



SSR Trainee Mentoring Award. This award recognizes an SSR member who as a mentor has had significant impact on Trainees within the SSR. The Trainee Mentoring Award will be presented each year at the SSR Annual Meeting to an SSR member who has consistently demonstrated a measure of support and guidance to Trainees that far exceeds the basic responsibilities required of an academic advisor. The recipient of the 2009 Trainee Mentoring Award is Dr. Fuller W. Bazer.

Dr. Fuller W. Bazer is the recipient of the 2009 Trainee Mentor Award. Dr. Bazer began his faculty career and mentoring activities in 1968 at the University of Florida and then moved to Texas A&M University in 1992. His excellence in graduate education and research stems directly from his development and implementation of a trainee mentoring program that has resulted in over 400 scientific articles, reviews and book chapters during his career involving partnership with over 90 trainees (graduate students and postdoctoral fellows). Many of those trainees became very successful in a variety of academic, medical, industrial and governmental positions, are leaders in their chosen fields, and have also been recognized for excellence in graduate research and mentoring. Indeed, Dr. Bazer's commitment to and excellence in graduate student training and mentoring led to awards including the Alpha Zeta "Professor of the Year" for 1977-78 and the American Society of Animal Science L.E. Casida Award for Graduate Education in 1995. Several of his graduate students won outstanding dissertation and thesis awards at both the University of Florida and Texas A&M University. Moreover in 1972, he co-founded the Reproductive Tract Biology Gordon Research Conference that provides an exceptional environment for trainee education, mentoring and interactions with established investigators.

Dr. Bazer has a comprehensive knowledge and passion for Reproductive Biology and its implications in the broader world of scientific research which has been acknowledged by his receipt of numerous awards including the: Alexander von Humboldt Research Award in Agriculture; American Society of Animal Science Physiology and Endocrinology Award; Society for the Study of Reproduction Research Award, Distinguished Service Award, and Carl G. Hartman Award; Texas A&M University and the Association of Former Students Distinguished Achievement Award in Research; Wolf Prize in Agriculture; and most recently the Society for Reproduction and Fertility Distinguished Research Award. At annual SSR meetings, he is always interacting with trainees at the poster and platform sessions and trainee-mentor luncheons; he is also an avid supporter of the Larry Ewing Trainee Travel endowment.

One of the unique qualities of Dr. Bazer is his selfless service as a teacher and trusted mentor to trainees in reproductive biology. As soon as he arrived at Texas A&M in 1993, he organized an interdisciplinary campus-wide Faculty of Reproductive Biology that

supports trainee travel to present their science at scientific meetings and involves trainees at every level from service on the Executive Committee to hosting seminar speakers. In addition, he co-founded the Texas Forum on Reproductive Sciences in 1995 that is held annually at the Texas Medical Center, Houston, which provides a forum for trainees from a variety of different Texas institutions. Most recently, he was funded in 2006 by the NIH for a Bridges to the Doctorate in Reproductive Biology that creates a partnership between Texas A&M University and two minority-serving institutions, Texas A&M University-Kingsville and Prairie View A&M University, to transition underrepresented students to the doctoral program at Texas A&M University. Although he has been engaged in administration for much of the past 15 years, he continues to teach in the two-semester graduate level course in Reproductive Biology at Texas A&M University. In summary, Dr. Bazer has been and continues to be committed to mentoring young scientists, providing leadership to the scientific community, and supporting his current and former trainees throughout his career. Therefore, Dr. Bazer is most deserving of the SSR Trainee Mentoring Award.