



SSR Distinguished Service Award (*sponsored by Serono Reproductive Biology Institute*):
Dr. Anita H. Payne

Dr. Anita H. Payne has been named recipient of the SSR Distinguished Service Award for 2004. This award is given annually to a member of the SSR who has

shown unselfish service and leadership in advancing the discipline of reproductive biology. Dr. Payne's lifetime of service to our discipline unquestionably fulfills this requirement. The following brief overview of her service to reproductive biology only highlights her many contributions to reproductive biology.

Dr. Payne was at the University of Michigan from 1961 to 1996, first as a research associate then as a tenured faculty member in the Department of Biological Chemistry. She was one of the key faculty in the Center for the Study of Reproduction and served as its associate director for 6 years. Faculty members like Dr. Payne have brought world recognition to the Reproductive Sciences Program at the University of Michigan. For her leadership, scholarship, and impact on the betterment of women in science, Dr. Payne has been recognized with the creation of the Anita H. Payne Annual Lectureship in Reproductive Endocrinology in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Michigan. The establishment of the lectureship exemplifies the esteem in which she is held by her colleagues at the University of Michigan and throughout the world. Upon retiring from the University, Dr. Payne moved west and took a post as a Senior Research Scientist and Professor Emerita in the Division of Reproductive Biology at Stanford University, where she has continued to do research in steroid biochemistry and molecular endocrinology and to train students.

Indeed, the training of future scientists is a very important contribution to science—one that often has a greater impact on the field than one's own research. Dr. Payne has served as mentor for many reproductive biologists who have gone on to have very productive scientific careers of their own, some of whom have also held prominent positions in the SSR.

Another of Dr. Payne's major contributions has been the development and generous sharing of reagents with hundreds of scientists throughout the world. She was one of the first and principle suppliers of antibodies to steroidogenic enzymes, namely P450 side-chain cleavage, P450-17 α -hydroxylase, and 3 β -hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase. She has also provided cDNAs and expression plasmids for several steroidogenic enzymes to scientists needing them.

Dr. Payne's service to the SSR began at the beginning, as she is a Charter Member of the Society. Her first turn

at SSR committee service was on the Membership Committee. Subsequently, she served on the Editorial Board of *Biology of Reproduction* and was elected to the Board of Directors, later serving as Secretary, and then as President (1990–1991). As President, her greatest contribution to the Society was initiating the transfer of the business and editorial offices to independent and proactive management, a successful transition that has been integral to the increased growth and vitality of the Society. Even after her term as President ended, Dr. Payne continued to serve on SSR committees including the Program, By-Laws, Nominating, and Development Committees.

Other societies, publications, and committees have also benefited from Dr. Payne's expertise. Among them is the Endocrine Society, where she served on various committees and was a council member. She has been a member of editorial boards for numerous other journals including *Journal of Andrology*, *Endocrinology*, *Endocrine Journal*, *Molecular Endocrinology*, and *Molecular and Cellular Endocrinology* and served as Associate Editor of *Steroids*. In addition, Dr. Payne has participated in two NIH study sections, Reproductive Biology and Biochemical Endocrinology, and served as a member of the Population Research Committee of the NICHD. Her high standards of science and her rigorous reviews certainly helped strengthen and enhance reproductive biology research.

Dr. Payne has shown lifelong leadership in the scholarship, advancement, and promulgation of reproductive biology through teaching, research, mentoring, and service to the SSR. She received the Carl G. Hartman Award in 1998, a credential that only emphasizes the high regard in which she is held by her colleagues. She is rightfully honored again by this Society with the Distinguished Service Award.