



SSR Research Award (*sustaining support from NV Organon*).

The SSR Research Award recognizes an active, regular member of the Society for outstanding research published during the previous six years. Criteria for the Award include the significance of problems under investigation, the breadth and depth of the analyses performed, and the level of originality manifested in the publications of this work. The recipient of the 2007 SSR Research Award is Dr. Richard L. Stouffer.

Dr. Richard Stouffer is currently Senior Scientist and Division Head, Division of Reproductive Sciences, Oregon National Primate Research Center (ONPRC), with joint appointments in the School of Medicine and Oregon Graduate Institute, Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU).

Over the past 6 years, as well as throughout his entire career, Dr. Stouffer's research career has been exceptional. Dr. Stouffer specializes in the study of female reproductive endocrinology, with emphasis on the regulation and function of the ovulatory follicle and corpus luteum in primates. His basic research has led to seminal discoveries about the processes of follicular maturation, ovulation, and formation of the corpus luteum, luteal function, and its demise during the menstrual cycle as well as luteal function during early pregnancy. Few people conduct basic research on ovarian function in female primates. Because of the similarity between the menstrual cycle of nonhuman primates and women, this animal model provides a wealth of information that can provide the basis for translational studies on promoting or controlling fertility in women. It is fortunate for all of us that Dr. Stouffer chose this field of specialization, for his intelligence and scientific insight has had a sustained and major impact. Dr. Stouffer has a gift for seeing the "big picture," and throughout his career has applied his vast knowledge in the basic processes of follicular and luteal function gleaned from the monkey model to contemporary areas of clinical importance in the reproductive health of women. His research has provided incredible opportunities for training. His graduate students and postdoctoral trainees are all actively engaged in scientific research, and the clinicians that trained with him are successful in both private practice and clinical research.

Dr. Stouffer has sustained an immensely successful research program through uninterrupted funding in the form of two NIH R01 grants since 1980. This funding provided opportunities for him to train three graduate students, 15 postdoctoral fellows, and four clinicians of obstetrics and gynecology. As a testament to his excellent research, two of his graduate students were finalists for, and one postdoctoral fellow received, SSR's Trainee Research Award. In addition, many of his postdoctoral fellows obtained National Research Service Awards from NIH and have received NIH Reproductive Training Grant awards from the Department of Physiology and Pharmacology at OHSU. The importance of his contributions to clinical research in reproduction are evident from the General Program Prize Paper he received with Mary Zelinski-Wooten from the American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM), and the Fellow's Award Prize Paper in Reproductive Endocrinology from the Armed Forces/American College of

Obstetrics and Gynecology presented to Dr. Milo Hibbert based on research conducted in the Stouffer laboratory.

While maintaining his own research program, Dr. Stouffer has initiated the growth of research within the Division of Reproductive Sciences at ONPRC and continues to sustain its vitality today. With Don Wolf, he founded the Assisted Reproductive Technologies Core laboratory at ONPRC using the rhesus monkey model. Research that resulted from the ART Core established an international reputation for Dr. Stouffer and his colleagues and placed ONPRC on the map as the premier nonhuman primate research facility for follicular stimulation, in vitro fertilization, embryo culture, embryo transfer, and related technologies (now expanded to include embryonic stem cell research). Dr. Stouffer also established new research opportunities with pharmaceutical companies that supply fertility drugs for assisted reproduction in women. He ensured that the industry interactions and preclinical trials were not set up to just “test drugs”, but to answer basic research questions while simultaneously providing important information that could be translated to clinical research. These industry interactions proved fruitful and resulted in many important publications. Dr. Stouffer’s reputation in preclinical infertility research recently led him to successfully compete for and renew a NICHD U54 Specialized Cooperative Center in Reproduction and Infertility Research grant, on which he is the Principal Investigator, with projects that foster collaborations within ONPRC as well as with basic scientists and clinicians at OHSU.

More recently, Dr. Stouffer entered the area of contraceptive research, which has yielded additional NIH R01 funding to initiate studies on low dose anti-progestin as a novel female contraceptive. In addition, he received funding from the WHO/Rockefeller Foundation Initiative on Implantation Research (with his former postdoctoral fellow Dr. Timothy Hazzard), and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Center of Excellence in Reproductive Biology (with Dr. Diane Duffy, formerly at ONPRC) to develop novel contraceptives based on different mechanisms to inhibit ovulation. Recently, NICHD specifically requested that a supplemental project to the U54 grant be conducted under Dr. Stouffer’s guidance; this led to current investigations with Dr. Jeffrey Jensen in conjunction with Dr. Jensen’s appointment as a Women’s Reproductive Health Research Scholar in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, OHSU. This novel research investigates selective inhibitors of oocyte maturation to prevent fertilization, hence leading to contraception. Their collaboration catalyzed a successful effort in 2007 with other scientists at ONPRC to establish a NICHD U54 Contraceptive Development Research Center for investigating novel methods that control fertility during the menstrual cycle in nonhuman primates.

Because of his vast knowledge and expertise in both basic and applied research in reproduction, Dr. Stouffer has been recognized nationally by his peers by being elected president of SSR (1995–1996), where he has also served in a variety of other capacities (Board of Directors, Editorial Board, Local Arrangements Committee). He has served as a reviewer and chair of the NIH Reproductive Endocrinology Study Section, and as a member of various advisory panels, including one to the World Health Organization. As an international scholar, Dr. Stouffer is frequently sought after to speak at international

gatherings of both basic scientists and clinicians in reproduction. On the local level, he has served on numerous ONPRC committees and continues to have a profound impact on the quality of research conducted at ONPRC and OHSU. As a recognized leader in his field, Dr. Stouffer has the incredible talent of bringing together many scientists for collaborative research. He is outstanding at forming research teams and leads by his example of excellence, diplomacy, intelligence, and enthusiasm.

Dr. Stouffer received his B.Sc. (Honors) in Biology from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in 1971, and his Ph.D. in Physiology from Duke University Medical School in 1975. From 1975 to 1977, he served as Staff Fellow in the Section on Endocrinology of the Reproduction Research Branch, NICHD, NIH. From 1977 to 1983, Dr. Stouffer was Assistant Professor in the Department of Physiology, College of Medicine, University of Arizona, and was promoted to Associate Professor in 1983; he continued in that capacity until 1985. Dr. Stouffer then moved to Beaverton, Oregon, as Scientist in the Division of Reproductive Sciences at the Oregon Regional Primate Center. He was promoted to Senior Scientist in 1995, became Division Head in 1996, and continues in both positions. Dr. Stouffer also holds concurrent appointments as Professor in the Department of Physiology and Pharmacology and the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology in the School of Medicine, Oregon Health & Science University, and Associate Professor in the Department of Environmental and Biomolecular Systems, Oregon Graduate Institute, Oregon Health & Science University.

Dr. Stouffer received the John A. Resko Faculty Research and Mentoring Award from the OHSU School of Medicine in 2001. He is a mentor who deeply cares about the development of young investigator careers, and does all he can to help his trainees achieve their scientific goals. He fosters a team environment, while enabling each person to pursue individual research projects. This team environment is nurtured continuously by his accessible style, clear goals, and expectations for each person, combined with utmost respect for him through his example as an excellent scientist. His enthusiasm for research is contagious, and he continues to exude the joy and fun of reproductive science in lab meetings. Despite his extremely busy schedule, he is always willing to discuss science in an open atmosphere, to listen, and to give advice. He is an organized, forward-thinking, and balanced scientist as well as a caring mentor, a good friend, and a person of great character.

Dr. Stouffer is the epitome of both an outstanding scientist and mentor and is someone who embodies excellence in research, fosters enthusiasm for science, and shares his knowledge with all. He consistently displays high standards of excellence, careful planning, and critical analyses of experiments, exceptional writing and speaking skills, and the art of drawing collaborators together both nationally and internationally. He is a caring and positive mentor to students and postdoctoral fellows, a great family man, and a trusted colleague and friend. Dr. Stouffer is truly deserving of the SSR Research Award.