not involve hormones directly, although their overall importance was unquestioned, and the conversation ended forthwith. The positive response from everyone else encouraged me to go ahead, and the meeting was held at Prospect in the library basement on 20 August, the date having been advanced by a week so that people could come straight on from the Endocrine Society meeting in Canberra.

It was a great success. About 80 people attended, and 22 papers were presented, on topics ranging from egg membranes and chromosomes in marsupials, through ovarian function in ewes to anovulation and salpingostomy in women. Sandwiches were available to be bought from the CSIRO canteen and accommodation could be arranged at a local motel at \$A5.25 per night bed and breakfast. I had already arranged that abstracts or titles of the papers presented should appear in the *Journal of Reproduction and Fertility* (*JRF*; Vol. 19 No. 2), where the Society for the Study of Fertility was then publishing their abstracts. At the end of the day, a business meeting was held to discuss what should happen next. My original proposal was for a 'branch' of the SSF, but the feeling of the meeting was strongly in favour of an independent society, and therefore a steering committee was established, consisting of Professor T. J. Robinson as Chairman, Professor K. W. Cleland of Sydney University Department of Anatomy and Histology, and two Macquarie St clinicians, Alan Grant and Robert Mackay, with me as secretary. The first formal meeting of the new society was held at Sydney University on Monday and Tuesday 25 and 26 August 1969, again with the dates chosen so that people going to the Endocrine Society meeting in Brisbane could break their journey in Sydney. At that meeting, Professor Robinson was elected President (the title was changed to Chairman at the third committee meeting in July 1970), Dr R. G. Wales became Treasurer, and Professor C. W. Emmens, Dr Alan Grant, Dr R. F. Seamark, Dr N. W. Moore and Dr G. D. Thorburn were elected to the committee, with Dr J. R. Goding as Secretary. By this time, I had accepted a position at the ARC Institute of Animal Physiology, Babraham and as arrangements had been made for us to travel to England by boat, it was necessary for me to leave before the 1969 meeting, although my name did appear on two papers. Again it was an extremely successful meeting; 80 people registered and 28 papers on a similar range of topics were presented, with the abstracts once more published in *JRF* (Vol. 21 No. 2); accommodation was arranged in the Colleges of the University and a dinner costing \$A2 per head was held on the Monday evening at the University Staff Club.

At the 1969 meeting, it was decided that all those who attended or sent apologies were deemed to be foundation members, of whom there were 93 (Table 1). It was also agreed that the Society should hold annual meetings, and the subscription was set at \$A4 per year, remaining at that level until 1973. The Society went from strength to strength, with membership rising to 117 in 1972, 167 in 1974, 226 in 1976, 358 in 1983, and peaking at 490 in 1988; since then the membership has stabilized at just over 400. The annual meetings were held in different cities, with a majority in Sydney and Melbourne, and some in Canberra, Adelaide, Brisbane, Perth and Armidale, many in collaboration with the Endocrine Society of Australia, and several with the Australian Obstetrics and Gynaecological Research Society or the Fertility Society of Australia (Table 2). Two meetings have been held in New Zealand: in Christchurch in 1981 and Dunedin in 1993. The affairs of the Society were handled by the Secretary until 1985, when the decision was taken to employ Australian Convention and Travel Services Pty Ltd to provide professional secretarial management. The Society was incorporated in 1990.

Initially, all papers were given as oral presentations, but from 1977 onwards some were presented as posters,

**Table 1. Foundation members of the Australian Society for Reproductive Biology, August 1969**

R. R. Aldridge	A. R. Gleeson	T. D. Quinlivan
A. J. Allison	J. R. Goding	P. J. Quinn
R. G. Beilharz	A. Grant	H. M. Radford
B. M. Bindon	J. C. Grimwade	M. Renfree
W. Birrell	J. C. Guerra	B. J. Restall
A. W. Blackshaw	P. E. Hartmann	E. M. Roberts
L. W. Bobr	J. F. Hennessey	S. Robertson
R. Bowman	M. Hillard	T. J. Robinson
J. M. Brown	R. L. Hughes	J. Rodger
P. D. C. Brown	C. Jaume	C. S. Sapsford
N. Bruce	R. C. Jones	R. F. Seamark
F. N. Carrick	W. R. Jones	B. P. Setchell
G. A. Cartwright	I. D. Killeen	R. P. Shearman
A. C. Coulthard	A. K. Lascelles	J. N. Shelton
R. I. Cox	R. J. Lightfoot	M. Short
E. Crichton	A. J. Mackenzie	A. Singer
K. P. Croker	R. Mackey	J. F. Smith
I. A. Cumming	I. C. A. Martin	G. D. Thorburn
D. M. de Kretser	P. E. Mattner	C. J. Thwaites
M. A. deB. Blockey	W. G. McBride	M. Tomaszewska
D. J. Dooley	M. F. McDonald	C. H. Tyndale-Biscoe
B. J. Doyle	B. J. Mole	J. K. Voglmayr
M. Edwards	N. W. Moore	R. G. Wales
J. S. H. Elkington	R. N. Murdoch	D. W. Walker
C. W. Emmens	H. Newton Turner	A. L. Wallace
G. R. Fallon	D. H. Nicol	P. F. Watson
J. K. Findlay	B. M. Noramly	R. A. S. Welch
R. Gabb	T. O'Shea	I. G. White
D. Galloway	P. Pennycuik	P. E. Williamson
W. R. Gibson	J. Plant	N. T. M. Yeates
J. R. Giles	I. F. Potts	

although this led to some ill-feeling and a few authors withdrew their papers as a result of being offered posters not oral presentations. The abstracts were published

**Table 2. Meetings of the Australian Society for Reproductive Biology, and the numbers of papers and posters presented, excluding symposia**

ESA, Endocrine Society of Australia; FSA, Fertility Society of Australia; AOGRS, Australian Obstetrical and Gynaecological Research Society

Year	Location	Papers and posters	Meeting with:
1968	Sydney (Prospect)	22	
1969	Sydney	28	
1970	Melbourne	35	ESA
1971	Canberra	50	ESA
1972	Sydney	49	ESA
1973	Adelaide	63	ESA & AOGRS
1974	Melbourne	37	ESA
1975	Sydney	63	ESA
1976	Brisbane	58	ESA
1977	Melbourne	83	ESA
1978	Sydney	91	ESA
1979	Perth	87	ESA
1980	Armidale	88	ESA & AOGRS
1981	Christchurch	101	ESA
1982	Sydney	116	ESA
1983	Canberra	107	ESA
1984	Melbourne	107	ESA
1985	Adelaide	115	ESA
1986	Brisbane	134	ESA
1987	Sydney	152	ESA
1988	Newcastle	108	FSA
1989	Melbourne (Monash)	138	ESA
1990	Perth	142	ESA & FSA
1991	Sydney	160	ESA
1992	Adelaide	135	ESA
1993	Dunedin	98	ESA
1994	Brisbane	116	ESA & FSA

in *JRF* from 1969 to 1975, but then, when that journal ceased publishing abstracts, in 1976 and 1977, in *Theriogenology*. However, it was felt by a section of the Society that this journal had too strong an agricultural bias, and this arrangement was terminated. From 1978, the abstracts were published by the Society in a separate volume, which was assigned an ISSN (0705-6044) in 1981. Since 1992, it has been supplemented, and in 1994 it was replaced by a volume of miniposters, allowing the inclusion of graphs and pictorial material. The substitution of miniposters for posters mounted on boards has allowed poster discussions to be held in a lecture theatre, rather than around the poster boards.

The first two Chairmen, Professor T. J. Robinson and Professor C. W. Emmens served with distinction, each for 4 consecutive years, and gave the Society a wonderful start. Since that time, many other distinguished reproductive biologists in Australia have served as Chairman (Table 3),

**Table 3. Chairmen, Secretaries and Treasurers of the Australian Society for Reproductive Biology**

Year	Chairman	Secretary	Treasurer
69-72	T. J. Robinson	J. R. Goding	R. G. Wales
72-73	T. J. Robinson	B. M. Bindon	I. G. White
73-76	C. W. Emmens	B. M. Bindon	I. G. White
76-77	C. W. Emmens	I. A. Cumming	G. M. Stone
77-80	D. M. de Kretser	I. A. Cumming	G. M. Stone
80-81	D. M. de Kretser	R. J. Scaramuzzi	G. H. McDowell
81-82	N. W. Moore	R. J. Scaramuzzi	B. G. Miller
82-83	N. W. Moore	T. K. Roberts	B. G. Miller
83-84	J. K. Findlay	T. K. Roberts	B. G. Miller
84-85	J. K. Findlay	J. M. Cummins	C. D. Nancarrow
85-86	B. M. Bindon	J. M. Cummins	C. D. Nancarrow
86-87	B. M. Bindon	G. Evans	C. D. Nancarrow
87-88	B. P. Setchell	G. Evans	L. A. Hinds
88-89	B. P. Setchell	J. M. Shelton	L. A. Hinds
89-90	J. C. Rodger	J. M. Shelton	G. B. Martin
90-91	J. C. Rodger	P. L. Kaye	G. B. Martin
91-92	R. J. Scaramuzzi	P. L. Kaye	C. G. Tsonis
92-93	R. J. Scaramuzzi	L. A. Salamonsen	C. G. Tsonis
93-94	A. O. Trounson	L. A. Salamonsen	L. J. Wilton

although the term of the office is now limited to 2 years. The position is nominally an elected one, although there have been elections on only a couple of occasions; one year it was discovered at the last minute that the nominee for Chairman was not eligible because his membership of the Society had lapsed! The post of Secretary has also been very important, and this post was filled most efficiently for the first three years of the Society by the late Jim Goding, whose contributions in those years had a considerable impact. His sudden death at the end of 1972 saddened everyone in the Society, and led to the creation of the Goding Lecture, given every year by a distinguished reproductive biologist, either Australian or from overseas (Table 4). The Society has also been fortunate in the calibre of those who were willing to act as Treasurer, a vital position for the Society. They were assisted by a committee of between 4 and 6 others, with the addition from 1986 of a Postgraduate Student Representative, and from 1993 a member to represent clinical interests. From 1981, there has also been a Program Committee, and there have also been Local Organising Committees, which, either informally or in a more organized fashion, rendered invaluable service in making the local arrangements for each meeting.

The important contributions made by the first two chairmen (Robinson and Emmens) were recognized by their election in 1979 as Honorary or Life Members (the exact title varies in the records), although by a strange oversight they were not notified officially until 1982. It is interesting that in the Society records there is a letter from another senior colleague, complaining that he was still receiving requests for payment of subscriptions,

**Table 4. Goding Lecturers, the titles of their lectures and the reference to the text if published***JRF, Journal of Reproduction and Fertility; AJBS, Australian Journal of Biological Sciences; RFD, Reproduction, Fertility and Development*

Year	Lecturer	Title and reference
1974	I. A. Cumming	The ovine and bovine oestrous cycle ( <i>JRF</i> 43, 583–96).
1975	W. Hansel	The role of follicles in luteolysis.
1976	D. T. Baird	Androstenedione: precursor, prehormone or hormone.
1977	T. D. Glover	The mesonephric duct.
1978	C. H. Tyndale-Biscoe	Embryonic diapause in mammals—aberration or basic strategy.
1979	G. M. H. Waites	Functional relationship of the mammalian testis and epididymis ( <i>AJBS</i> 33, 355–70).
1980	K. P. McNatty	Hormonal control of follicular maturation in the human ovary ( <i>AJBS</i> 34, 249–68).
1981	B. K. Follett	Photoperiodism.
1982	J. Wilson	The endocrine control of male phenotypic development ( <i>AJBS</i> 36, 101–28).
1983	B. M. Bindon	Reproductive biology and endocrinology of prolific sheep genotypes: studies of the Booroola merino ( <i>AJBS</i> 37, 163–89).
1984	A. R. Bellvé	Transformation of the nuclear matrix during mouse spermatogenesis, fertilisation and embryogenesis.
1985	B. P. Setchell	Movement of substances and fluids in the testes ( <i>AJBS</i> 39, 193–207).
1986	W. Hansel	Control of steroidogenesis in theca and granulosa derived cells of the corpus luteum ( <i>AJBS</i> 40, 331–7).
1987	H. G. Burger	Inhibin—one of a new peptide family ( <i>RFD</i> 1, 1–13).
1988	F. W. Bazer	Establishment of pregnancy in sheep and pigs ( <i>RFD</i> 1, 237–42).
1989	G. D. Thorburn	The placenta, prostaglandins and parturition ( <i>RFD</i> 3, 277–94).
1990	R. M. Moor	Driving the meiotic cycle to metaphase.
1991	C. R. Austin	Capacitation and its sequelae ( <i>RFD</i> 4, 459–66).
1992	J. K. Findlay	Local and peripheral regulation of the development of ovarian follicles ( <i>RFD</i> 6, 127–39).
1993	G. C. Liggins	Cortisol: a fetal hormone for all seasons ( <i>RFD</i> 6, 141–50).
1994	I. Huhtaniemi	Molecular aspects of the ontogeny of the mammalian pituitary-gonadal axis ( <i>RFD</i> 7, 1025–35).

**Table 5. Sponsored lectures***RFD, Reproduction, Fertility and Development*

Meat Research Corporation Lecturers		
1991	R. B. Heap	Antibodies, implantation and embryo survival (R. B. Heap, M. J. Taussig, M.-W. Wang, and A. Whyte; <i>RFD</i> 4, 467–80, 1992).
1992	R. P. Amann	The epididymis and sperm maturation a perspective (R. P. Amman, R. H. Hammerstedt and D. N. R. Veeramachaneni; <i>RFD</i> 5, 361–81, 1993).
1993	Y. Combarrous	Structure-function relationships and mechanism of action of pituitary and placental gonadotrophins (F. Apparailly, V. Laurent-Cadoret, F. Lecompte, M. Chopineau, M.-C. Maurel, F. Guillou and Y. Combarrous; <i>RFD</i> 6, 157–63).
1994	W. W. Thatcher	Control and management of ovarian follicles in cattle to optimize fertility.
Serono Lecturers		
1990	R. S. Swerdloff	Androgens in the male: new uses, old abuses.
1991	A. H. Handyside	Abnormalities of human preimplantation development <i>in vitro</i> ( <i>RFD</i> 4, 481–95, 1992).
1992	J. S. Hunt	Expression and regulation of the tumour necrosis factor- $\alpha$ gene in the female reproductive tract. ( <i>RFD</i> 5, 141–53, 1993).

although he had been elected as a Life Member. It turned out that he had been awarded a Life Membership of another Society, not the ASRB.

A Goding Lecture has been given each year since 1974, and usually alternates between a local and an overseas speaker selected by the Committee. Bill Hansel is so far unique in having given two! One overseas speaker selected declined the invitation when the Society was not willing to pay the fare of the speaker's 16 year-old child as well. Since 1991, the Meat Research Corporation (known in 1991 as the Australian Meat and

Livestock Research and Development Corporation) have also sponsored each year a visiting lecturer from overseas (Table 5) and Serono sponsored an overseas lecturer with a clinical emphasis from 1990 to 1992 (Table 5). The Society played a pivotal role in the organization of the international conference on Reproduction and Evolution in Canberra in 1976 as the Fourth International Symposium on Comparative Biology of Reproduction, in collaboration with the Society for the Study of Fertility and the Australian Academy of Sciences. This meeting was an important new venture for the Society, and resulted

Table 6. Symposia organized by ASRB

Year	Topic and Speakers
Annual Meetings	
1979	Lactation: P. E. Hartmann, I. R. Falconer, R. G. Whitehead & D. L. Watson,
1980	Ovarian Follicle: J. K. Findlay, J. D. O'Shea, R. J. Scaramuzzi & J. M. Hammond.
	<i>In Vitro</i> Fertilization: D. Saunders, A. O. Trounson & A. Lopata.
1981	Fetal Growth and Development: J. Robinson, J. Maloney, G. C. Liggins & G. D. Thorburn.
1982	Male Reproductive Endocrinology: J. B. Kerr, D. M. deKretser, B. P. Setchell & D. E. Brooks.
1983	Embryo-Maternal Relations: R. B. Heap, H. Morton, T. G. Kennedy & J. P. Hearn.
1984	Biology of Reproduction: A. R. Bellvé, F. Labrie & H. G. Burger.
	Biotechnology in Reproduction: G. Tregear, C. D. Nancarrow, J. M. Shelton & J. Barnes.
1985	Prospects for Controlled Sheep Breeding—a Tribute to T. J. Robinson: R. Ortavant, N. W. Moore, D. R. Lindsay, R. J. Scaramuzzi, T. J. Smith & T. J. Robinson.
1988	Immunology of Reproduction: W. D. Billington, S. Isojima & W. F. Hendry ( <i>RFD</i> 1, 183–222, 1989).
1989	Local Regulators of Gonadal Functions: J. K. Findlay, G. P. Risbridger, D. M. de Kretser, M. K. Skinner, B. T. Pickering, M. P. Hedger, R. J. Rodgers & B. P. Setchell ( <i>RFD</i> 2(3), 1990).
1991	Growth Factors in Early Embryonic Development: R. G. Wales, G. A. Schultz, P. L. Kaye, J. P. Ryan, A. L. Pike, H. Morton, F. M. Clarke, S. A. Robertson & R. C. Fry ( <i>RFD</i> 4(4), 1992).
Bicentennial Symposium, Canberra	
1988	Fertility Regulation in Man, Native Mammals and Domestic Livestock: W. R. Jones, D. M. de Kretser, A. O. Trounson, C. H. Tyndale-Biscoe, L. Selwood, L. Martin, D. R. Lindsay, R. J. Scaramuzzi & J. N. Shelton.

in a much-quoted publication in 1977. In 1984, ASRB, with the Australian Society for Animal Production and the Australian Wool Corporation, organized a meeting at Erskine House, Lorne, on Reproduction in Sheep, the proceedings of which were published as 'Reproduction in Sheep' (edited by D. R. Lindsay and D. T. Pearce), jointly by the Australian Academy of Sciences and the Wool Corporation. ASRB has been one of the sponsors of two Boden Conferences, the first in February 1986 on 'Lactation and Physiological Development of the Young Marsupial' and the second in February 1994 on 'Immunological Control of Fertility: From Gametes to Gonads'.

The Society's Annual Meetings also included a number of symposia (Table 6), and Special Lectures of longer than the normal 15 minutes were arranged for selected visitors from overseas or for special reasons (Table 7). In March 1983, it sponsored a workshop at Erskine House, Lorne, on the Endometrium. In February 1988, as part of the bicentennial celebrations, ASRB in conjunction with the Australian Society for Experimental Biology Centennial Meeting, held a symposium in Canberra on Fertility Regulation in Man, Native Mammals and

Domestic Livestock. From 1989, a number of State-of-the-Art lectures have been arranged, usually given by young scientists active in interesting fields, and the texts of a number of these talks have been published as review articles in the journal *Reproduction, Fertility and Development*, which is now the official journal of ASRB. Since 1981, the Society has made a Junior Scientist Award each year to the person under 30 years of age who presented the best oral paper or poster. The age limit was raised in 1991 to 35, and from that time 6 finalists were selected on the basis of the submitted abstracts and invited to present a paper orally in a single session at which the winner was chosen. Serono agreed at this time to donate a prize of \$500 annually, with a further \$1500 available for travel to an international meeting to present the winner's work, or for relevant collaborative experience.

From the start, it has been the policy of the Society to encourage members interested in reproduction in humans and in native and exotic animals as well as in farm animals. The Society had arranged several joint meetings with the Australian Obstetrics and Gynaecological Research Society, and some negotiations were under way for closer

Table 7. State of the Art and Special Lectures

Year	Lecturers
State of the Art	
1989	G. P. Risbridger; C. O'Neill; G. B. Martin; and R. J. Rodgers
1990	J. Owens; M. Parvinen; S. Maddocks; J. D. Curlewis; and G. Evans
1991	L. Salamonsen; W. Tilley; B. K. Campbell; and G. Shaw
1992	B. J. Waddell; G. E. O'Brien; P. J. Rathjen; and D. J. Handelsman
1993	J. M. Hutson; J. F. Cockrem; and L. J. Wilton
Special	
1972	J. M. Bedford; C. Thibault; A. V. Nalbandov; E. C. Amoroso; and R. Eliasson
1974	C. R. Austin
1975	W. D. O'Dell; and B. P. Setchell
1979	A. K. Christensen
1991	C. H. Tyndale-Biscoe; and S. Carroll
1993	P. M. Wassarman.

Table 8. Junior Scientist Awards of the ASRB

Year	Winner	Title of paper
1981	P. J. Lutjen	Biochemical and ultrastructural studies of normal and hostile cervical mucus.
1982	R. J. Rodgers	<i>In vitro</i> synthesis of progesterone by small and large ovine luteal cells.
	C. B. Gow	Plasma luteinizing hormone levels during the ovulatory cycle of Australorp and White Leghorn hens selected for shorter time intervals between eggs.
1983	S. P. Flaherty	Formation of the ventral hooks on the sperm head of the plains mouse, <i>Pseudomys australis</i> .
1984	C. O'Neill	Maternal recognition of pregnancy prior to implantation.
1985	B. J. Waddell	Ovarian secretion of progestins during late pregnancy in the rat.
1986	L. J. Wilton	Viability of mouse embryos and blastomeres following biopsy of a single cell.
1987	A. Stojanoff	Phospholipids in isolated guinea pig sperm outer acrosomal membrane and plasma membrane before and after capacitation <i>in vitro</i> .
1988	M. B. Harvey	Anabolic effects of insulin on mouse blastocysts are mediated via insulin receptors.
1989	A. H. Torney	Levels of bio- and immunoactive inhibin in bovine ovaries and testis throughout fetal life.
1990	H. Massa	Ovarian blood flow and vascular resistance changes over pregnancy and during manipulation of the dual arterial supply in the rat.
1991	D. K. Gardner	Nutrient uptake by the preimplantation sheep embryo.
1992	S. W. Walkden-Brown	Are seasonal changes in testicular size in cashmere bucks driven by changes in LH secretion?
1993	C. M. Markey	Morphological damage to the ram testis and epididymis following ischaemia: possible implications in male infertility.
1994	M. J. Hötzel	Nutritional effects on testicular growth and LH and FSH secretion in Suffolk and Merino rams during the breeding and the non-breeding season.

links, when a decision was taken abruptly by a group of clinicians to start the Fertility Society of Australia (FSA) in 1982. There is no doubt that there was some antagonism between clinicians and experimentalists in ASRB, with the latter critical of the standard of some of the work presented by the clinicians, and the former feeling that the society was dominated by the agriculturalists and did not play a strong enough political role or provide the educational programme wanted by most clinicians. Nevertheless, it was a cause for considerable regret among a large section of the ASRB membership that a single society could not be formed to cover the interests of both groups. However, many of our members are also members of the FSA, and the two societies have maintained good relations, holding joint meetings on several occasions. It is my personal view that it would be highly desirable for the two Societies to amalgamate

in some way, but the decision whether or not to do so will have to be made by others. It is interesting that the proportion of papers presented at the annual meetings of ASRB has maintained over the 25 years of the existence of the Society approximately the same distribution among the four sections, with between 50 and 60% reporting work on farm animals, and about 15% on humans & other primates, 15% on and native & exotic animals and about 20% on laboratory rodents.

In summary then, I had no idea when we organized the inaugural meeting in 1968 that the infant Society would grow into such a large and dynamic organization. It is to be hoped that the next period will be as successful as the first 25 years.

Manuscript received 10 November 1994; accepted 15 February 1995