

THE ELEVENTH SSR RESEARCH AWARD

Dr. Gordon Niswender is the recipient of this year's Research Award of the Society for the Study of Reproduction. Dr. Niswender obtained his Bachelor in Science at the University of Wyoming, a Master in Science at Ft. Robinson, Nebraska, and a Ph.D. in Animal Sciences and Physiology from the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, with Drs. Dziuk and Nalbandov in 1967. From Urbana he moved to the University of Michigan, under the tutelage of Dr. Rees Midgeley, for his postdoctoral training and his first faculty appointment. In 1972, he moved to Colorado State University in Ft. Collins, where he rose through the ranks of Associate Professor of Physiology in 1972, to full Professor of Physiology in 1975, and more recently, in 1982, to Associate Dean for Research at the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. In 1981-82, he was President of our Society; in 1987, he became a Colorado State University "Distinguished Professor." Dr. Niswender made significant contributions to science while still a post-



doctoral fellow, a time during which he became a leading authority in radioimmunoassay.

This award is given to him not for his past performance, but for the contributions he has made during the last six years. During this time, he has contributed significantly to our understanding of corpus luteum function and mechanism of action of LH. He has studied LH receptor functions, described its internalization and recycling properties, and defined that on occupancy by HCG, LH receptors become immobilized within the membrane, thus preventing internalization. Dr. Niswender pioneered studies defining the differential functions of small vs. large luteal cells—small cells being responsive to LH but less steroidogenic, and large cells being responsible for the bulk of progesterone secretion and unresponsive to LH.

Dr. Niswender is not only a very active scientist but also an excellent and well-recognized educator. He is an enthusiastic and stimulating teacher of young scientists and has supervised 3 M.S. students, 10 Ph.D. students and 22 postdoctoral fellows. The majority of these trainees have developed into outstanding scientists in their own right. It is because of these contributions that the society is pleased to confer upon him its research award.