



### Carl G. Hartman Award

(Supported by a grant from Cook Medical)

This award is the most prestigious award conferred by the Society for the Study of Reproduction. Each year, this award recognizes an exemplary research career in reproductive biology. The 2012 recipient of the Carl G. Hartman Award is **Douglas M. Stocco, Ph.D.**

Dr. Douglas M. Stocco of the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Medicine is a world-renowned expert in cholesterol trafficking and steroidogenesis and an active member of SSR. He received B.Sc. and M.Sc. degrees from the University of Windsor a Ph.D. from the University of Toronto, and was a postdoctoral fellow at the University of California–Los Angeles (UCLA) for two years. In 1974, he joined the faculty of the Department of Biochemistry at the new medical school at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC) and is currently a Professor in the Department of Cell Biology and Biochemistry. Dr. Stocco also serves as the Executive Vice President for Research for TTUHSC and the Dean of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences.

Dr. Stocco's research has been continuously funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) since 1983. He received an NIH Research Career Development Award in 1985 and an NIH MERIT Award in 1996. He was named a Grover E. Murray Distinguished Professor in 1997, the highest academic rank that a faculty member can attain at TTUHSC. He was also awarded a University Medical Center Endowed Chair and was named the Robert A. Welch Endowed Chair in Biochemistry in 1998. In 2003, he was named a University Distinguished Professor.

Dr. Stocco's research career has focused on the mechanisms involved in the regulation of steroid

hormone biosynthesis. His first paper on steroidogenesis in the testis was published in *Biology of Reproduction (BOR)* in 1978. After that, he worked for a number of years defining the factor that was necessary for the process to begin. He made his major breakthrough with the discovery of the steroidogenic acute regulatory protein, which astute members of his laboratory gave the acronym StAR. This study, described in a 1994 paper, energized steroid synthesis investigations by providing a new paradigm for exploration of the mechanisms by which intracellular signaling drives the process. Doug followed up on this study with high-impact investigations of the structure, function, and regulation of StAR in his laboratory and via a multitude of productive collaborations. His work also stimulated thousands of publications that greatly advanced our understanding of steroidogenesis. More recently, the START domain has been defined as an evolutionarily conserved protein motif that is functional in plants as well as animals.

Dr. Stocco has published over 200 peer-reviewed original scientific articles, book chapters, and review articles during his scientific career. In recognition of his work, Dr. Stocco was awarded the SSR Research Award in 1997, the Achievement Rewards for College Scientists (ARCS) Distinguished Scientist Award in 1997, and the Trans-Atlantic Medal Award by the British Endocrine Society in 1999. He was also awarded a

Raine Distinguished Professorship at the University of Western Australia in 2001. In 2005, Dr. Stocco was awarded the Dean's Research Award, the President's Research Award, and the Chancellor's Council Distinguished Research Award and was elected as a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). In 2009, Dr. Stocco received the Distinguished Scientist of the Year Award from the Society for Reproduction and Fertility in the U.K. In addition to the Hartman Award in 2012, Dr. Stocco was awarded the Dean's Scholarship/Research Award at the TTUHSC.

Dr. Stocco exemplifies the type of mentor found in SSR. He has trained more than forty students and postdoctoral fellows and has had a number of faculty from other institutions spend time in his laboratory. Dr. Stocco has also served his profession and SSR in many roles. He was a member of the SSR Board of Directors (2000–2003), an Associate Editor of *BOR* (2004–2009), SSR President (2007–2008), and he has served on

a number of SSR committees. He has also served on the editorial board of several other journals. Dr. Stocco has served on many national and international review panels and organizing committees of national and international meetings and symposia.

Doug is a good citizen of the scientific community, well known for his generosity in providing ideas, advice, probes, and antibodies. In addition, he is always willing to participate in synergistic collaborations with other scientists, and his contributions are greatly valued. He is also a giving and caring individual, always willing to discuss and interact with trainees.

Dr. Stocco meets and exceeds the criteria for the Hartman Award in terms of originality, mentorship, and leadership, and he has made major contributions to reproductive science and SSR. *(Submitted by Reid L. Norman, Ph.D., and Bruce D. Murphy, Ph.D.)*