



**SSR Distinguished Service Award** (*sustaining support by EMD Serono Research Institute*). 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 2009 SSR Distinguished Service Award is Dr. Fredrick Stormshak.

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Dr. Fredrick Stormshak is the recipient of the SSR Distinguished Service Award for 2009. Dr. Stormshak is a Charter Member of SSR and has unselfishly contributed his time and energies for the benefit of the Society and the field of reproductive biology throughout his entire career. He has contributed to our journal, *Biology of Reproduction*, as an author, a reviewer, and as a member of the Editorial Board (1978-82). He served the Society as a Director (1992-95), and as a President (1997), and he continues to provide good counsel as a Past President. He played a major role in hosting the Society's annual meeting in Corvallis (1981) and as a member of the Local Arrangements Committee in Portland (1996). He chaired the Program Committee in 1980, the Local Arrangements Committee in 1988, and the Public Affairs Sub-committee of the Strategic Planning Committee in 2003. After he retired, Dr. Stormshak continued to serve SSR by chairing the Emeritus Committee, and organized a symposium in which the history of reproductive biology research might be more fully appreciated. Dr. Stormshak is very committed to helping trainees achieve their fullest potential, and has participated in the Trainee Forum whenever he was requested to do so. His goal for the historical perspectives lecture was to target trainees, so that they would have an understanding of how the field of reproductive biology was shaped by the early science.

Dr. Stormshak's service extends well beyond his roles within the SSR. He has been actively involved in NIH and USDA study sections, and has chaired study sections at both agencies. He has served as a reviewer of reproductive biology programs both nationally and internationally. He was appointed to a National Academy of Sciences Committee to evaluate the USDA-NRI Competitive Grants Program, which provides funding to reproductive biologists working with agriculturally important animals. He has served as an Editorial Board member of four major journals, as well as Section Editor and Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Animal Science*. His approach to these service activities is one of seriousness and responsibility. He does not do anything halfway. He believes strongly that it is his duty to the profession to do the job well, and he did this even when he sometimes agreed to take on too many things at once.

Despite all of his service activities and a full-time teaching load, Dr. Stormshak has maintained a very strong research program throughout his career. He has trained a number of students who have continued on to become leaders in the field of reproductive biology. He maintains close contact with his former students and continues to support their careers when he can. Most impressively, Dr. Stormshak demonstrates genuine interest and a caring attitude toward many trainees and young faculty who did not train with him, but in whom he sees potential. He is a

thoughtful person who will take time from his own busy schedule to provide advice or help advance the career of promising young scientists.

Finally, Dr. Stormshak's research has contributed substantially to the field of reproductive biology. In the early days of his career, he was instrumental in the development of valid assays to measure hormones in the blood and tissues of animals, and used these to determine the relationships between gonadotropins and steroids in the regulation of the hypothalamic-ovarian-uterine axis. In particular, he contributed significantly to our early understanding of the regulation of luteal function. Dr. Stormshak has published research using a variety of animal models, and his work covers everything from very applied to the most fundamental. He does not place any limits on the type of research he can perform, and he teaches his students to approach science in the same way. As Dr. Stormshak approached that time in his career when many researchers might 'slow down', he changed directions and embarked on studies that defined the importance of new signal transduction molecules in luteal cells. He has also recently made a major contribution to our understanding of the nongenomic actions of progesterone on endometrial cells, an area in which he continues to publish after his official 'retirement'.

In summary, Dr. Stormshak has demonstrated outstanding commitment in the areas of service, graduate student training, leadership and research, has served as a role model for many of us, and continues to demonstrate the importance of commitment and responsibility to SSR and to reproductive biology in general. He is certainly deserving of this prestigious award.