



## SSR Distinguished Service Award

*(Supported by the Society for the Study of Reproduction)*

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 2013 SSR Distinguished Service Award is **Mitch Eddy, Ph.D.**

SSR is pleased to recognize Edward Mitchell (Mitch) Eddy, Ph.D., with the 2013 Distinguished Service Award for his longstanding commitment to the development and success of SSR. His steady contributions of leadership, mentorship, and scientific expertise have helped mold and solidify the Society as we know it today. In the eyes of his many SSR friends and colleagues, Mitch is viewed as the “go-to person” when a difficult task needs to be done effectively and on time, and a respected sage who quietly shares his wisdom to solve complex and important Society problems.

Over many years of active SSR membership, Mitch’s leadership has extended to most aspects of Society affairs, especially in planning the scientific program for our Annual Meeting (being on and then chairing the Program Committee in 2001) and in the broad arena of publications. While serving on the Board of Directors (2002–2005), Mitch contributed directly to the SSR Strategic Plan and became acutely aware of emerging issues in journal publication models and ethics. Under his leadership as Vice President, President, and Past President (2006–2008), and concurrently as an Associate Editor of *Biology of Reproduction* (2004–2008), he helped re-envision the Research Ethics and Animal Ethics subcommittees of the Publications Committee. Continuing as co-chair and then as chair of the Publications Committee (2009–2012), and working closely with SSR Executive Director Judith Jansen, Mitch informed and guided the Board through a number of difficult decisions about changing publication models and

transitioning to an all-electronic journal. More recently, he and his committee encouraged initiatives to promote awareness of the SSR and its journal through establishing our presence on Facebook and Twitter; he launched a promotion campaign through FASEB; and helped to lay the groundwork for our new website. Most recently, he actively recruited new Editors-in-Chief, a process that included soliciting and reviewing applications and interviewing candidates. Each of these advances required a considerable amount of work, and all have been incredibly important to the continued success of *Biology of Reproduction* and SSR in general.

Mitch’s research contributions in reproductive science have illuminated the origin of the germ line, explored the fine control of spermatogenesis at cell and molecular levels, and solved puzzles about the energetics of sperm motility and sperm chromatin structure. With his students and extensive collaborators, he has provided the field with valuable gene knockout models and new insights into the basis of reproductive toxicology and human infertility. He has shared his broad expertise with the scientific community through editorial service to many other journals, including the *Journal of Andrology*, *Endocrinology*, and *Environmental Health Perspectives*; service on numerous Scientific Program Committees (and as chair), such as the Gordon Research Conferences, North American Testis Workshop, and the American Society of Andrology; and authoring important and extensive reviews, such as “The Spermatozoon” in Knobil and Neill’s *Physiology of Reproduction*.

Throughout, Mitch has mentored numerous students and postdocs, as well as junior investigators from around the globe. Indeed, he was recognized this year by the National Institute of Environmental Health Scientists as the Mentor of the Year. As part of this process, his previous trainees described him as a strong and generous role model who invests personally in their career development, promoting confidence while also encouraging independence. Importantly, he encourages them to seek service and leadership positions; many of his trainees have followed in his footsteps to serve on SSR's Board and as committee members and speakers.

Mitch's peers who nominated him for this Distinguished Service award describe him as someone they turn to when a difficult task needs to be done effectively and on time, who is a bulwark of strength, who is always willing to help, who is a steady and calm voice of reason, and who, in the midst of deliberating tough issues, lightens the load with humor. Few members have contributed in so many different ways or through such challenging times. This Award is one small way for SSR to express its deep debt of gratitude to Mitch. *(Submitted by Sally Perreault Darney, Ph.D.)*