

March 25, 2003

Ms. Katherine Gusdon  
3198 King Arms Ct. NE  
Atlanta, GA 30345

Dear Mrs. Gusdon,

I am writing as President of the American Society for Reproductive Immunology to formally send our heartfelt condolences for the loss of your husband, and one of the strongest supporters of this society, Dr. John Gusdon.

In accordance with the influence that Dr. Gusdon has had on so many of us in the society, it is my sincere pleasure to inform you that the highest honor that can be bestowed to any trainee in our society has been renamed "The Dr. John Gusdon Memorial New Investigator Award". This annual award is presented to the student trainee that is deemed by a panel of reviewers to have submitted the most promising abstract describing their research endeavors. It is the most highly coveted award for trainees in our society.

On a personal note, Dr. Gusdon was one of the first established members of the ASRI that I met as a young student while under the guidance of Dr. John McIntyre. We were attending the annual meeting in 1986 when Dr. Gusdon took me aside and, over a drink in the lounge, spent some time discussing my research project and the state of reproductive immunology with me. I can recall his words to me at the end of our conversation; it will be the new ideas and hard work of you students that will make the most difference in the field. I have had the pleasure of discussing science and life with John at almost every annual meeting since that 1986 meeting. He always supported the students and often stated that he most looked forward to hearing from the trainees at the annual meetings. It is with these fond memories that I whole heartedly supported the naming of the student award in his honor.

In that this year will be the first awarding of renamed award, it is my distinct honor to invite you to attend and present this award to the most deserving trainee at this year's annual meeting. Our meeting will be held at Yale University in New Haven, CT from June 18-21, 2003. The society will be honored to have your presence and we can assist in reimbursing for your travel and lodging to help make this possible. I sincerely hope that you will be able to attend.

Sincerely,

Donald S. Torry, PhD  
President, ASRI