



SSR Distinguished Service Award (*Supported by the Society for the Study of Reproduction*). The SSR Distinguished Service Award recognizes an individual who has demonstrated unselfish service and leadership in advancing the discipline of reproductive biology. The recipient of the 2011 SSR Distinguished Service Award is **Dr. Joy L. Pate**.

The recipient of the 2011 Distinguished Service Award is Dr. Joy L. Pate. Dr. Pate earned a Ph.D. from the University of New Hampshire in Reproductive Physiology. Upon receiving her doctoral degree, she was immediately hired by The Ohio State University, joining the faculty in the Department of Dairy Science. To date, a major part of her academic career has been spent at OSU, where, through her dedicated work ethic in research and teaching, she rose in rank from Assistant to full Professor. In 2008, Dr. Pate was recruited by Penn State University and accepted a position of Professor as well as the C. Lee Rumberger and Family Endowed Chair in the Department of Dairy and Animal Sciences. In her new position, she serves as mentor and leader to a group of several newly hired reproductive biologists. Dr. Pate has provided extensive service and leadership to the field of reproductive biology, and especially to our own scientific society. Her service on SSR committees includes more than one term as member of the Nominating, Program, Publication, and Awards Committees, and she has chaired the Nominating Committee (1993), Program Committee (1996), and the Strategic Planning Subcommittee on Management of SSR (2009).

Anyone who has worked with Dr. Pate knows there is no one who can match the energy and passion that she puts into her leadership activities. Beginning with her election as Director in 1995, Dr. Pate served SSR for nine years in major leadership positions, including Secretary (1998–2001), President-Elect (2003), President (2004), and Past-President (2005). She has served or is currently serving on the Editorial Board of *Biology of Reproduction* and at least four other major scientific journals. As Chair of the Organizing Committee, Dr. Pate played a key role in bringing about the first World Congress of Reproductive Biology (WCRB). She continues to serve as SSR representative to the WCRB organizing committee, which is preparing for the second WCRB in Australia in October 2011.

Dr. Pate's service to the discipline of reproductive biology extends well beyond her roles within SSR. She has twice served on the advisory committee (2004–2006)/organizing committee (2007–2010) for the International Ruminant Reproduction Symposium, and served as a member of the organizing committee for the International Congress of Reproductive Immunology (2009–2010). She has served as a member of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Reproductive Biology Study Section (1993–1997) and as an ad hoc member of this as well as several other NIH study sections. She has also served as a member of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)'s National Competitive Grants Program panel to review grants on Reproductive Efficiency of Domestic Animals for three years, and as Panel Manager for two additional years. Her performance in reviewing grant proposals for these federal agencies has been

exemplary; her reviews are thorough, fair, and always encouraging and helpful to the applicant. She has been an ardent supporter of the Ovarian Workshop and, over a 20-year period, served as Director, Chair, and Treasurer of this scientific conference.

In addition to her service activities and fulfilling her day-to-day academic responsibilities as administrator and teacher, Dr. Pate has maintained a strong research program. She has mentored a number of students who have earned their Ph.D. and M.S. degrees with her guidance, and many are now successfully established scientists in academic positions. She and her trainees have consistently presented their research at the annual meeting of the SSR. Dr. Pate does an excellent job of training her students and instills in them the attributes required to succeed in their careers. Dr. Pate is a leader in the field of immune cell function in the corpus luteum and was the first to show that luteal cells express major histocompatibility complex (MHC) molecules and that MHC expression is affected by the stage of the estrous cycle and gestation in cattle.

Subsequently, her laboratory has examined the role of prostaglandin $F_{2\gamma}$ in stimulating MHC expression on luteal cells as a mechanism mediating luteal regression. Research in her laboratory continues to investigate the role that immune cells play, not only in luteal regression, but also in the formation and function of the corpus luteum. Her pioneering research in this area has stimulated an influx of new investigators who now focus on the role of the immune cells in corpus luteum function. In line with her research interests, Dr. Pate has been a long-standing member and leader of the USDA-sponsored Northeast Multistate Regional Project in cattle reproduction.

In summary, Dr. Pate, endowed with her sharp intellect and critical thinking, as well as an always joyfully expressive personality, has made significant contributions in service and leadership to our Society and the discipline of reproductive biology. She has, without question, fulfilled all the criteria for the SSR Distinguished Service Award and is most deserving of this prestigious award. (Submitted by Dr. Frederick Stormshak.)