

SSR Member Memorial
Dr. Susan Stevens Suarez
March 15, 1949 - June 11, 2026



The Society for the Study of Reproduction mourns the passing of Dr. Susan Stevens Suarez, Professor Emeritus at Cornell University and Past President of SSR, who died peacefully on June 11, 2026, at the age of 77 after a prolonged illness.

Dr. Suarez was recognized around the world for her pioneering contributions to reproductive biology, particularly her work on the interaction of sperm with the female reproductive tract. Her research advanced understanding of the sperm reservoir at the base of the oviduct and the hydrodynamics of sperm movement through the cervix and oviduct. Her scientific career reflected extraordinary curiosity, rigor, and collaboration across disciplines, including biology, biochemistry, physics, mechanical engineering, and statistics.

Dr. Suarez earned her Bachelor of Science degree in biology from Cornell University, a Master of Science degree in marine biology from the University of Miami, and a Ph.D. in biology from the University of Virginia. She continued her training as a postdoctoral scholar at the University of California, Davis, before holding faculty positions at the University of Florida and Cornell University, where she joined the faculty in 1994 and spent the bulk of her professional career.

Throughout her career, Dr. Suarez was known not only as an accomplished scientist, but also as a generous collaborator, dedicated teacher, and deeply committed mentor. She mentored more than 60 undergraduate, veterinary, graduate, and postdoctoral students; served on NIH, NSF, and USDA grant review committees for two decades; delivered invited seminars at more than 90 scientific meetings and universities around the world; and authored 119 scientific papers in leading journals in reproductive biology and beyond.

Her influence extended well beyond her publications. Many scientists were inspired to enter the field of reproductive biology through her research, review articles, lectures, and personal encouragement. Colleagues and trainees remember her as a thoughtful, collegial, and kind scientist who shared her knowledge, ideas, and resources

generously. Her impact was also recognized in the naming of the fish species *Ogilbia suarezae* in honor of her early graduate work.

Dr. Suarez provided meaningful service to SSR and the broader scientific community, including serving as President of the Society for the Study of Reproduction. Her leadership, mentorship, scholarship, and friendship left a lasting mark on SSR and on the field of reproductive science. Dr. Suarez's leadership and service within SSR included:

- **Publications Committee** — 1984
- **Representative to FASEB Training & Career Opportunities Subcommittee** — 1984
- **Membership Committee** — 1985
- **Program Committee** — 1985
- **Bylaws Committee** — 1990–1991; 2018–2019
- **Awards Committee** — 1994
- **Editorial Board** — 1995–1999; 2001–2005
- **Minority Affairs Committee** — 1996–1997, Chair; 1998; 2001
- **Education Committee** — 1999
- **Director** — 2002–2005
- **Nominating Committee** — 2005; 2014; 2015–2016, Chair; 2019–2020
- **Board of Reviewing Editors** — 2006–2008
- **Associate Editor, *Biology of Reproduction*** — 2009–2010
- **Vice President** — 2011
- **Development Committee** — 2011–2013
- **Finance Committee** — 2011–2013
- **Future Meeting Sites** — 2011
- **President** — 2012
- **Annual Meeting Advisory Committee** — 2012–2014
- **Future Meetings Committee** — 2012
- **Past President** — 2013–2014
- **Heritage Committee** — 2016–2017

In addition to her scientific accomplishments, Dr. Suarez was devoted to her family and community. She is survived by her husband, Wayne Gottlieb; her daughter, Rose Gottlieb, and son-in-law, Colin Brumsted; her son, Jesse Gottlieb, and daughter-in-law, Sarah Plotkin; her grandchildren, Jade and Ansel Gottlieb; and her brother, Jim Stevens, and sister-in-law, Irina Girshin.

SSR extends its sincere condolences to Dr. Suarez's family, friends, colleagues, trainees, and all who were touched by her life and work.