Although a steady increase in contraceptive use has been observed over the past decades, the contraceptive needs of a significant percent of couples have not yet been met. Emerging scientific opportunities may shape the future scientific agenda in reproductive research in the context of new and advanced technologies for the development of improved contraceptives.

While long-acting methods such as implants and IUDs seem preferable for women with compliance issues, mid-acting user-controlled methods such as 1-y vaginal rings proved well accepted by women. Transdermal gels or sprays used daily have shown high acceptability as the methods can be used privately. Progesterone receptor modulators (PRMs) block ovulation and induce amenorrhea. In addition, the potential of PRMs to prevent breast cell proliferation would add a non-contraceptive benefit to the method. Dual protection methods are also tested as vaginal gels or rings delivering both a contraceptive and an agent active against HIV transmission.

More recently, emerging areas of research such as genomics and proteomics created a new scientific opportunity. These new approaches will ensure future development of non-hormonal contraceptives.