



SSR Distinguished Service Award
(EMD Serono Research Institute)

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 2012 SSR Distinguished Service Award is **Barbara Sanborn, Ph.D.**

Dr. Sanborn has a long and distinguished record of service to SSR and to the profession. She has served on most of the SSR committees, including Membership, Awards (twice), Public Affairs, Strategic Planning, Publications, and the Past President's Advisory Committee. She has also been entrusted with chairing two of the most important SSR committees, Nominations and Ethics. In 1994, she was elected to a three-year term on the Board of Directors and, only two years after serving that term, became the SSR President-Elect and President. In her typically quiet and gentle way, she would lead the Board of Directors through difficult discussions to reach consensus. She was fair and objective; she allowed everyone to be heard and created an environment in which each person's opinion was valued. Dr. Sanborn was a model of professionalism and a respected leader.

Dr. Sanborn has served in leadership positions in the American Society of Andrology and the Testis Workshop, and contributes her service to the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and the Society for Gynecologic Investigation. In Houston, she served as Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Training Program in Mammalian Reproduction, Director of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences in Reproductive Biology, President of the Faculty of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, Vice-Chair of the Department of Biochemistry and

Molecular Biology, a participant in the Women in Academia Conference, Director of Research for the University of Texas Houston Medical School, Director of the Office of Women's Health and Women's Health Initiative, Coordinator of the Texas Women's Reproductive Health consortium, a leader in Women's Reproductive Health Research Career Development, and co-founder in 1994 of the annual Texas Forum on Reproductive Sciences held in the Texas Medical Center.

After a distinguished 30-year career at the University of Texas Health Sciences Center in Houston, Dr. Sanborn joined Colorado State University in 2003 and was appointed as Head of the newly formed Department of Biomedical Sciences. She served in this role for seven years, steering this nascent department through a somewhat difficult merger, overseeing the establishment of a new undergraduate major, and hiring 10 new faculty, including seven assistant professors, all of whom have now established extramural research funding. While in Houston and Colorado, she also served on numerous study sections and grant proposal reviews for the National Institutes of Health (including Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health & Human Development and the Toxicology Program of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences), National Research Council (NRC), and Canadian Institutes of Health Research.

In addition to her extensive service record, Dr. Sanborn has an outstanding record of research achievements. She has made seminal contributions to our understanding of mechanisms of action of hormones such as relaxin. She has placed most of her emphasis on understanding hormone signaling pathways, positive and negative feedback mechanisms for hormones, and crosstalk among cell signaling pathways that affect uterine calcium homeostasis. From a translational research standpoint, she defined calcium entry mechanisms that affect the kinetics of intracellular calcium stores and are targets for the design of tocolytics to prevent premature labor. Her research has been continuously funded by NIH since 1976. She has trained numerous postdoctoral and clinical fellows, as well as undergraduate and graduate students and has published over 100 peer-reviewed articles, 15 invited articles, and 31 book chapters, and she has edited two books. She has delivered many invited lectures both nationally and internationally, and it should be noted that in addition to research lectures, she is often invited to present lectures on administrative issues and

career guidance. She was active in undergraduate and graduate teaching while in Texas, and continued teaching courses at both the undergraduate and graduate levels while she served as Head of the Department of Biomedical Sciences at Colorado State University. Because of her numerous contributions to science, she has received honors and awards that reflect recognition of her high standards for research, teaching, and service by her peers.

In summary, Dr. Barbara Sanborn has contributed tirelessly and unselfishly to the Society for the Study of Reproduction and to the field of reproductive biology as a whole. She is an excellent researcher and a devoted teacher and mentor. Perhaps most importantly, she is an outstanding role model of professionalism, dedication, and service for our young scientists. She leads by example and has served as a valued administrative mentor for others. Dr. Sanborn has unselfishly contributed her time and energies for the benefit of the Society and the field of reproductive biology, and is highly deserving of the Distinguished Service Award. *(Submitted by Joy L. Pate, Ph.D.)*