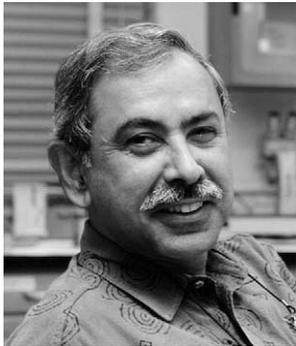


2008 Awards

The following people have been recognized by their peers for their outstanding contributions and service to science. The SSR is proud to honor these people.

2008 Awards Committee: *Robert A. Cushman, Chair; Charlie Chaffin, Andrea Cupp, Michelle Garcia, Steve Hammes, Fred Karsch, Kwan Hee Kim, Carolyn Komar, P. Prabhakara Reddi, Cheryl Rosenfeld, and Xiangzhong (Jerry) Yang.*

Carl G. Hartman Award Dr. Sudhansu K. Dey



The Carl G. Hartman Award is 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 2008 recipient of the Carl G. Hartman Award is Dr. Sudhansu K. Dey. Dr. Dey's record of discovery clearly meets the criteria of the Hartman Award. He has published more than 250 articles in the highest impact refereed journals, including a

remarkable ten articles in 2006 alone. The majority of these articles address the fundamental issues of embryo-uterine interactions in early gestation and clearly demonstrate that he that he is among the best known and most accomplished of implantation biologists. His record of invited lectures is long and prestigious, including SSR State-of-the-Art Lecture, Gordon Conferences, and numerous appearances on the programs of high-profile international meetings. He was plenary or keynote speaker at three international congresses in 2006, and received six such invitations for 2007—clear indication that the international scientific community holds him and his work in high esteem. He has been recipient of several awards, including the SSR Research Award, in recognition of his contribution to the field during the last half of the 1990s.

Dr. Dey has clearly been an innovator in his research program. His groundbreaking work demonstrating the role of epidermal growth factor in embryo-endometrial signaling provided a new paradigm of paracrine regulation of implantation. He followed this with novel observations of the EGF receptor and, consequently, the role of other members of the EGF family as essential or redundant factors in provoking the early embryouterine interactions. These studies showed that the embryo provides important coordination of local uterine events by initiating attachment and invasion, and thus were germinal to the re-evaluation of embryo's role in the implantation process. More recently, Dr. Dey's novel studies of cannabinoid signaling in implantation have had an important impact on human reproduction and fertility by explaining a fundamental cause of recurrent abortion.

Dr. Dey has pioneered the use of both molecular methods and the exploitation of transgenic mouse models to understand the complexity of the processes of embryo attachment and invasion. His investigations of uterine cyclooxygenase-2 (COX-2; now known as prostaglandin-endoperoxide synthase 2, or PTGS-2) provided one of the most important advances in implantation biology in recent decades. He showed PTGS-2 to be critical to ovulation, fertilization, and implantation, and that PTGS-2- derived prostacyclin mediates embryo implantation. His further investigations of knockout models

with phenotypes of disruption of the implantation process, including the homeobox gene *Hoxa-10* and zinc transporter proteins have provided new insight into the transcriptional control of endometrial and embryonic events associated with the initial attachment process. The great strength of Dr. Dey's laboratory is the depth in which he and his coworkers examine each model using multiple methods and endpoints. This strength is exemplified in his recent article (*Endocrinology* 2005; 146:2424–2433) on the role of cyclins during peri-implantation, where he has integrated the findings in the uterus of wild-type mouse with investigation of a null mutation model.

Dr. Dey's timely publication of his original research findings has led to rapid advancement of the field of implantation biology. His frequent and comprehensive reviews (a remarkable three in 2006, including one in *Nature Reviews Genetics*, and one in *Endocrine Reviews*) have provided integration of published information, theoretical synthesis of the overall process of implantation, and visionary projection of the trajectory of investigation of implantation.

The training record of the candidate is likewise outstanding, including supervision of more than one dozen graduate students and more than 30 postdoctoral fellows. Many of these individuals have gone on to establish their own laboratories in the USA or in other countries. In addition, he has trained numerous undergraduates in science and medicine and supervised research rotations of OB/GYN specialist trainees. Several of his trainees have received national and international awards of scholarships and fellowships, and these and others have been recognized for the best presentations at international congresses.

Dr. Dey has demonstrated his scientific leadership and substantial service contributions to the reproductive biology community by organizing symposia, conferences, and congresses. Many of these have been for SSR Annual Meetings, including three minisymposia on implantation and a Techniques Workshop. Other international meetings that he has organized include Gordon conferences on the reproductive tract, Serono symposia, and Endocrine Society symposia. He played a major role in developing the first Keystone Symposium in Reproductive Biology, held in February 2007. His collaborations and interactions with other researchers have been fruitful, and he is well known for his open and contributory attitude toward other scientists. He is always ready to help a young investigator with reagents, technical assistance, and aid with mouse models. Together, this demonstrates commitment to the community, and is a further indication of his strength as a scientist.

In summary, Dr. Dey has been a pioneer in developing a significant area of knowledge, implantation biology. He has developed this new knowledge in a creative and insightful manner, as indicated by his numerous quality and highly cited publications. This new knowledge has greatly expanded the understanding of early pregnancy. He is a good citizen of the community and has trained numerous young scientists. These remarkable accomplishments render Dr. S.K. Dey a highly worthy recipient of the Carl G. Hartman Award for 2008.