



**SSR Trainee Mentoring Award** (*Supported by the SSR Trainee Mentoring Fund*). This award recognizes an SSR member who as a mentor has had significant impact on Trainees within the SSR. The Trainee Mentoring Award will be presented each year at the SSR Annual Meeting to an SSR member who has consistently demonstrated a measure of support and guidance to Trainees that far exceeds the basic responsibilities required of an academic advisor. The recipient of the 2011 Trainee Mentoring Award is Dr. Patricia B. Hoyer.

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Dr. Patricia B. Hoyer is the recipient of the 2011 Trainee Mentoring Award. Dr. Hoyer started her independent scientific career in 1984 in the University of Arizona's Department of Physiology, and was promoted to professor in 1996. Her main research goal has been to determine the mechanisms by which the industrial chemical 4-vinylcyclohexene diepoxide causes ovotoxicity. Her research is of the highest quality and is considered by scientists from around the world to be the seminal work in the field of reproductive toxicology. She has published more than 90 manuscripts related to this topic in top-tier journals in the field of reproductive toxicology, and has consistently obtained and maintained grant support for her work. Currently, she is principal investigator on two large National Institutes of Health (NIH) grants, director of an NIH training grant in Systems and Integrative Physiology, and co-investigator on several other NIH grants.

Dr. Hoyer serves as an outstanding mentor for graduate students, medical students, and post-doctoral fellows. She has trained 11 post-doctoral fellows and 14 pre-doctoral students, all of whom have become productive scientists and have published their work in top journals in the field, including *Biology of Reproduction*. Dr. Hoyer always makes sure that her trainees are first authors on manuscripts, teaching each one how to develop and test hypotheses that result in publishable work. In addition, she provides solid mentoring that has helped her previous trainees win prestigious awards, such as the American Heart Association Postdoctoral Fellowship, American Heart Junior Investigator Award for Women, Outstanding Graduating Graduate Student Award, Porter Physiology Program Fellowship, Cornelia Channing New Investigator Award, Lalor Foundation Merit Award, and Best Paper Award.

In addition to making sure that her trainees are productive scientists, Dr. Hoyer encourages each of them to be active participants at SSR meetings and to be highly engaged in the Society. She makes sure that each trainee meets scientists in the field, learns how to interact with other scientists, and becomes involved in the appropriate SSR committees, which teaches them how to network and develop long-term collaborations and friendships. By doing so, she has helped foster the careers of many reproductive biologists and ensured that many of her trainees are lifelong, active members of SSR. She is a strong advocate for the Society and teaches each trainee to become one as well.

Dr. Hoyer's mentoring does not stop with teaching; she takes a personal interest in each trainee's life. She never loses touch with her trainees and continues to provide advice and mentoring throughout each trainee's career. Her previous graduate students and fellows consistently seek her advice on numerous topics, even though many of them graduated years ago. Dr. Hoyer also has become a "grandmother"

mentor, helping to mentor students of her former trainees. Her trainees know that once they have been part of the Hoyer laboratory family, they are members for life.

Dr. Hoyer's mentoring does not end with members and former members of her laboratory. She has served on over 41 dissertation committees in her department and 32 from other departments. Students from all over the country seek out Dr. Hoyer for their committees because she provides outstanding advice and takes each student's project and career seriously. She always has trainees' best interests at heart and is there to help each one grow scientifically and personally.

Dr. Hoyer also serves as a role model and mentor for junior faculty not only at her home institution, but nationally and internationally. Dr. Hoyer freely gives her time and advice to help junior faculty prepare grant applications, manuscripts, and seminars. On a personal note, Dr. Hoyer is a remarkable person. She is a role model, an exceptional scientist and inspiring teacher, a tremendously hard worker, and she is thoughtful, kind, and brilliant. She is a striking example of personal and professional integrity. Some of the comments from her nomination letters best describe the type of mentor that Dr. Hoyer is to former and current trainees:

"Pat inspires her students to become better scientists, to think hard about the physiological question and use the appropriate tools to answer it. She encourages independent thinking and critical analysis of results. She teaches students to write. I have seen her red pen on multiple rounds of a paper, but she is tireless in trying to improve the writing ability of her mentees."

"Dr. Hoyer is truly a role model, and all independent scientists should strive to have her mentoring skills. She tirelessly spends time developing each student's skills so that he/she can lead successful and productive careers. She knows when and how to provide the right amount of encouragement and how to motivate each student to reach his/her highest potential. She always treats every trainee with the greatest respect and kindness. Her trainees' personal lives and careers clearly come first."

"Pat is someone that I now see as both a mentor and friend. Some of my favorite conversations with Pat have been our bi-weekly coffee talks when we discuss what is currently going on with my projects and future plans. The one-on-one time with Pat is an invaluable time for me to get advice, not only about what is going on in the laboratory, but also about how to become a more well-rounded scientist."

"Dr. Hoyer is a strong woman, an outstanding scientist, and an exceptional mentor. She is kind, honest, and extremely fun to be around. From taking her trainees for a cup of coffee to catch up or heal a confused mind, to celebrating our accomplishments with a homemade meal or shoe shopping spree, Dr. Hoyer is like a mother to her trainees and has always been there to guide and empower us."

In closing, Dr. Patricia B. Hoyer truly deserves the SSR Trainee Mentoring Award. She has contributed tremendously to the academic community at the University of Arizona, the international scientific community, and to her current and previous trainees. (Submitted by Dr. Jodi A. Flaws.)