



Dear friends

Spring is around the corner, and with it the hope that our lives will gradually return to normal.

Reflecting back on what we've been through, it's been a difficult year and no less so in our field. We have lost some prominent researchers, mostly recently Michael Menaker, who was a giant in chronobiology. We will remember Mike's keynote/dinnertime lectures (befitting his stature in the field), his ability to bring a historical perspective to all the new findings presented at conferences, and his warm and friendly nature. His legacy will live on through his landmark research contributions, which will continue to be heavily cited, as well as his many trainees, successful chronobiologists in their own right.

Most people are ready for more social contact, rather than the social distance we are now accustomed to. On that subject, preparations are underway for SRBR 2021, which we are confident (or maybe I should say "optimistic") will be an in-person meeting. Recognizing some of the benefits of virtual meetings, in particular the ability to include people who may not be able to attend, there is talk of arranging some zoom sessions. However, running into each other in the hallway and getting together for food/drinks are important parts of a conference, so we look forward to that. Program Committee Chair, Orie Shafer, and his outstanding committee are hard at work to assemble an exciting program, and this is something you all can help with. You may have seen the recent call for proposals, and if not, I urge you to check your recent emails from SRBR and consider topics that should be included in our next meeting.

We continue to consider new initiatives at SRBR. Fundraising continues for the exchange program to promote diversity. Also, starting in May, the training and mentorship committee chaired by Ilia Karatsoreos will be running a virtual talk series highlighting our talented postdoctoral and graduate student members. I hope the trainees will take advantage of this opportunity to present their work and receive feedback from senior colleagues.

Till we meet again.....

Amita