

SSR Distinguished Service Award (*sponsored by Serono Laboratories, Inc.*). The SSR Distinguished Service Award recognizes an individual who has demonstrated unselfish service and leadership in advancing the discipline of reproductive biology. The co-recipients of the 2001 SSR Distinguished Service Award are Drs. Gordon D. Niswender and Terry M. Nett.



Dr. Gordon D. Niswender was a Charter Member of the Society for the Study of Reproduction and served the Society as Treasurer from 1973 through 1976, as President from 1981 to 1982, on the Editorial Board of *Biology of Reproduction* from 1971 to 1978, and, finally, was Editor-in-Chief of our journal from 1995 to 1999. He was on the Budget and Finance Committee in 1973; the Public Affairs Committee in 1975; the Program Policy Committee in 1976 and 1977; the Local Arrangements Committee during 1975, 1983, 1992, and 1993; the Nominating Committee in 1983, 1990, and 1997; the Publications Committee in 1987, 1988, and 1996–1998; and is currently a member of the Industrial Relations Committee.

Dr. Niswender was actively involved in hosting the annual meeting of the Society for the Study of Reproduction held at Colorado State University in 1975 and 1993. He also served on the Program, Organizing, and Local Arrangements Committees for the International Symposium on Reproduction in Domestic Animals, and was instrumental in organizing the IInd symposium held in Ithaca, New York, in 1982 and the Vth symposium held in Colorado Springs, Colorado, in 1998. He has served on NIH Study Sections and routinely reviews grant proposals for USDA and NSF.

In recognition of Dr. Niswender's scientific contributions to our discipline, he was awarded the SSR Research Award in 1988. His laboratory has been on the cutting edge of research examining factors regulating the function of the ruminant corpus luteum. A testament of the respect his colleagues accord to him is reflected by the number of named lectureships he has been asked to present, the latest being the Hammond Lecture presented at the Society for the Study of Fertility. He has received awards from the Endocrine Society, the American Society of Animal Science, and was a MERIT Awardee of NIH. He has authored more than 200 peer-reviewed journal publications, 110 abstracts, and 40 chapters in books.

In the late 1960s and early 1970s, Dr. Niswender and his colleagues developed many radioimmunoassays capable of quantifying circulating concentrations of reproductive hormones in farm and laboratory animals. Having successfully developed such assays, for the past 30 years Dr. Niswender has made reagents for these assays available to scientists in hundreds of laboratories in 30 countries.

Last, but not least, Gordon Niswender has served as advisor to 17 Ph.D. and 31 postdoctoral students, and served on numerous Ph.D. and M.S. graduate committees. Two of his students have received the SSR Trainee Research Award (Diane Suter and Milo Wiltbank), and Dr. Diane Suter was Secretary of SSR from 1995 to 1998. His students have been very active in our Society in various capacities over the years serving on the Board of Directors, Editorial Board of *Biology of Reproduction*, and on many committees.



Dr. Terry M. Nett has served our Society as a member of the Board of Directors from 1984 thru 1987, as President from 1991 to 1992, on the Editorial Board of *Biology of Reproduction* from 1990 to 1995, and as Associate Editor of our journal from 1995 to 1999. He was on the Nominating Committee in 1980, 1981, 1988, 1994, and 2000; the Program Committee in 1982, 1983 and 1999; the Local Arrangements Committee during 1992 and 1993; and the Future Meeting Sites Subcommittee in 1993. During his tenure as President, he provided leadership during the decision making process for the SSR to move to an independent business office for the Society.

Dr. Nett was actively involved in hosting the annual meetings of the Society for the Study of Reproduction in 1975 and 1993. He also served on the Local Arrangements Committee for the International Symposium on Reproduction in Domestic Animals held in Colorado Springs, Colorado, in 1998. He has been a member of NIH study sections and USDA review panels and has provided outstanding service to the area of reproductive biology at both the national and international levels. He has made the education of thousands of individuals regarding the importance of the human population problem a personal mission.

Dr. Nett's contribution to our discipline in the area of mentoring of graduate and postdoctoral students is admirable. Dr. Nett has served as advisor to 16 Ph.D. and 13 postdoctoral students, and has been a member of numerous Ph.D. and M.S. graduate committees. His students have gone on to develop successful careers in academia, government and industry, and have been very active in our Society in various capacities over the years.

Finally, Dr. Nett's research regarding the mechanism of GnRH action, the molecular events associated with seasonal and postpartum anestrus, and the control of gonadotropin synthesis and release have been considered worthy of continual funding for the last quarter century. His research has made major contributions to our understanding of how the brain regulates reproduction and his results are quoted by scientists from around the world. He received the "Young Animal Scientist Award" from the Western Section of the American Society of Animal Science in 1980 and the "Physiology and Endocrinology Award" from the American Society of Animal Science in 1989 for outstanding research accomplishments. His current position as Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Education in the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences has expanded his role in directing the research activities at Colorado State University.