

2008 Awards

The following people have been recognized by their peers for their outstanding contributions and service to science. The SSR is proud to honor these people.

2008 Awards Committee: *Robert A. Cushman, Chair; Charlie Chaffin, Andrea Cupp, Michelle Garcia, Steve Hammes, Fred Karsch, Kwan Hee Kim, Carolyn Komar, P. Prabhakara Reddi, Cheryl Rosenfeld, and Xiangzhong (Jerry) Yang.*

SSR Distinguished Service Award

Dr. Joanne E. Fortune

(Supported by a grant from EMD Serono Research Institute, LLC)



Dr. Joanne E. Fortune is the recipient of the SSR Distinguished Service Award for 2008. Dr. Fortune has demonstrated, in every way, “unselfish service and leadership in advancing the discipline of reproductive biology,” the primary criterion for the award. Dr. Fortune has served the Society continuously and in a variety of capacities for many years. Her leadership positions in the Society are most impressive and include the following: President-Elect, President, and Past President (1993–1996); Secretary, Board of Directors, (1989–1992); Treasurer,

Board of Directors, (1986–1992); Member, Board of Directors, (1983–1986); and assignments on most of the Committees supporting the functions of the Society. In all, Dr. Fortune spent a total of nine years on the Board of Directors of SSR and continues to provide good counsel as a Past President. She was an innovative President, who along with Dr. Barry Zirkin as Program Chair, introduced the minisymposia that make up a very important part of our annual meetings today. She was one of the early leaders in organizing the Ovarian Workshops, which have often been held in conjunction with SSR meetings.

Dr. Fortune’s contributions to the Society and to the discipline of reproductive biology also include the organization of a number of national and international meetings, and participation in public advisory groups including the Local Arrangements Committee for the SSR Annual Meeting (1985–1986) and the Past Presidents Advisory Group (1996–1997). She also serves as the Society’s representative

on the Science Policy Committee of FASEB (Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology). In addition, Dr. Fortune has served on numerous NIH, USDA, and NSF Grant Review Panels, as well as the Editorial Boards of *Biology of Reproduction*, *Endocrinology*, *Domestic Animal Endocrinology*, *Journal of Reproduction and Development*, and *Theriogenology*.

Dr. Fortune has been and continues to be a superb mentor for graduate and postdoctoral students, including 12 doctoral and 15 post-doctoral students and numerous Ph.D. and M.S. graduate committees. All of her graduate and postdoctoral students are successful scientists and nearly all of them hold responsible positions in the field and are contributors to the Society for the Study of Reproduction. She has obtained and directed a number of training grants (NIH and USDA) and her students have received 8 Lalor Foundation fellowships.

Dr. Fortune’s research program is one of the strongest in the nation. She has been funded by competitive grants from NIH and/or the USDA since 1980. She was the major contributor to development of the two-cell—two-gonadotropin concept for estrogen production in the ovary. She was one of the early leaders in ultrasonographic studies of the ovarian follicle in cattle; in this area, she described and studied the causes of prolonged follicular dominance in cattle. More recently, she was the first to initiate studies of the growth of primordial follicles in vitro in any species other than the mouse. This potentially has far-reaching implications for animal agriculture and human fertility.

Finally, Dr. Fortune is an outstanding and dedicated teacher, as evidenced by her recent appointment to a coveted James Law Professorship at Cornell University. She has developed and taught a series of both undergraduate and graduate courses in reproductive biology at Cornell.

In summary, Dr. Fortune has demonstrated all of the criteria for the Society for the Study of Reproduction Distinguished Service Award.