

# SSIBlings

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## Letter from the President

Alan N. Epstein

This will be my last chance to write to you from the presidential cockpit, and I will use it to do two things. First, I will meet my constitutional responsibility by giving you my report of the Society's activities during my term of office, a kind of State of the Society Report. Second I will tell you what I think our science is trying to understand.

But, before I do either, I want to thank the membership of SSIB for giving me this opportunity for leadership and for the creative and enthusiastic way that the members have made all of our activities successful. I want to thank the Board of Directors for their advice and for their concern for the welfare of the Society. I want to thank the committee chairpersons, the editor of *SSIBlings*, and the officers of the Society for doing all that needs to be done to keep it functioning and responsive to the membership. I want to thank my predecessor, Gerry Smith, for leaving the house in such good order, and my successor, Barbara Rolls, for helping me to prepare it for her occupancy. And last I want to thank Harry Kissileff, our Executive Officer, for making my job as easy as it looks. SSIB is Harry's baby. He incubated it, was its first President, and has since been the power behind the throne of all of his successors. All of us are fortunate that he has not lost his enthusiasm for its future and that he will continue to be the Executive Officer of SSIB for as long as it needs his help.

Now, my State of the Society Report. SSIB is thriving. We now have more than 460 members, 105 from outside the USA. And we have a group of generous Supporting Members whose checks make the difference between doing what we have to do and doing what we want to do. We have enjoyed a full schedule of scientific and social events, beginning

with our reception and annual business meeting at Neuroscience last year, and including our short-paper sessions and dinner at EPA and our joint meeting with NAASO in Sacramento that many of you will attend on October 20 to 23. This will be an important event in its own right because it will be the first time that SSIB has conducted a full scientific program, and it has additional importance because it is a rehearsal for June 1992 when SSIB, with the leadership of Bart Hoebel, will have its first independent meeting at Princeton. Our committees have been active, especially the Nominating Committee which organized our annual election (see later pages for the announcement of our new officers and Board members) and the Long Range Planning Committee now chaired by Sue Ritter. Earlier this year we created a new Committee on Animal Issues, co-chaired by Jim Smith at FSU and Tom Scott at U Delaware, to assist any of you that have problems with the animal crazies and to advise the Society about issues of animal care and use. *SSIBlings* has continued to be our official voice and local newspaper and we are grateful to Karen Ackroff for editing it with such competence and creativity. ⇒

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