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## ACADEMIC PURSUITS IN BOARD CERTIFIED REPRODUCTIVE ENDOCRINOLOGISTS.

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**OBJECTIVE:** The Society for Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility (SREI) consists of board-certified REIs, who are American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM) members. During REI fellowship, conducting research and writing a thesis play a significant role in training. A manuscript must be submitted prior to graduation, and the thesis comprises a substantial component of the certifying (oral) exam. We hypothesize because of exposure to research that REI physicians will continue to conduct research and contribute significantly to the field of reproductive medicine.

**DESIGN:** A short questionnaire regarding research was sent to SREI members and a retrospective review of publications of REI physicians was performed.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS:** A 12 question questionnaire was resent to SREI members by Survey Monkey to improve the previous response rate (18%). Topics included: current research, current and past funding, and topics of research interest. The list of SREI members was ordered by a table of random numbers, and the first 400 were selected to determine the number of PubMed publications: 1) in the last 3 years (2015-2017); 2) in the last 10 years (2008-2017); and 3) the total number of publications by each author. **RESULTS:** The total response rate from the questionnaire was 24%, and the results were similar to the previous mailing showing most surveyed members are currently performing research. Analysis of publications was performed in 400/811 current members of SREI. The number of total publications ranged from 0 to more than 400. Findings for publications were as follows: 1) last 3 years—mean + SD (4.5 + 9.4) and median (1); 2) last 10 years—mean + SD (12.9 + 22.6) and median (4); total publications— mean + SD (33.0 + 52.9) and median (13).

**CONCLUSIONS:** Our survey indicates that a high percentage of boardcertified REIs conduct (predominantly clinical) research, often related to their fellow thesis topic. There was a wide range in the numbers of peer-reviewed publications as evidenced by the wide standard deviations, likely reflecting that some physicians predominantly see patients, while others are more actively involved in research. Regardless of their practice, contributions to research continue post fellowship which ultimately translate into quality patient care. We believe that this type of undertaking is unique in that a large sample of

physicians within a specialty has been evaluated for research productivity. In conclusion, REI physicians continue to publish significant research important to reproductive medicine, which reaffirms the value of research training during fellowship.