



## Preface

### IJIR Supplement Editor and SSI Meeting Co-Chair's Comments:

In 1994, the Society for the Study of Impotence, Inc. was formed with the purpose to promote, encourage and support the highest standards of practice, research, education and ethics in the study of human sexual function and dysfunction. For the first six years, this noble and worthwhile cause has been accomplished independent of commercial and industrial sources of financial support. Since its inception, the only sources of revenue for the Society for the Study of Impotence Inc. have been membership dues. Guided by this principle, the Society has successfully achieved its goal to provide an open forum for the free exchange and discussion of new ideas, thoughts and concepts in the field of sexual medicine. The last six sessions at the American Urological Association annual convention have been wonderful and excellent venues for the presentation of basic science and clinical research data on sexual dysfunction. During the specific hours of the meeting of the Society at the AUA, no other impotence sessions are scheduled and the last several meetings have attracted approximately 1000 individuals. The Society for the Study of Impotence, Inc., maintains an additional watchdog role in the field of sexual dysfunction. Through its active Health Policy Committee, the Society's important and unique role is to identify possibly dishonest, misleading or fraudulent advertising and mailing in the field of sexual medicine.

In 1998, the Executive Committee of the Society for the Study of Impotence, Inc., voted to accept unrestricted educational grants. This new policy change in the Society was achieved with lengthy and often emotional discussion. This procedural alteration will not affect the goals or principles of the Society in any manner. The Society will maintain its high standards and preserve its role as a forum for interchange of information in the field of sexual medicine. The acceptance of unrestricted educational grants will, however, allow our Society to grow.

The Society for the Study of Impotence, Inc. will hold, for the first time, an educational meeting for its members outside of the annual American Urological Association convention. This first meeting, to be held in Boston, October 1–3, 1999, will consist of an exceptional mix of scientific information, includ-

ing six state of the art lectures, 32 original scientific papers and 61 poster presentations, combined with friendly social activities. A variety of topics relating to male and female sexual function and dysfunction will be highlighted. There will be four prize essay awards including clinical and research investigation in male and female sexual dysfunction. A total of 15 SSI members were dedicated to the abstract and prize essay review committee; a total of 32 SSI members will be moderators. Meeting participants will span the ages and practice habits of the SSI membership. The meeting venue will be the Boston University main campus 'on the Charles River' in the heart of downtown Boston.

In summary, this is an especially interesting moment in the dynamic history of the field of sexual medicine and of the Society for the Study of Impotence, Inc. As one of the chairs for the Boston meeting, it has been a privilege and a pleasure to work with all the members of our Society to maintain our leadership role in the practice, research, education and ethics in the study of human sexual function and dysfunction.

At this moment, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the SSI, especially the Executive and Development Committees, and in particular John Mulcahy, President of the SSI and Jamie Barada, Treasurer of the SSI for all their assistance, support, guidance and patience. With so many people cooperating and contributing to this new 'group' endeavor, this first Fall meeting of the SSI could be nothing else but a resounding educational success. Finally, I would like to acknowledge the man who is the heart and soul of the Society for the Study of Impotence, Inc. Ira Sharlip. During my last year as President and during this year as meeting co-chair, I have communicated with Ira on countless occasions. He was always available, cheerful, spirited, and full of intelligence, wit and good common sense. His dedication to the Society is remarkable. Ira, thank you for your energy and vision to a more involved, invigorated and rejuvenated role of the SSI in the field of human sexual function and dysfunction.

Irwin Goldstein, MD,  
*IJIR Supplement Editor*  
*SSI 1999 Boston Meeting Co-Chair,*  
*Society for the Study of Impotence, Inc.*



### SSI President's Comments:

The Society for the Study of Impotence, Inc. has grown in stature and numbers since its inception six years ago and is now the recognized voice of sexual dysfunction in the United States and Canada. Rapid advances in research have brought us effective oral medications for erectile dysfunction and advances in gene therapy are just around the corner. To keep abreast of such progress and to present a forum for exchange and discussion of new information on male sexual dysfunction and female sexual dysfunction, we are convening this first annual Fall meeting of the SSI. Young investigators' new data is comingled with the state-of-the-art 'Grand Master' presentations in the congenial and scenic environment of autumn in New England.

Our thanks and appreciation go to Dr Irwin Goldstein for organizing and orchestrating the details of what is an outstanding meeting, and setting the example for such meetings in the future. Our organization has shown great support and camaraderie for young physicians entering the field and I am impressed with the vigor and enthusiasm which they have shown to advance the knowledge and research in sexual dysfunction. Hopefully, future meetings will carry on this fine tradition.

John J Mulcahy, MD,  
*President*  
*Society for the Study of Impotence, Inc.*

### SSI Secretary's Comments:

Since the founding of the Society for the Study of Impotence, Inc. in 1994, the Society has grown in membership size, scientific importance and political influence. Medical practitioners, the American Urological Association, manufacturers of erectile dysfunction products and government agencies have relied at various times on the Society's expertise and Position Statements. The SSI has become North America's leading organization in medical sexology. This meeting, the Society's first to be funded through unrestricted educational grants and held outside the venue of the annual meeting of the American Urological Association, represents a quantum step forward in the Society's scientific activities. This meeting no doubt will further elevate the importance and prestige of the Society. The Society owes a great debt of thanks to the many people who have contributed time and energy to bringing this meeting to fruition. One person above all has spent endless hours painstakingly crafting a superb meeting. The Society, and all practitioners and researchers in medical sexology, are especially indebted to Dr Irwin Goldstein for this effort. As

Secretary of the Society, I have seen the gargantuan effort he has given. It was truly humbling to observe Dr Goldstein's work rate, dedication and enthusiasm. The success of this meeting should be dedicated to him.

Ira D Sharlip, MD  
*Secretary*  
*Society for the Study of Impotence, Inc.*

### AFUD Executive Director's Comments:

The American Foundation for Urologic Disease (AFUD) has come to recognize, through the Sexual Function Health Council of the AFUD, the need for additional scientific investigation and public education in the field of male and female sexual dysfunction. From a research standpoint, the Foundation has been supporting sexual dysfunction studies through the American Foundation for Urologic Disease/American Urological Association research Scholars program. This program has helped train several of today's leading erectile dysfunction and female sexual dysfunction researchers. The first AFUD/AUA-sponsored male researcher in sexual dysfunction, Dr Harin Padma-Nathan and the first AFUD/AUA-sponsored female researcher in sexual dysfunction, Dr Jennifer Berman are both active members of the SSI.

The Sexual Function Health Council of the AFUD has been involved in major efforts to educate the public and help break down the barriers patients have towards discussing sexual dysfunction with their physicians. These efforts include the use of celebrities to promote awareness and education, the distribution of multilingual erectile dysfunction brochures, the construction of erectile dysfunction web sites and the sponsorship of International Impotence Education Month. The Foundation has also used patient surveys to gauge awareness of erectile dysfunction treatment options. The AFUD Sexual Function Health Council, as well, works with the Society for the Study of Impotence, Inc., the Federal Trade Commission and the National Institutes of Health.

We at AFUD look forward to a continued collaboration with the Society for the Study of Impotence, Inc., toward the mutual goal of promotion, encouragement and support of the highest standards of research and education in the field of male and female sexual function and dysfunction.

Thomas Bruckman  
*Executive Director*  
*American Foundation for Urologic Disease*