



THE SOCIETY FOR THE
SCIENTIFIC STUDY
OF SEXUALITY

SEXUAL SCIENCE NEWSLETTER

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Welcome to 2018! – An Update from our New SSSS President: Eric Walsh-Buhi

I joined SSSS many years ago: I attended my first SSSS Annual Meeting 20 years ago as a student in 1997! Since then, I've enjoyed and invested in SSSS as my professional home. SSSS has allowed me opportunities to share my science, grow leadership skills, connect with new research partners, and make new friends. I've learned so much from Terry Humphreys over the past two years, and I'm humbled but excited about 2018 and serving the membership, now, as President.

The past year has been tough for members all over the world, as we deal with shifting political situations that directly impact us, the people we care about, and the work that we do.

But we continue to fight, march, and even run for election (like one of our members, Jay Irwin, did, winning a seat on his local school board). We also advocate for sex education in our schools (like two of our members are doing—Kristen Mark in Lexington, Kentucky and Sofia Jawed-Wessel in Omaha, Nebraska). We continue to do the science that needs to be done!

To quote Kimberly Acquaviva, a nursing

faculty member at George Washington University and lesbian and mother: "I remain hopeful. I have to. The alternative is unthinkable."

And, in fact, hope is here! The week of the 2017 SSSS Annual Meeting, we saw historic wins for minority and LGBT candidates across the U.S. Two openly transgender candidates won seats as well as the first Sikh mayor in New Jersey and first African-American mayors in major U.S. cities, like Charlotte, NC.

I believe all of us share some common motivations in what we do. We seek truth, we like to learn "stuff" – which is why we joined SSSS, why we attend SSSS Annual Meetings and other events. We hope that our research adds to the body of knowledge and we hope that it will help people. Our Practitioner members (like the sex therapists and sex educators), apply research to make change and to help people in need.

I had a son in August of last year. He's beautiful and he has changed my life in so many ways. He's changed my perspective: to me, my son represents the future. We all have our reasons for doing sex science.

Our science, and how we apply it, will make life better for future peoples, like my son, who-ever he becomes and whatever he chooses to do.

So I implore you to join together, to resist, to fight, and to continue your work in sex science. This organization, the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality, is your conduit. One of my goals, as President, will be to help you, the scientists, translate the work you do, so that it can make a difference. I think Advocacy is a critical step in the research process, and one that SSSS can facilitate and lead. That is what your professional home can do—translate the important work you do to make life better. Over the next two years, I will be reaching out to you to learn just how SSSS can help you translate your work for consumers, whether that be practitioners, journalists, the general public, or decision makers and policy makers. How can your organization, SSSS, advocate to help you use your science for change?

Eric Walsh-Buhi

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- The importance of resistance training for students studying abroad
- Memories from SSSS 2018 in Atlanta!
- Remembering John DeLamater and Bill Seabloom
- Member news, opportunities, and more!





In Memoriam – John DeLamater

Dr. John DeLamater died suddenly and unexpectedly in his sleep on Tuesday December 12th, 2017. John was 77 years old.

John received his PhD in Sociology from the University of Michigan in 1969, before moving to Madison, where he taught at the University of Wisconsin-Madison for 48 years as a professor, becoming the Conway-Bascom Professor Emeritus in the Department of Sociology. He dedicated his life to sex science.

John was a long-time member of SSSS, providing years of service to the organization. He previously served as Editor of the Journal of Sex Research. He was awarded status as SSSS Fellow and received the Distinguished Service to SSSS Award in 2009. He also received The Kinsey Award, given by the SSSS Midcontinent Region, acknowledging his contributions to the field of sex research.

John attended our most recent Annual Meeting in Atlanta and many of our members affectionately remember spending time with him, talking about fond memories and about future collaboration plans. John is someone many looked forward to seeing at SSSS Annual meetings; his presentations were thoughtful and competent and he always took time to support and offer mentorship to other members.

John will be sorely missed.

A STRONG “NO” IS UNIVERSAL: RESISTANCE TRAINING AS SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION FOR STUDENTS STUDYING ABROAD

By: Jill Swirsky¹ and Tiffany Marcantonio²

Guest contributors: Jill Cermele, PhD³ Karen Chasen,⁴ Martha McCaughey, PhD⁵
Temple University¹, UArkansas², Drew University³, Prepare Inc.⁴, Appalachian State Uni⁵

Studying abroad is common among college students, and rates of studying abroad are rapidly increasing (Institute of International Education, 2011). Such expansion necessitates the need for regular re-evaluation of the pre-departure training International Studies Departments (ISD) provides for students. To date, **there are no standardized guidelines for the content of pre-departure training.** Preliminary findings from our study reviewing ISD websites (Marcantonio et al., in preparation) show a variety of useful topics for students traveling abroad: finding clean drinking water, avoiding infectious disease, and evading theft. However, advice on how to prevent sexual assault was missing.

American women who study in a foreign country are 3–5 times more likely to experience sexual assault while abroad than their stateside peers (Kimble, Flack, & Burbridge, 2013). However, there is no published research on risk or protective factors associated with sexual assault during study abroad programs, including whether the risk for assault comes from citizens in the country they are visiting, or from the other students in their programs. What is known is that studying abroad is strongly associated with higher rates of drinking (Pedersen, Larmier & Lee, 2010) and risky (e.g., condomless) casual sex (Marcantonio, Angelone & Sledjeski, 2015) compared to stateside peers; two factors strongly associated with increased risk for sexual assault. However, much remains unclear and, given the high

rates of sexual assault among students studying abroad, combined with the dearth of research on pre-departure prevention measures, further investigation is needed.



While some ISD websites do offer resources for those who have been assaulted, completed sexual assault does not have to be the only story in this narrative (Cermele, 2010). One specific form of intervention that reduces the likelihood of completed sexual assault is self-defence or resistance training. There are many types of resistance training, varying from martial arts style courses, college seminars, and short classes (Brecklin, 2008). The programs with the highest efficacy use empowerment or feminist self-defence training (Thompson, 2014). **Feminist self-defence courses emphasize four themes: placing responsibility for violence on the perpetrator, locating violence within a broader social context, centering embodiment, and providing a comprehensive toolbox of self-defence strategies** (Thompson, 2014).

More importantly, a growing body of literature finds that resistance is an effective strategy in preventing sexual assault (see Ullman, 1997, 2007 for reviews). In fact, **forceful resistance (e.g., kicking, yelling) has been found to increase the likelihood of successfully stopping an assault**, without further endangering the



victim (a commonly held misconception; e.g., Brecklin, 2008). This means that teaching potential targets how to resist is crucial. And resistance training works! In a recent randomized, controlled trial, women who completed a resistance-training course were significantly less likely to experience a completed rape over the course of a year compared to control group women (Senn et al., 2015). Another study found that women who received a 10-week feminist self-defence training were less likely to experience an assault during the following year (Hollander, 2014). This shows that **resistance training can provide students studying abroad with the skills to verbally and physically resist sexual assault.**

Organizations like Prepare Inc. (www.prepareinc.com) offer training, which occurs in a state of heightened stress response (an adrenaline state of emotional and physical arousal), allowing students to gain muscle memory for a variety of defensive strikes. But this training is not just learning to resist an aggressor - Prepare teaches students to “trust their instincts, tap into their own intelligence and life experience, and choose for themselves if, when, and how to respond” (Prepareinc.com). Students learn adrenaline management, communication (both verbal and non-verbal), and how to assess and manage uncomfortable or dangerous encounters. Learning these skills results in feelings of increased empowerment, confidence, and the ability to set boundaries. Thus, empowerment self-defence training may provide a valuable skill set for students traveling abroad.

Imagine being a young student in a foreign country. You may not speak the language and are unfamiliar with the host country’s way of life. You do not know where to go for help, and you may or may not be enjoying the perks of a country with a lower legal drinking age (especially if you’re an American student). **Now imagine that, before you left home,**

you were taught how to survey your surroundings, assess people and their behavior, yell loudly without self-consciousness, and, if the situation calls for it, how to effectively physically resist. No matter what language is spoken by the person making you feel uncomfortable on the subway, the student sitting near you in class, or the host family you are staying with; **taking a wide stance and holding your hands up in front of your body in a universal sign for “stop!” is a clear message.**

All of this raises the question of why sexual assault awareness and resistance training are missing from the pre-departure training provided to students. The short answer is, for the same reasons resistance training is missing from most on-campus rape prevention education programs. Many criticize resistance training as blaming the victim (see McCaughey & Cermele, 2015)—even though the responsibility for assault is ALWAYS on the perpetrator, and there is no evidence that self-defence training increases victim- or self-blame (Gidycz & Dardis, 2014). Despite substantial evidence, people see resistance training as too difficult for women to accomplish and not really part of sexual assault awareness and prevention (www.seejanefightback.com). Therefore, **resistance training is not common in sexual assault prevention programs**, which tend to rely on dated advice such as “watch your drink” and “travel in pairs.”

So where do we go from here? The first step is to **stop ignoring the evidence that resistance training works!** While it has not yet been tested as an intervention for women studying abroad, preliminary findings suggest that this is a promising approach. The next step is to expand research on sexual assault in the study abroad environment, as well as the measures ISDs are taking to protect their students. Until we have a clearer understanding of the mechanisms surrounding the heightened vulnerability for assault compared, we will not be able to target intervention programs to best meet the needs of students traveling abroad. In conclusion, **resistance training can help students learn that they are entitled to set and reinforce their boundaries, no matter what country they are in. After all, a powerful “NO” needs no translation.**

Questions? Want to discuss further? Contact the authors: jill.swirsky@gmail.com and Tiff.marcant@gmail.com.

Share your Sex Science News!

Send in your lab news, personal accomplishments, media appearances, job openings, and short pieces to share with our community! Email: newsletter@sexscience.org

Memories from



Sex Research Across
Disciplines, Distances and Decades



SSSS Awards Luncheon



Some of our past SSSS Presidents (and our current!)



Great times at the SSSS for Puerto Rico Fundraiser!





In Memoriam – William “Bill” Seabloom

William Seabloom died peacefully on January 21, 2018, surrounded by his family. He was 88. Bill was a long-time member of SSSS and former faculty member of the Human Sexuality program at the University of Minnesota. His foundational work with sex offenders, especially adolescents led to a great understanding of adolescent and childhood sexuality. Bill touched the lives of many people through his research, mentoring, and his work as a therapist. Bill brought, and taught his mentees, a great empathy and a sense of accountability to his work with sex offenders. He will be remembered fondly by many of our current members for the heartfelt intellectual exchanges he always made time for.

IT'S MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME!

This is a friendly reminder that membership renewals are in your account. SSSS Memberships are on a calendar year basis, so renew today to maximize your benefits all year long!

Save paper and renew online here: <https://goo.gl/GS5gbU>

If there isn't a renewal order in your account, please contact the SSSS Office for assistance.

A SPECIAL 'THANK YOU', IF YOU'VE ALREADY RENEWED YOUR 2018 MEMBERSHIP!!!

MEMBER NEWS!

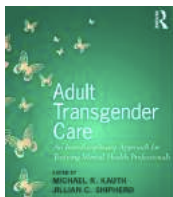


Luca Maurer and Eli Green were selected as co-recipients of the American Psychological Association's Division 44 Distinguished Contribution to Education and Training Award for 2017. The award recognizes distinguished contribution to the interests, goals and purposes of LGBT work in the areas of academic and public education.

Honorees are recognized as professionals who have distinguished themselves in disseminating science and scholarship on LGBT issues. Maurer's and Green's extensive work to improve the quality of education and training in psychology, at undergraduate and graduate levels and in the community-at-large, with regard to LGBT issues and particularly related to transgender people, topics, advocacy, and education and their book ***The Teaching Transgender Toolkit***, were cited at the award ceremony.

Michael Kauth would like to announce their new book was just released. It reflects much of the work they've done in the VA in the past 5 years, some of which they presented at the annual meeting in Atlanta. More info:

<https://goo.gl/W34W1C>



Harrington Park Press is also notes the recent release of ***Transgender Sex Work & Society***; edited by Larry Nuttbrock; foreword by Walter Bockting. Bringing together perspectives from a rich range of disciplines and experiences, this book systematically examines transgender sex work in the United States and globally.



Harrington Park Press, a sponsor of the 2017 SSSS Annual Meeting, notes that Volume 2 of ***Male Sex Work & Society*** is completing its early editorial stages.



Volume 1 was edited by internationally renowned Australian academics Dr. Victor Minichiello and Dr. John Scott.

For Volume 2, they are joined by well-known New York City academic psychologists and SSSS members, Dr. **David Bimbi** and Dr. **Christian Grov**!

Joye Swan is very pleased to announce the imminent publication of her edited volume, ***Bisexuality: Theories, research and recommendations for the invisible sexuality*** (D. Joye Swan, PhD and Shani Habibi, PhD, Editors). <https://goo.gl/2TDxfh>

MORE MEMBER NEWS...



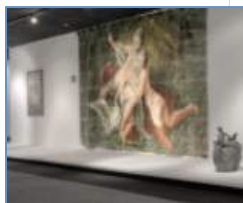
Katie Bloomquist, MS, MA, LAMFT (Sex Workers Outreach Project) is excited to announce that her new private practice is up and running and is taking new therapy clients! She opened the Minnesota Sexual Health Institute with her partner, **Eric Sprinkle, PsyD**, in May of 2017 in Minneapolis. Katie specializes in therapy with current/former sex workers, people who

struggle with feeling out of control in their sexual behaviors, and couples who are in non-monogamous and/or BDSM relationships. She also offers discernment therapy for couples.

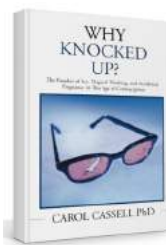
Katie and Eric are currently collaborating with the Sex Workers Outreach Project – Minneapolis, examining the workplace needs of strippers using participatory action research methods. The results of this research will be used by the city council of Minneapolis to shape policies that aim to improve workplace conditions in strip clubs.

Katie has recently been interviewed by several news publications on sex work stigma and other sex worker-specific issues (<https://www.mnsexualhealth.org/publications>). She will be offering an online training for clinicians aimed at increasing competency and decreasing bias when working therapeutically with sex workers (Spring of 2018). Interested parties can contact her here to request access – info@mnsexualhealth.org

The **World Erotic Art Museum, the Kinsey Institute** and **Humboldt University** in Berlin have partnered for an exhibition presenting three unique and thought-provoking collections of artwork and material culture related to human sexuality: **a reimagining of Naomi Wilzig's ground-breaking private collection of erotic art, "Kinsey Institute: Untold Stories"** features artworks and points of view that have largely been kept out of mainstream sex culture, and a new gallery dedicated to the work and collection of **Magnus Hirschfeld**, a German sex researcher whose art collection and library were burned by the Nazis in 1933. More info here: <https://kinseyinstitute.org/news-events/news/2017-11-28-untold-stories.php>



Carol Cassell is happy to share the good news that their book, ***Why Knocked Up? The Paradox of Sex, Magical Thinking, and Accidental Pregnancy in This Age of Contraception*** received a 2017 NYC Big Book award as a "distinguished favorite" in Women's Issues. "Thanks to my colleagues at SSSS for your support and encouragement. And of course, for those great book reviews. - Carol"

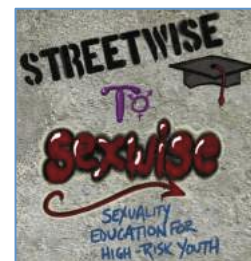


Mark Schoen, from Sex Smart Films, is honoured to share that their film **TRANS** is ranked #2 on Amazon Prime's list of top LGBT films!

<https://goo.gl/L3VcnK>



The **Center for Sex Education** is pleased to announce the publication of the third edition of ***Streetwise to Sexwise: Sexuality Education for High-Risk Youth***. This is a trauma-informed approach to sex education and includes background information, staff training activities, and educational activities for high-risk youth on topics such as health relationships, sex abuse, commercial sexual exploitation, and pornography.



The SexTEAM at the University of Puerto Rico keeps growing!

The Sex+ TEAM at the Center for Sociomedical Research and Evaluation at the School of Public Health (SPH) of the University of Puerto Rico-Medical Sciences Campus (UPR-MSC) is proud to welcome Dr. Melissa Marzán-Rodríguez as Post-Doctoral Research Fellow. Dr. Marzán-Rodríguez will be collaborating in the SMART Program; a pragmatic trial of an adaptive eHealth HIV prevention program for diverse adolescent men who have sex with men (MSM) funded by National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities.

Dr. Marzán-Rodríguez completed a DrPH degree with a major in Epidemiology at Ponce Health Sciences University. She also holds an MPH in Epidemiology from the UPR-SPH and a BA in Anthropology from the UPR-Río Piedras Campus. Dr. Marzán-Rodríguez has vast experience in the implementation of national and local HIV-related studies. As part of her post-doctoral training, she will develop implementation science competencies in the implementation of HIV prevention eHealth interventions targeted to young MSM under the mentorship of Dr. Carlos E. Rodríguez-Díaz at the University of Puerto Rico and Dr. Brian Mustanski at Northwestern University - Feinberg School of Medicine.

MORE MEMBER NEWS...



For his decades of contributions to sexual health, Dr. **William L. Yarber** (Professor of Applied Health Science, Senior Director of the Rural Center for AIDS/STD Prevention, and Senior Scientist at The Kinsey Institute) has been awarded the honorary rank of *Provost Professor* at Indiana University! Dr. Yarber is a Past President and elected Fellow of SSSS.

[Provost Professorships are meant to bring significant honour to those members of the faculty who have achieved local, national, and international distinction in both teaching and research/creative activity and their interaction].

Congratulations Bill!!!

Karen L. Blair will be hosting the **International LGBTQ Psychology Pre-Conference** being held in conjunction with annual convention of the Canadian Psychological Association and the International Congress of Applied Psychology. The pre-conference will be held on June 24th and 25th in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. **Registration is now open!** Attendees can register for just the pre-conference, or the whole thing. The pre-conference program consists of two full days of scientific programming with more presenters from more than 30 countries! Keynote speakers include Dr. **Sari van Anders** and Dr. **Carlos Santos!** www.LGBTQpsychology.com



In late October 2017, **Heino Meyer-Bahlburg**, Dr. rer. nat., was on an invited lecture tour in Iran. He presented two lectures, one workshop, and served as discussant in a second workshop - mostly on transgender - at the Roozbeh Psychiatric Hospital of Tehran University of Medical Sciences. Then, he gave the opening keynote lecture on "Normalizing genital surgery for DSD: current controversies" at the International Congress on Hypospadias & Disorders of Sexual Development (HDSD) in Mashhad, Iran, along with a symposium talk and a lecture plus workshop - mostly on intersexuality - at the Ibn-e-Sina Psychiatric Hospital of Mashhad University of Medical Sciences. In Tehran, he was appointed Distinguished Visiting Professor 2017-2020 at the School of Medicine of Tehran University of Medical Sciences with the aim of assisting them in developing research on gender variants.



For over 10 years **Peggy Kleinplatz** and her team, the Optimal Sexual Experience Research Team of the University of Ottawa, have been investigating optimal sexual development in long-term couples. Beginning in 2013, they entered the translation phase of this research endeavour: We applied the lessons from research on optimal sexual experiences to develop a group therapy intervention for couples presenting with low sexual desire/frequency and sexual desire discrepancy. Their first set of findings from this stage of the research has just been published: <http://www.tandfonline.com/eprint/aDBbaUMUhwKARwvzIUXS/full> This study involved only 28 heterosexual individuals (14 distressed couples) who were seen in 16 hours of couples group therapy. As measured on the NSSS, significant differences ($p < .001$) and effect sizes (Cohen's $d > 1$) were found in overall sample means from pre-tests to post-tests and 6-month follow-ups in satisfaction with intensity of sexual arousal, variety, pleasure, frequency, partner's initiation, creativity, balance between giving and receiving, and emotional opening up. There were no differences across teams of therapists. ***This intervention seems to help clients to enhance erotic intimacy such that sex becomes desirable.*** So we doubled our sample size, added same-sex couples and still found the same, highly significant results.

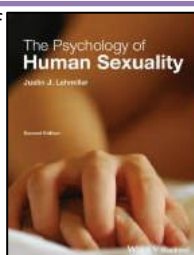
We are now looking to collaborate more widely and train other, experienced couples- and sex therapists in this approach. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Peggy J. Kleinplatz, Ph.D. at 613 563-0846 or Maxime Charest, M.A. at maxime.ja.charest@gmail.com

Carl Rodrigue is excited to share that his latest work on Casual Sex among young adults in Canada was recently published in JSR!



Rodrigue, C., Blais, M., Lavoie, F., Adam, B. D., Goyer, M. F., & Magontier, C. (2017). Passion, Intimacy, and Commitment in Casual Sexual Relationships in a Canadian Sample of Emerging Adults. *The Journal of Sex Research*, 1-14.

Justin Lehmillier is pleased to announce publication of the second edition of ***The Psychology of Human Sexuality*** (Wiley-Blackwell, 2017). This book explores human sexual behavior from a biopsychosocial perspective and is written in an accessible, sex-positive style that is inclusive and respectful of a diverse audience. (The paperback retails for \$55 USD, while the e-text on Amazon goes for \$32 USD).



Learn more about *The Psychology of Human Sexuality* on Amazon: <http://amzn.to/2jHZITY> or at <http://www.lehmillier.com>

Stella Resnick has spent the last two years labouring over her book, *Body-to-Body Intimacy: Transformation Through Love, Sex, and Neurobiology* – and now she's delighted to share that the book is just about finished and is scheduled to be released in September 2018! This May 6 to 11, she will leading a 5-day training seminar at Esalen Institute in Big Sur, California on *Embodied Love and Love Making: A Full-Spectrum Neurobiological-Gestalt (FSG) Training In Embodied Relational Sex Therapy* and July 22 to 27 she and her husband will co-lead their annual 5-day summer couples' retreat: *Embodying Your Love: Explorations in Intimacy for Couples*. Stella can be reached at www.drstellaresnick.com

Lab announcement? Media appearances? Awards? Get your news in the next Sex Science Newsletter!

OPPORTUNITIES!

Nathan Lachowsky at the **University of Victoria** is now accepting applications for prospective **MA, PhD.**, or **postdoctoral research fellows**, who are interested in joining his new program of research focused on the health and wellbeing of gay, bisexual, two-spirit, queer, and trans men. Dr. Lachowsky will provide funding via research and teaching assistant positions. If you are interested in a position, please send a cover letter and your curriculum vitae to Bernie Paillé, the Research Program Manager at berniepaille@uvic.ca. References are not needed at this stage. If you have questions, feel free to write to nlachowsky@uvic.ca or call at +1(250)472-5739.



The **Sexual Health Promotion Lab** at **University of Kentucky** is recruiting an **MS student in Health Promotion** OR a **PhD student in Health Education** with a **full assistantship** to be provided. The student should have an interest in the research area of the SHP Lab, be a full time student, and be willing to teach as part of their assistantship. **Interested candidates should contact Dr. Kristen Mark**, kristen.mark@uky.edu

McGill University currently has an opportunity for a **postdoctoral fellow** interested in reproductive health, specifically male fertility. The successful candidate will be involved in a CIHR-funded program of research that is developing a mobile health intervention to promote reproductive health in men facing fertility concerns either as part of a couple, or as a result of a cancer diagnosis and/or side effects of cancer treatment. For more information contact Stephanie Robins (coordinator.pmh@gmail.com), research coordinator for Dr. Zolkowitz.

The **Human Sexuality PhD Program** at the **California Institute of Integral Studies** in San Francisco, California has issued a call for applications for **core faculty**. More info here: <https://g.co/kgs/HwV8Hk>

Upcoming...

April 20th - SSSS 2018 Spring Symposium at San Diego State University.



June 14th - 15th – 40th Annual Guelph Sexuality Conference.

More info:

<http://www.guelphsexualityconference.ca/>



PREACHING TO THE CHOIR
AN INTERNATIONAL LGBTQ PSYCHOLOGY CONFERENCE

MONTREAL, CANADA
JUNE 2018

An International LGBTQ Psychology Pre-Conference at ICAP. June 24- 25th, 2018
Registration now open! www.LGBTQpsychology.com

July 17th - 20th
IASR Annual Meeting in Madrid, Spain.

<https://goo.gl/BMw9sz>



July 27th & 28th - SSSS 2018 Summer Institute



at Widener University.

Oct 11th & 21st – CSRF Annual Meeting in Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Call for abstracts now open:
<https://goo.gl/MBrWCC>

November 8th - 11th SSSS 2018 Annual Meeting
In Montreal, Quebec, Canada!
Call for abstracts coming soon!

