



SSR Distinguished Service Award (*sustaining support by Serono Reproductive Biology Institute*). **Dr. P. Landis Keyes** is the recipient of SSR's Distinguished Service Award for 2006. This award is given annually to a member of SSR who has shown unselfish service and leadership in advancing the field of reproductive biology within the Society and beyond. Dr. Keyes's lifetime of service to our discipline unquestionably fulfills this requirement. He personifies the definition of distinguished service and exemplifies the character of this award. The following overview of his service to reproductive

biology and to SSR only highlights his many contributions.

After his postdoctoral fellowship at Harvard Medical School in 1968, Dr. Keyes joined the faculty at Albany Medical College in the Departments of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Physiology. He became a member of SSR in 1970. In 1972 he was recruited to the University of Michigan, Departments of Pathology and Physiology, and became a member of the Reproductive Endocrinology Program. It is here at the University of Michigan, among his colleagues in the reproductive sciences, that he has had a long and productive career in research and teaching. The majority of his research focused on the corpus luteum and the hormones that regulate its formation and demise. Dr. Keyes's classical work on the rabbit corpus luteum revealed that estrogen was a necessary and sufficient luteotropin and that, at least in the rabbit, the estrogen source was in the follicles. This large body of work set the stage for a large number of reproductive scientists working in various species to investigate the role of estrogen as a potential luteotropin. For example, in collaboration with Dr. Keyes, Drs. JoAnne Richards and Geula Gibori explored whether the rat corpus luteum also depended on estrogen for support. Dr. Gibori subsequently showed in an elegant series of studies that indeed the rat corpus luteum also required estrogen, although the source of estrogen was distinct from that in the rabbit. Dr. Keyes's lab went on to evaluate the mechanisms of luteal regression. His lab provided key studies defining the involvement of inflammatory cells in luteolysis. For example, his lab showed that estrogen withdrawal-induced macrophage invasion in the rabbit corpus luteum is associated with apoptosis. The research conducted in the Keyes lab has defined the luteotropic role of estrogen and revealed the cell biological events associated with luteolysis. His publications have consistently been of the very highest quality, and his pioneering studies of the hormones regulating corpus luteum formation and demise are landmark papers.

Dr. Keyes has trained individuals who are actively engaged in research in the field of reproductive biology today: Milo Wiltbank, Geula Gibori, John Gadsby, Paulraj Bagavandoss, David Townson, Roberto Towns, and most recently Jennifer Bowen-Shauver. His commitment to training was especially evident during his term as President of SSR, when he initiated the development of the SSR New Investigator Award.

Dr. Keyes has also served the broader scientific community. In addition to his work on numerous ad hoc NIH site visits and review committees, Dr. Keyes was a member of the

Clinical C Fellowship Review Committee (1979–81), the Clinical Sciences Study Section (1985–89), and the Reproductive Biology Study Section (1996–2000; chair from 1998 to 2000). Additionally, Dr. Keyes was on the Editorial Board for the *Proceedings of the Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine* (1985–88) and served as an Editor for *Endocrinology* (1979–82). He co-chaired the Local Arrangements Committee for the 1994 Sero Ovarian Workshop at the University of Michigan.

Dr. Keyes has worked very hard over the last 30 years to support the spirit, goals, and values of our Society. His service and contributions to SSR have been steadfast and tireless. He has served SSR as chair (1972) and member (2006) of the Nominating Committee, member of the Program Committee (1977 and 1999–2000), member of the Editorial Board of *Biology of Reproduction* (1978–82), chair of the Local Arrangements Committee for the 1980 Annual Meeting, chair of the Program Policy Committee (1982), Director (1985–88), member (1987–90) and chair (1994) of the Publications Committee, member (1990–93) and chair (1992) of the Future Meetings Committee, Treasurer (1994–97), President-Elect (2001–02), President (2002–03), and Past-President (2003–04). While President, Dr. Keyes facilitated the establishment of the interaction between SSR and the Society for Reproduction and Fertility, resulting in the creation of the New Investigator Award and initiation of the Trans-Atlantic SSR/ SRF Symposium. He established the ad hoc Committee on Reproduction and the Environment to enhance this field of endeavor within the Society. Additionally, Dr. Keyes undertook the very important goal of developing a new strategic plan for SSR, which was completed by the 2004 Annual Meeting. Development of a new strategic plan for our Society at this time was crucial to the well-being and future growth of SSR, and Dr. Keyes had the insight to recognize this and select a committee that wrote an extremely thoughtful and significant report. This long list of service activities that Dr. Keyes has performed for the Society clearly sets him apart from others for his commitment and dedication to SSR. Dr. Keyes has displayed extraordinary leadership and is perceived as a mentor to many young investigators in the Society. Dr. Keyes shows a quality that all investigators, young or more senior, will aspire to—scientific excellence, mentoring, and complete dedication to the role that reproductive biology plays in support of world health.

In summary, Landis Keyes has been a leader in the reproductive sciences since his entry into the field in the early 1970s. Dr. Keyes not only has served the greater scientific community but has also provided continuous service to SSR in a wide variety of roles, culminating in his election to the Presidency of the Society. Significantly, it is very clear that Dr. Keyes will happily take on nearly any job for the SSR when called upon again. His mark on our Society and on reproductive science as a whole is unmistakable and profound.