

Roger V Short Medal and Lecture

1. Purpose

The RV Short Medal and Lecture will be awarded annually to an innovative young researcher who has made outstanding discoveries in the field of reproductive science within 10 years of establishing their independence. The intent of the award is to recognize those who possess the spirit of discovery, creativity and imagination epitomized by the career of Roger Short.

This prestigious international award is a joint initiative of the Society for Reproductive Biology (SRB, Australia and New Zealand), the Society for Reproduction and Fertility (SRF, UK) and the Society for the Study of Reproduction (SSR, North America) to support and encourage outstanding young researchers in the reproductive sciences.

2. Definitions

Society is one or another or all of the Society for Reproductive Biology (SRB, Australia and New Zealand), the Society for Reproduction and Fertility (SRF, UK) and the Society for the Study of Reproduction (SSR, North America), according to context.

Host Society is the Society (SRB, SRF or SSR) that is responsible for provision of the Chair in a given year.

Home Society is the Society (SRB, SRF or SSR) in which the Medal Awardee is a member, and that is responsible for organisation of the Medal Lecture as detailed below. If a Medal Awardee is a member of more than one Society, Home Society will be based on the location of the primary institutional affiliation of the Awardee.

RSML is the Roger Short Medal and Lecture

Voting in the context of the RSML Committee's activities means the process of scoring, ranking, or voting during the process of evaluating and selecting an Awardee.

3. RSML Awards Committee

The RSML Awards Committee will have international membership and consist of a Chair and five members (a total of two from each society). The Executive of each Society will appoint two members to serve on the committee. Membership will normally be for three years. Terms will be staggered so that two members are replaced each year and two new members are appointed.

One or another of the three Societies (SSR-SRF-SRB) will act as Host Society for a one-year term with a triannual rotation.

The Chair will be selected by the RSML Awards Committee from the RSML Awards Committee members of the Host Society and may be an outgoing committee member. The term of the Chair will also be for one year and will rotate between the three societies (SSR-SRF-SRB) in alignment with the current Host Society. The Chair will have voting rights.

The inaugural Host Society for 2023 was the SSR and the RSML Awards Committee was chaired by Peter Hansen. Inaugural members were Brett Nixon and Josephine Bowles (SRB), Richard Lea and Suman Rice (SRF), Blanche Capel and Troy Ott (SSR). Initial terms of appointment were staggered to initiate committee turn-over as below:

- Richard Lea, Troy Ott, Josephine Bowles: one-year term (2023)
- Brett Nixon, Blanche Capel: two-year term (2023 - 2024).
- Suman Rice: three-year term (2023 - 2025).

Subsequent/new members have been appointed to serve a three-year term, and each Society will have responsibility for ensuring that there are two representative members each year. Members of the RSML Awards Committee will be senior members (PhD/DPhil/MD or equivalent) and/or officers of the three Societies e.g., presidents/chairs (elect, current or past), programme chairs, Fellows of the Society, or equivalent. For the 2024 round, the inaugural winner of the award was part of the Committee by special arrangement.

The Host Society for 2024 was the SRF and the RSML Awards Committee Chair was Richard Lea (SRF outgoing member). The Committee comprised Brett Nixon and Sarah Robertson (SRB), Suman Rice and Kim Jonas (SRF), Blanche Capel and Niamh Forde (SSR). The Host Society for 2025 will be the SRB and Sarah Robertson will serve as Chair.

Current terms of appointment are as follows:

SRB:

- Sarah Robertson: Jan 2024 – Dec 2026 (Chair for 2025)
- Robert Gilchrist: Jan 2025 – Dec 2027

SSR:

- Mellissa Mann: July 2024 – July 2027
- Monika Ward: Jan 2025 – Dec 2027

SRF:

- Suman Rice: Jan 2023 – Dec 2025
- Kim Jonas: Jan 2024 – Dec 2026

Members of the RSML Awards Committee may be reappointed after a minimum of 5 years since their last membership term completed.

The Roger Short Medal will be awarded annually. The method of evaluating candidates and selecting the Awardee will be according to merit, as evidenced by the application using a scoring process determined by the RSML Awards Committee.

To manage any actual or perceived conflict of interest (COI), all members of the RSML Awards Committee must disclose any personal, professional, or employment

relationship or financial interest with a nominated candidate. RSML Awards Committee members with a Direct COI must refrain from voting or contributing to discussion on the relevant candidate. Members with an Indirect COI must only vote or contribute to discussion upon agreement from other RSML Committee members. See Section 10 for descriptions of Direct and Indirect COI.

4. Location of the Medal Lecture

The Medal Lecture will usually be held in a major city selected by the Home Society, the location of which will normally be determined by the country of residence of the successful candidate and the location of their research institution. In the event that an Awardee does not reside in the USA, UK or Australia, consideration may be given to holding the Medal Lecture in one of these countries if organising the Lecture is otherwise challenging. Consideration should also be given to locating the Lecture on different continents in different years. In the event that an Awardee is required to travel, the costs of their travel will be borne by the Home Society.

To promote the prestige of the Medal and to avoid detracting from the importance of the current awards of each Society, the Lecture will not be held in conjunction with the Annual Scientific Meeting of a Society. It will be held separately at the same time of each year, and will also be available virtually, as a Webinar and on YouTube for at least a year.

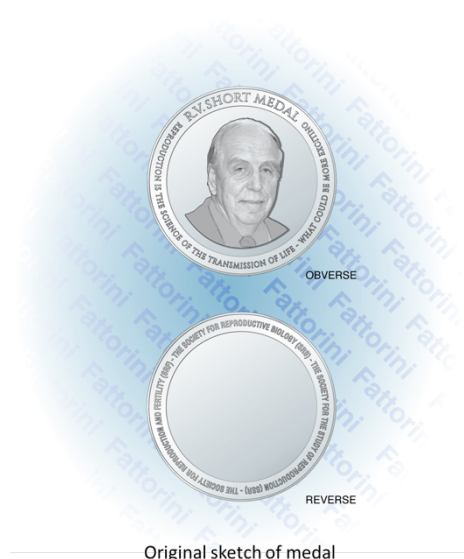
The Home Society will be responsible for arranging the in-person and virtual Medal Lecture. RSML Awards Committee members from the Home Society will be responsible for ensuring that occurs. In the event that the selected site is the Awardee's research institution, arrangements will be made in consultation with the Awardee's institution through the Awardee. All three Societies and the Awardee's institution will be responsible for advertising the time and date of the Lecture. The Lecture will be chaired by the President of the Home Society, a member of the RSML Awards Committee, or the Awardee's department head or director. The Awards will be bestowed by the President of the Home Society or a member of the RSML Awards Committee. A brief introduction about Roger V Short will be provided by the Committee member bestowing the award. The Home Society will distribute the recorded lecture to the other Societies. Members of any of the Societies or non-members can register for the in-person and virtual Lecture or access the recorded Lecture.

5. Funding

Each Society will contribute to funding the Medal and Lecture until such time as adequate sponsorship has been obtained. The Home Society will cover costs of any required economy-class travel and accommodation for the Awardee and/or RSML Award Presenter, audio-visual effects, and other costs associated with the Lecture. If a reception is held after the Medal Lecture, the Home Society will contribute to the cost (up to USD 500). The amount of USD 1,000 will be an honorarium for the Awardee. The Home Society will pay the costs of the Medal honorarium. The Home

Society will provide an itemised invoice to the other Societies to recover one third of the Medal costs from each, within a year of the Award Lecture.

The three Societies will share the cost of the striking of the Medal. In 2023, the SRF arranged for five sterling silver double sided medals to be made by Thomas Fattorini Ltd. (Birmingham, UK). Future medals should be ordered from the same provider to retain consistency, and the cost will be split across the three Societies. Each medal has an image (head shot) of Professor Roger Short with his inspiring quote “Reproduction is the science of the transmission of life – what could be more exciting” on one side. On the other side, the titles and initials of the three Societies will appear around the edge and the name and year of the Medallist will be engraved in the middle.



Sculpture image

6. Publicity

A joint press release will be prepared by the RSML Awards Committee and distributed by email, newsletter, website and other media by each of the three Societies.

A record of each of the Short Medallists, including a short biography and portrait of the medallist, will be maintained on websites of the three Societies. The RSML Awards Committee Chair will be responsible for preparing the biography of the Awardee of the year of their chairmanship.

7. Timeline

Committees appointed – mid-Feb
Nominations opened - mid-March
Submission deadline - mid-May (Date TBC)
Winner selected - mid-June
Applicants notified - end of June
Award lecture – Timing is flexible but no later than March of the following year

8. Conflict of Interest

A **direct conflict of interest** of a committee member with a candidate can occur for reasons including, but not limited to, the following:

1. They have a close personal relationship (including enmity).
2. They have a professional relationship, including:
 - a) are negotiating/hold/have held within the past two years a research grant or proposal conjointly that involves close collaboration;
 - b) they are a collaborator or co-author on a research output within the past four years;
 - c) they are an academic supervisor of the candidate (eg. PhD or postdoctoral supervisor);
 - d) they are an employment supervisor (or the candidate is/was a direct report) within the past five years.
3. They have been in the same division/department/section of the organisation employing the candidate, or the same research centre as the candidate, **and** in the same research field, or a closely related research field, as the candidate during the past two years.

An **indirect conflict of interest** of a committee member with a candidate can occur if any of the following apply:

1. They have ever had any of the professional research relationships listed in '2' above at any time in the past (except 'academic supervisor' in which case this is a direct conflict).
2. They have been in the same division, department, section or centre as the candidate but are not in the same research field or a related research field as the candidate.
3. They have been a co-editor with the candidate of a book, journal, compendium, or conference proceedings within the past two years.

9. The Responsibilities of the RSML Awards Committee Chair

The RSML Awards Committee Chair will:

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- Ensure that the RSML Awards Committee members are appointed and call for RSML nominations issued by each Society.
 - Work with the RSML Awards Committee to develop a suitable evaluation system.
 - Solicit scores of candidates from the RSML Awards Committee and organize one or more meetings of the Committee to select the Awardee.
 - Work with the Home Society of the successful candidate to notify the candidate.
 - Prepare press releases for use by the Home Society and other organizations to publicize the award.
 - Notify unsuccessful nominators and encourage re-application.
 - Work with the Awardee, and the Home Society to have the Short Medal engraved (or cast as appropriate) and to ensure organization of the Medal Lecture. Prepare a biography of the Awardee and distribute it to the three Societies.

- Provide the SSR with updated documents to be maintained on a Google or other shared drive available to officers of all three societies. SSR will maintain documents related to the award on the shared drive and make these available to all three Societies.

10. Information for the web page of each Society

The following information will be posted on the website of each Society, to inform potential candidates and support the nomination process:

Nominations

The RV Short Medal and Lecture will be awarded annually to an innovative young researcher who has made outstanding discoveries in the field of reproductive science within 10 years of establishing their independence. The intent of the Medal and Lecture is to recognize those who possess the spirit of discovery, creativity and imagination epitomized by the career of Roger Short.

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The following guidelines for nominations apply:

Any regular member of the SSR, SRB or SRF may nominate a candidate, irrespective of the candidate's country of origin or, whether or not the candidate has been nominated for or received a Society Award.

The Roger Short Medal and Lecture (RSML) Awards Committee will select the Medallist from the nominations received, notwithstanding the candidates' country of origin.

It is expected that the candidate is, or will become, a member of one of the Societies.

Nominations are to be submitted online to the RSML Awards Website and/or to a nominated RSML Committee member's email address according to instructions provided on each Society's web page, by a specified closing date normally at least 6 months before the time of the Lecture. RSML Awards Committee members cannot nominate a person for the Award. Nominators should not have a direct conflict of interest with the Nominee.

A previous RV Short Medallist is not eligible for nomination.

Previous unsuccessful applicants, who meet the eligibility criteria, are welcome to re-apply.

The candidate must agree to be nominated and to any audio-visual requirements in conjunction with the Award.

The Nomination will consist of the following components provided in a single pdf file;

1. Brief Citation (1-2 pages)

The Nominator should:

- Describe the candidate's key discoveries and/or achievements in a clear, concise and sufficiently technical way to allow RSML Awards Committee members to make a confident assessment of the candidate's work; and
- Describe the nature, impact, and importance of the candidate's discoveries and achievements in relation to reproductive science.

2. Full Curriculum Vitae (Max. 5 pages, min. font size 11 – arial)

Include a full publications list or a link to publicly available publication list, past and current positions, any evidence of international standing, major awards, fellowships, and keynote or plenary talks in the field of reproductive science. A brief section may be included on any legitimate career disruption incurred by the candidate.

3. List of up to 5 Publications

A list of up to 5 most significant publications, each including up to 50 words explaining why they are significant. Outline the candidate's specific role in the research and indicate percentage contribution.

4. Non-Technical Description of the Work (Maximum 150 words)

Include a non-technical description of the candidate's work directed to a non-scientific audience and cover the significance of the candidate's research and its broader implications. This description may be used by the Societies for publicity purposes, if a candidate is successful.

5. Referees

The Nominator should submit a minimum of two referees' reports of up to 2 pages at the time of nomination, in addition to the Nominator's citation. Nominators should choose referees based on their standing in the field of reproductive science and at least one of whom should be independent of the candidate (no current or previous employment, professional or personal relationship). Referees should declare their relationship with the candidate, and any conflict of interest they may hold or be perceived to hold.

[“Reproduction is the science of the transmission of life – what could be more exciting” – Roger Short](#)