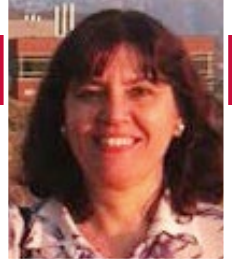


PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *Maria Christina W. Avellar, PhD*



Dear Members of the ASA,

It is with great humility that I write this column, my first as President of the ASA. I attended my first ASA Annual Meeting in Raleigh, North Carolina, in 1995 as a postdoctoral fellow in Dr. Frank French's laboratory at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Since then, the ASA has been a vibrant, stimulating and inclusive society for me, with a special network of relationships among researchers and friends with interests in all facets of andrology; they have in several ways given support and encouragement to my professional efforts throughout these years. It is therefore truly a privilege to have the opportunity to serve this organization and our members as President for the year 2021-2022.

Looking back, this past year of 2020-2021 has been both rewarding and pivotal for me due to the opportunity to participate actively in the planning and implementation of initiatives led by Michael Palladino, PhD as ASA President. With a steady hand and genuine care, he has steered us through the many unpredictable, shifting challenges of this past year. I owe him my sincere appreciation for the steady foundation on which to build for this coming year. We will continue to benefit from Michael's leadership and dedication in the role of current Immediate Past President, Chair of the Nominating Committee, as well as through his work with the Program Committee for the organization of the ASA Annual Meeting to be held in La Jolla, CA, in 2022.

Also, due to the daily challenges caused by a globally turbulent year, we all owe special thanks to George Gerton, PhD, who completed his leadership cycle this past year as Immediate Past President and Chair of the Nominating Committee. Directions were taken to move the society forward in successfully creating a new chapter in our history; the Annual Meeting held in April was the first totally online meeting for the ASA! Under George's leadership, the Program Co-Chairs and all colleagues involved did a wonderful job, a collectively stellar performance in creating our digital footprint. I would also like to express my gratitude to the Officers and Committee Chairs/Members for this past year. Finally, I would like say a special thanks to Sue O'Sullivan and staff team from Veritas, the ASA's management company partner; I have enjoyed a very good start to our relationship over this past year and I am optimistic for continuing strength and effectiveness as we move forward together.

At the Business Meeting, held by Zoom conference on April 23th, we acknowledged the contributions of our outgoing Board members, Michael Eisenberg, MD, James Hotalig, MD, Polina Lishko, PhD, and Sergey I. Moskovtsev, MD, PhD, and the trainee representative Maxwell Edmonds, BS, BA, as well as Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs including Erma Drobnis, MD, Aleksander Yatsenko, MD, Elizabeth Snyder, PhD, and David Karabinus, MD, PhD. Many of these colleagues are continuing in other roles within the ASA and we most certainly appreciate their ongoing leadership and experience.

We welcome Directors Elect Jennifer R. Hughes, PhD, Kyle Orwig, PhD, Hooman Sadri, MD, PhD, and Alexander Ytsenko, MD, PhD, and Nominating Committee Members Dolores Lamb, PhD and Pablo Visconti, PhD, and Trainee Representative Darya Tourzani, BS.



Jennifer R. Hughes, PhD
Director



Kyle Orwig, PhD
Director



Hooman Sadri, MD, PhD
Director



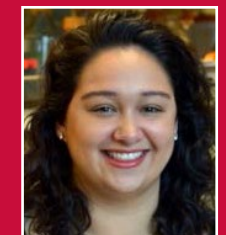
Alexander Yatsenko, MD, PhD
Director



Dolores Lamb, PhD
Committee Member



Pablo Visconti, PhD
Committee Member



Darya Tourzani, BS
Trainee Representative

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *continued*

Turning to the opportunities that we have ahead of us — What can we expect for 2021-2022? Looking ahead, I would like briefly to touch on the four priorities that I have outlined to guide my Presidential term during this coming year of 2021-2022. My first priority relates to the continued streamlining of our governance structure, with flexible and instrumental guidelines that can facilitate and encourage more productive pathways for our activities and work.

The second priority is to continue strengthening our international collaborative partnerships with other andrology societies and related organizations. We will continue to build on this process as we turn our vision to the 2025 International Conference on Andrology (2025 ICA), i.e., the ASA and International Society of Andrology (ISA) combined meeting which will be held in April 2025 in Washington DC; it will also mark the celebration of the ASA's 50th anniversary.

Next, I believe our most prudent approach in addressing diversity and inclusivity is to begin with clear foundational definitions as we use these terms in the ASA. Thus, the third priority is to enhance strategies and mechanisms to consider how to actively broaden the perspective of these in all we do within the society. By having clear definitions of our guidelines and goals, we are more likely to achieve stronger outcomes for all of our membership, but especially for the underrepresented groups within our society.

Moving forward in the society's mission to advance discovery and education in andrology beyond just the holding of our flagship Annual Meeting, the fourth priority this year will focus on paying more attention to opportunities for educational initiatives, as educationally-focused efforts can leverage the digital skill sets we all have been developing this past year. We can use these packaging and presentation skills, combined with the enormous talents of our ASA membership, to showcase the materials we have already been producing individually on our own this past year. By taking advantage of the depth of our understanding in our own subject area – Andrology – we can digitally reach out not only to others in andrology but also to other related areas of science with the goal of educating scientists, clinicians and the general public at large regarding foundational topics and key issues important to our discipline. We will thereby lay a foundation to establish a calendar of educational initiatives throughout the year that can increase our reach and coverage. The idea is to be more fully engaged through our communications across all channels - in-person, social media, and other outlets. Please, keep an eye out for updates to our new website and announcements regarding education-related member opportunities!

Lastly, I would like to express that I am extremely honored to serve in this capacity and look forward to working with Mark Sigman, MD, ASA Vice-President, my fellow ASA Officers, the Board of Directors, Committee leaders and members, and with Veritas to ensure a productive and secure future for our organization in an exercise of true teamwork.

As we look to this next year, I am optimistic that as things begin to "open up" we can bring the skills, patience and resolve that we all have had to develop this last year and add these elements to our enthusiasm and determination to accomplish great things in the emerging "new normal".

I would like to close by expressing how especially grateful I am to all of our valuable members in the ASA. Thank you for your support and continued dedication to the ASA. To our new members, welcome! As ASA President, it's important that I hear from all of you with comments and suggestions of how we can better serve your needs within this organization. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly at any time. We will keep in touch with all of you throughout the year with updates and messages on new developments that are important to the society and its members.

Yours truly,

Maria Christina
President 2021-2022

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS AMENDMENTS

ASA Active members were recently asked to vote on proposed revisions to our Constitution and our Bylaws. We are pleased to report that the revisions were very well received and approved by a large majority (94-100% in favor).

We invite you to read the revised Constitution and Bylaws, which are now available on the ASA website www.andrologysociety.org/bylaws/

If you have any comments and suggestions, please don't hesitate to contact the Constitution and Bylaws committee.

Jacques Tremblay and Peter Liu
Co-Chairs of the ASA Constitution and Bylaws committee

ISBA FOUNDATION - 2021 FELLOWSHIPS

With the aim of promoting and allowing young and talented researchers to do great science, IBSA Foundation offers 6 fellowships of € 30,000 in the following research fields: dermatology, endocrinology, fertility and urology, orthopaedics and rheumatology, pain medicine and for the 2021 special edition "regenerative medicine." Applicants can be from any nationality and the proposal deadline is December 31, 2021.

GUDMAP JAMBOREE

REGISTRATION FOR THE GUDMAP JAMBOREE ON AUGUST 23 & 24 IS NOW OPEN ON THE NEW GUDMAP WEBSITE!

The GenitoUrinary Development Molecular Anatomy Project (GUDMAP) was established fifteen years ago to create a detailed molecular map of genitourinary tract development. In recognition of this milestone, this symposium will celebrate GUDMAP accomplishments and discuss the future directions of GUDMAP and its data resources.

We invite all researchers, clinicians, and scientists to join this open celebration (via Zoom). This event will feature invited talks from external speakers, presentations from GUDMAP investigators showcasing their biomedical research and progress, breakout groups and discussions focused on key consortia topics (e.g., bioinformatics, data quality), demonstrations of the tools available in the GUDMAP Hub that enable discovery by broader communities, posters presentations from young investigators, and more.

You can find more details and register on our event page: <https://www.gudmap.org/events/2021-gudmap-jamboree/>

There is also a call for poster abstracts - just indicate your interest on the registration form and we'll send you full poster submission guidelines by June 25th. Abstracts will be due July 20th.

VIRTUAL

Have **NEWS** or **FEEDBACK** that you would like to share with the ASA?
Email us at Newsletter@andrologysociety.org

ANDROLOGY AWARD 2020

It is with great pleasure that we announce the winner of the eighth annual Andrology Award honoring the best manuscript published in *Andrology* during the year 2020. The manuscript's title is "Sequence Analysis of 37 Candidate Genes for Male Infertility: Challenges in Variant Assessment and Validating Genes", by T.F. Araujo, C. Friedrich, *et al*, *Andrology*, 8(2):434-441. The work stems from a collaboration between the Institute of Reproductive Genetics, University of Münster, Germany, the Center of Reproductive Medicine and Andrology, Münster University Hospital, and the Department of Genetics, Ribeirão Preto Medical School, University of São Paulo, Brazil. The corresponding author is Dr. Corinna Friedrich, who is also co-first author with Dr. Araujo. For this study, the team performed whole-exome sequencing of genomic DNA isolated from the blood of patients with non-obstructive azoospermia. Based on a systematic review of monogenic causes of male infertility, they selected and analyzed a set of 37 genes related to azoospermia, Sertoli-cell-only syndrome and spermatogenic arrest. The identified variants were confirmed by Sanger sequencing, and their functional consequence predicted by *in silico* analysis. By rationally selecting a set of genes, the team could detect rare pathogenic variants and provided strong evidence that these specific mutations are associated with azoospermia.

The manuscript was chosen by the Board of Associate Editors among papers suggested by the Editors-In-Chief (M. Simoni and M.C. Hofmann). The work was selected due to its impact, creativity, style, and overall excellence. Award winning manuscripts are announced each year at the alternating annual meetings of the American Society of Andrology (ASA) and the European Academy of Andrology (EAA). We emphasize that the selection of one 'award' manuscript was very difficult because numerous worthy manuscripts were published. Therefore, we also honor the outstanding runner-up manuscripts for 2020, as listed below in random order:

"A Comparative Analysis of Human Adult Testicular Interstitial Cells Populations Expressing Stem Leydig Cell Markers in the Interstitium, Vasculature and Peritubular Layer" J. Eliveld *et al*, *Andrology*, 8(5): 1265-1276, 2020

"Therapeutic Use of Pulsed Electromagnetic Field Therapy Reduces Prostate Volume and Lower Urinary Tract Symptoms in Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia" M. Tenuta*, M.G. Tarsitano* *et al*, *Andrology*, 8(5): 1076-1085, 2020.
*co-first authors

"Notch Signaling Regulates Nuclear Androgen Receptor AR and Membrane Androgen Receptor ZIP9 in mouse Sertoli cells" A. Kaminska *et al*, *Andrology*, 8(2): 457-472, 2020

"Cholesterol Accumulation, Lipid Droplet Formation, and Steroid Production in Leydig Cells: Role of Translocator Protein (18-kDa)" J.-Y. Chung *et al*, *Andrology*, 8(3): 719-730, 2020

"Differential Gene Expression Profiles of Human Efferent Ducts and Proximal Epididymis" C. Légaré and R. Sullivan, *Andrology*, 8(3): 625-636, 2020

"Lycopene Attenuates Chronic Prostatitis/Chronic Pelvic Pain Syndrome by Inhibiting Oxidative Stress and Inflammation Via the Interaction of NF-κB, MAPKs, and Nrf2 Signaling Pathways in Rats" Q. Xing *et al*, *Andrology*, 8(3): 747-755, 2020

We hope that this award not only gives recognition to the high quality of the 'award' manuscript, but also highlights the excellent quality of manuscripts published in *Andrology*. We sincerely thank you for making *Andrology* a leader of the field.

MATTHEW P. HARDY YOUNG ANDROLOGIST AWARD

Sponsored by the Matthew P. Hardy Endowment Fund

CLÉMENCE BELLEANNÉE, PhD | CRCHUQ-Université Laval



This annual award is bestowed upon an Active Member of the American Society of Andrology who, at the time of the award, is less than forty-five (45) years of age and who has made significant contributions to the field of Andrology.

Clémence Belleannée, Ph.D., is Associate Professor in the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproduction at Université Laval, and has been a researcher at the CHU de Quebec Research Center, Canada since 2014. She received the Matthew P. Hardy Young Andrologist Award in 2021 from the American Society of Andrology. After obtaining her Ph.D in France in 2007, Dr. Belleannée completed two post-doctoral fellowships, one at the Université Laval and the other at Harvard Medical School, where she received the Epithelial Transport Group Young Investigator Award. As an independent investigator, her research is centered on the study of key intercellular interplays that are essential to epididymal functions and sperm maturation, two processes whose impairment triggers male infertility. Her ultimate goal is to gain further knowledge of the fundamental mechanisms that sustain proper sperm maturation and to identify key targets for the development of diagnostic tools and non-hormonal male contraceptives. Specifically, Dr. Belleannée's research program, funded by the Canadian and Quebec agencies NSERC and FRQS, was the first to demonstrate that extracellular vesicles secreted by the epididymis carry microRNAs, and thus serve as vectors of communication between somatic cells (Belleannée et al. PloS One 2012; Belleannée et al. Biol. Reprod. 2013; Belleannée et al. Hum. Reprod. 2013; Belleannée, Andrology, 2015; Jerczynski et al., PLoSOne, 2016). The source of these epididymal vesicles, called epididymosomes, their degree of heterogeneity, and their level of selectivity towards recipient cells remain uncharacterized, and her laboratory has developed new research models to answer these key questions. Her groundbreaking findings initiated a new line

of research now being exploited by several laboratories around the world. More recently, her research group was the first to reveal that primary cilia are mechanical-sensory organelles that make direct contact with the lumen of the epididymis at the prepubertal stage. These recent discoveries (Bernet et al. Human Reproduction, 2018; Girardet et al. Andrology, 2019; Girardet et al. FASEB J, 2020) open up new avenues for understanding the mechanisms by which epithelial cells contribute to the maturation of spermatozoa in the epididymis. Despite being in the early stages of her career, Dr. Belleannée secured major operating grants from federal and provincial Canadian organizations, was awarded a salary grant, and has published her work in respected peer-reviewed journals. Since 2018, she has lectured at the Frontiers in Reproduction course held at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, MA, and in 2020, she was appointed co-Director of the Centre for Research in Reproduction, Development and Intergenerational Health (CRDSI) - Université Laval, Quebec, Canada.

In recognition of her exceptional clinical and research achievements in the field of Andrology in a budding career, and her service to the society, the American Society of Andrology is pleased to present the Matthew P. Hardy Young Andrologist Award to Dr. Clémence Belleannée.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Sponsored by the ASA Past Presidents Endowment Fund

PATRICIA S. CUASNICU, PhD | Instituto de Biología y Medicina Experimental



Patricia S. Cuasnicu, Ph.D., is Director of the Laboratory on Molecular Mechanisms of Fertilization at the Institute of Biology and Experimental Medicine (IBYME) in Argentina. Dr Cuasnicú obtained her PhD degree in Biological Chemistry from the University of Buenos Aires, Argentina in 1983 and after that she obtained Fogarty International Fellowship from the National Institutes of Health (US) to conduct postdoctoral studies at Cornell University- Medical Center in New York with Dr. Bedford. In 1987, she returned to Argentina to establish her own laboratory at the Institute of Biology and Experimental Medicine in Buenos Aires where she has been studying the molecular mechanisms of sperm maturation in the epididymis. She has mentored around 55 students, has 90 publications in the field, 300 presentations and 65 invitations at international meetings. Her research on the role of cysteine-rich proteins in sperm physiology has produced ground-breaking results as testified by numerous publications in high-impact journals.

Dr Cuasnicú has a long history of service inside and outside of the ASA. She was a member of the Steering Committee of the Task Force on Male Fertility of the WHO (1989-1995), was a member of the Technical and Advisory Committee of CONRAD, Washington, USA (1995 – 2008) and has been Executive Director of PLISSER (Latino American Program of Research in Sexual and Reproductive Health since 2009).

Since 2003, she has served as Chair of the International Liaison Committee and Program Committee of ASA. In this role, she organized the International Lecture session and through her own initiative, persistence, and hard work, she obtained continuous external funding from the Lalor Foundation and the International Society of Andrology. With these funds, she institutionalized in our society the “International Travel Awards”, which have been essential to ensure the participation of prominent international researchers in our Society and the participation of trainees from all over the world. Additionally, she was an elected member of the ASA Executive Board of Directors from 2006 to 2009. She is also a strong advocate of the role that women scientists play in this Society and chaired the Women in Andrology Committee in 2009–2010. She has also served as an Editorial Board member of *Andrology* (1998-2000, 2012–2015), Associate Editor of the *Journal of Andrology* (2000-2011), and Associate Editor of *Andrology* (2015-present).

In recognition of her extraordinary service to the American Society of Andrology, and to the field of Andrology in general, her dedication to and exceptional leadership of the *Andrology* journal, and her strong commitment to training the next generation of Andrologists, the American Society of Andrology is pleased to present the Distinguished Service Award to Dr. Patricia Cuasnicu.

DISTINGUISHED ANDROLOGIST AWARD

Sponsored by the Eugenia Rosenberg Endowment Fund

R. JOHN AITKEN, PhD | University of Newcastle



Dr. Aitken has spent a lifetime studying the cell biology of mammalian spermatozoa and the role of defective sperm function in the etiology of male infertility. He has pioneered the concept that oxidative stress significantly impedes the functional competence of spermatozoa and was the first to demonstrate that the excessive generation of reactive oxygen species contributes to infertility in our own species. He has played a leading role in identifying the sources of these toxic metabolites, their role in triggering peroxidation of the sperm plasma membrane and the way in which aldehydes generated during this process contribute to the loss of sperm function. He has also highlighted the importance of free radical attack in the modification and destabilization of sperm DNA and the role that such damage plays in defining the mutational load subsequently carried by the progeny. His group has recently defined the genomic domains in spermatozoa that are vulnerable to such attack and emphasized the connection between oxidative damage to these domains and the appearance of pathology in the offspring.

In addition to his extensive publications revealing the role of oxidative stress in the etiology of defective sperm function, he has made fundamental discoveries relating to other aspects of sperm cell biology. With colleagues Brett Nixon and Mark Baker, Dr. Aitken has unravelled novel pathways involved in both sperm viability and sperm-egg recognition. Dr. Aitken was also instrumental in promoting the use of proteomics as a tool to understand the fundamentals of sperm biology, publishing the first extensive proteomic inventories for human, rat and mouse spermatozoa that have been used as a resource by the field for several years. With colleague Zamira Gibb, Dr. Aitken has extended his research into domestic animals, developing novel methods for the selection, assessment and long-term storage of equine and bovine spermatozoa that are now being commercialized by the German veterinary company, Minitübe.

Dr. Aitken's individual research contributions are presented in over 650 books, book chapters and journal articles that have been cited around 50,000 times, generating an h-index of 115, with his top cited articles referenced over 1000 times. He has built a Priority Research Centre in Reproductive Science at the University of Newcastle that has a strong focus on Andrology and mentored a new generation of scientists with a committed interest in this field. Dr. Aitken has personally supervised 43 PhD students (9 current) and brought in more than \$50 million in research funding. With colleagues from the University of Queensland, University of Melbourne and Monash University he also established and Directed an ARC Centre of Excellence in Biotechnology and Development that, again, had a strong emphasis on andrology.

Dr. Aitken has served our discipline as President of the International Society of Andrology, as a member of the editorial boards of several andrology journals (Journal of Andrology, Asian Journal of Andrology, Basic and Clinical Andrology) and as Chair of a WHO task force dealing with male fertility regulation – a theme that continues today through an international network of collaborations involving companies and funding agencies working in this area including Eudaemon, Ferring Pharmaceuticals and the Found Animals Foundation.

He is a member of several prestigious learned societies such as the Royal Society of Edinburgh, the Australian Academy of Science and the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences.

In recognition of his exceptional scientific contributions to the field of Andrology, outstanding leadership in the ASA and broader scientific community, and commitment to advancement of science in male reproductive health, the American Society of Andrology is pleased to award its highest honor, the Distinguished Andrologist Award to Dr. John Aitken.

**AMERICAN SOCIETY OF ANDROLOGY
RICHARD D. AMELAR, MD ENDOWMENT FUND ESTABLISHED**

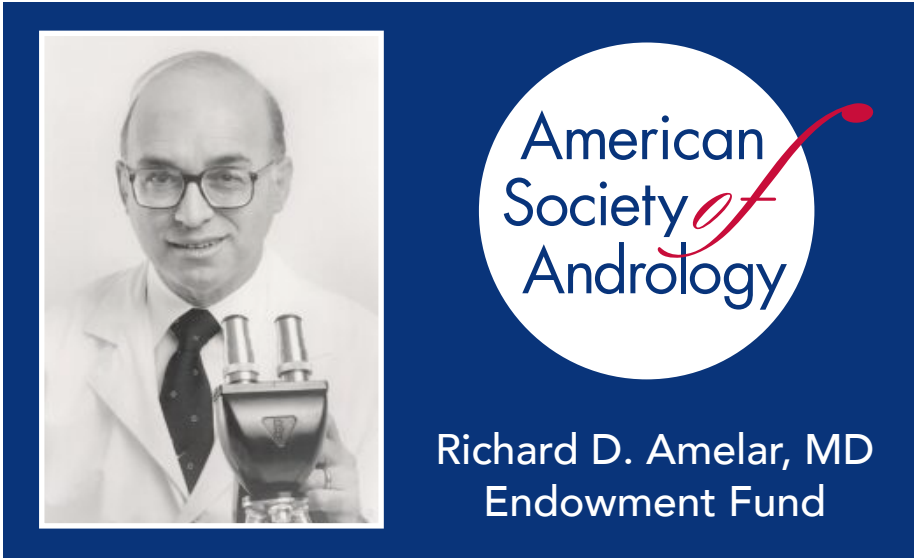
The American Society of Andrology is proud to announce the establishment of the “Richard D. Amelar, MD, Annual Lectureship,” in honor of Dr. Amelar and his legendary contributions to andrology. The inaugural Amelar Lecture will be delivered at the next Annual Meeting of the ASA, in La Jolla, California. The ASA invites you to contribute to the Richard D. Amelar, MD, Endowment.

Dr. Amelar was a pioneer in making male infertility as important as female infertility. He passed away on September 22, 2020, at the age of 93, at his home in New York City.

A longtime Clinical Professor of Urology at New York University School of Medicine, Dr. Amelar began his work in male infertility while a resident in urology at the French Hospital in New York City (1951-1954), under the tutelage of Robert Hotchkiss, MD, Professor of Urology at New York University - Bellevue Medical Center, and John MacLeod, PhD, Director of Laboratories, Margaret Sanger Research Bureau. At the time, Dr. Hotchkiss’s textbook, *Fertility in Men*, published in 1944, was the only one available.

Today, “Dr. Amelar’s publications on the causes of male infertility are the basis of our understanding of this condition,” writes Peter Schlegel, MD. Dr. Amelar’s robust clinical practice, adds Dr. Schlegel, enabled him to document “practical observations on nearly every facet of evaluation and treatment” of male infertility, notably, the benefits of clinical varicocele repair.

The Amelar Lectureship will help ensure, in the words of Dr. Susan Rothmann (ASA Past President) — to whom Dr. Amelar was a generous and supportive mentor — that future generations of andrologists will “understand who did build their professional fire, and they can be grateful they can still feel its warmth.”



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MAY 7-10, 2022

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