

# President's Page

## A TIME TO REMEMBER

### FRIENDS/COLLEAGUES

In this, my first communication, I wish to share with you the sense of honor and pride associated with the privilege of serving as your president. I begin this special millennial tour of duty with a sense of enthusiasm and a strong desire to maintain and enhance the fundamental premises of our society.

This may be the appropriate time to thank Dr. Joe Leigh Simpson, and to acknowledge his dynamic leadership and the multiple contributions he made during his year in office. Further thanks go to the too-numerous-to-mention committee members and societal representatives whose contributions represent a pure labor of love. We would not be where we are without them.

Unlike some other societies, our mission is crystal clear. After all, we are about the reproductive sciences be they basic, translational or clinical. We are also about advocating research, promoting scholarship, and maintaining the highest standards possible.

This year stands out by the simple fact that it straddles the millennial juncture. I consider myself extraordinarily lucky to be in a position to serve as your president during the year 2000, the year in which the SGI will be 47 years young. Thus, someone will be incredibly lucky to preside over the society in the year 2003 at which time we will be celebrating our 50th anniversary. But we need not wait until then. Most of us recognize that we live in extraordinary times. Science is virtually exploding, and the information age is upon us with unimaginable fury. The possibilities are truly staggering and perhaps limitless. We, on our part, must embrace these times. We must also recognize that the reproductive sciences are there for the journey, and that our sphere of interest will certainly be a beneficiary of the brainstorms now whirling all around us. Of course, all of this will have a profound impact on both the science and practice of reproductive medicine.

In recognition of this special year and the special Annual Meeting ahead of us. I propose that the theme we coalesce around be "A millennial milestone for reproductive sciences: celebrating the promise". This should set the tone for what is both a time of reckoning and a time of looking forward with

excitement and enthusiasm. The National Institutes of Health is enjoying an all time funding high, and the academic community of Obstetrics and Gynecology is truly flush for the first time, with funds to support aspiring young physicians—those who are committed to a career in academic Obstetrics and Gynecology. Moreover, our society is financially sound due to careful management by many.

As we think ahead towards the year 2000 Annual Meeting, I want you to know that the program committee and myself are dedicated to making this Annual Meeting be like no other. The year 2000 Annual Meeting will be one to remember. From the opening reception to the closing sessions, the year 2000 Annual Meeting should be special. More emphasis will be placed on forward-looking plenary presentations by luminaries of the day in the spirit of reflection as to where we are and where we are going. We will be taking some but not too many sentimental journeys into our past, but most importantly, we will try to highlight our present accomplishments and the many ones which still lie ahead.

I also believe that the millennial circumstance requires that we question some of our past practices and perhaps reevaluate them. In that context, renewed attention will be paid to the philosophy that the SGI is an Annual Meeting. It may well be time to reach beyond. We will also revisit the possibility of reversing some of the fragmentation which characterize our specialty and our subspecialties as exemplified by the multitude of academic societies. Moreover, we will reexamine the time-honored banquet, the Saturday program, and maybe even our very name. After all, do we truly want to be known as the Society for Gynecologic Investigation? Clearly, we also have a profound interest in gestation-related physiology and pathophysiology not to mention in new frontiers that were not there when the original name was coined. To explore this challenge, a blue ribbon committee chaired by Robert B. Jaffe, MD and replete with past and future presidents of the society, will provide me with recommendations as to this important issue.

In closing, I will simply say: It will be grand. I also wish you, somewhat prematurely, a fine Spring and a great Summer. Until we meet again over these pages.

*Eli Y. Adashi, MD*  
President 1999–2000