

2008 Awards

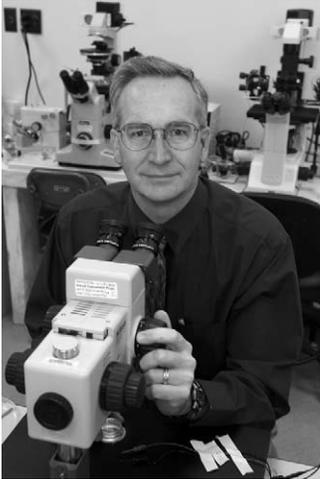
The following people have been recognized by their peers for their outstanding contributions and service to science. The SSR is proud to honor these people.

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.*

SSR Research Award

Dr. Randy Prather

(Supported by a grant from NV Organon)



Dr. Randy Prather is the recipient of the Society for the Study of Reproduction Research Award for 2008. Dr. Prather was hired into the Food for the Twenty-First Century Program as a member of the Animal Reproductive Biology Group at the University of Missouri, and has developed an exceptional, internationally recognized research program that has focused on the molecular, cellular, and physiological mechanisms involved in female germ cell development, fertilization, and early embryonic development. His research goal is

to increase reproductive efficiency of swine and to expand the genetic potential present in pig embryos. One of Dr. Prather's strengths is that he has incorporated different scientific disciplines (Genomics, Transcriptional Profiling, Proteomics, Differential Methylation Hybridization, Cell Biology, Nuclear Transfer, Transgenics, Cell Culture, etc) into his program to achieve his research goals.

Dr. Prather is considered to be an international authority in the application of biotechnologies to the study of early embryonic development and the genetic modification of swine embryos. By any measure one might use, Dr. Prather's research accomplishments are truly outstanding. His research findings have resulted in 187 refereed journal articles (including 26 peer reviewed invited review papers), 31 invited review papers and book chapters, 220 abstracts, 17 extension articles, 88,042 GenBank submissions and 8 patents. He has been exceptionally effective in obtaining funds in support of his research program, over \$53 M (PI or Co-PI) \$48 M; As Major

User/Contributor/ Collaborator \$4.7 M and Gifts \$289,761). Further evidence of his international recognition is provided by the 80 invited major presentations he has given in other states and countries. One of his greatest strengths is that of his collaborations. The USDA NRI requires submission of a list of collaborators and coauthors from the last 4 years to be included with a grant application. Dr. Prather has 250 names on his list.

Although the primary emphasis of faculty in the Food for the Twenty-first Century Program (Dr. Prather is now Associate Leader for this cluster) is on research and graduate training, Dr. Prather has made significant contributions to undergraduate and graduate education. He has assisted in teaching an undergraduate course on reproductive management and he was instrumental in the development of a graduate course entitled "Gamete Physiology and Pregnancy". Dr. Prather has also devoted significant amounts of time to service activities. He has served as the Director of the Transgenic Animal Facility (a Molecular Biology Core Facility) from 1990 to 1994 and he currently serves as the Large Animal Facilities Coordinator for the Department of Animal Sciences (1994 to present (now the Division of Animal Sciences). He has also served on the University of Missouri Life Sciences Enhancement Committee, Provost's Life Sciences Task Force, USDA/NRICGP grant review panels (Animal Reproductive Efficiency), Swine in Biomedical Research Organizing Committee and International Conference on Pig Reproduction Organizing Committee (He currently serves as treasurer for this organization). He has or currently serves on the editorial boards of Xenotransplantation, Molecular Reproduction & Reproduction, Animal Reproduction Science, Cloning & Stem Cells, and serves as an ad hoc reviewer for numerous other journals.

In conclusion, Dr. Randall S. Prather is a world-class scientist with not only the drive for science but also the critical followthrough for the benefit of others. His research efforts contribute greatly to the stature of the SSR, to the advancement of science, and to the benefit of society. Consequently, we strongly recommend that Dr. Randall S. Prather be recognized with the SSR Research Award. Without question, he will proudly uphold and champion the distinction of this award.