

## Elizabeth Robertson Awarded Edwin G. Conklin Medal



Elizabeth J. Robertson, whose seminal genetics research helped to establish the feasibility of introducing defined mutations into the mouse germ line, has received the 2008 SDB Edwin Grant Conklin Medal.

Dr. Robertson is professor of developmental biology at the University of Oxford in her native Britain, as well as Wellcome Trust Principal Research Fellow, also at Oxford. Prior to her positions at Oxford, Dr. Robertson spent 12 years as a professor in the Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology at Harvard University, Boston; for the last two years of her tenure there, she also served as Herchel Smith Professor of Molecular Genetics. Before joining Harvard's faculty, Dr. Robertson served as an assistant and then associate professor in the Department of Genetics and Development at Columbia University, NY.

After receiving her bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Oxford, England, Dr. Robertson completed her Ph.D. in genetics at the University of Cambridge, England. She remained at Cambridge for the next six years, first as a postdoctoral research assistant in the Department of Genetics and then as research associate in the same department.

Dr. Robertson has taught several summer courses at New York's Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, as well as guest lectureships for the European Molecular Biology Organization in London, England, and Heidelberg, Germany, on the molecular development of the mouse.

The recipient of many other honors, Dr. Robertson has received the March of Dimes Basil O'Connor Starter Scholar Award; the Irma T. Hirschl Career Development Award; The American Association for Cancer Research: Cornelius P. Rhoads Award; and Rockefeller University's Pearl Meister Greengard Prize. From 1990 to 1995, she was Stohlgan Scholar for the Leukemia Society of America, as well as fellow at the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. Dr. Robertson has served as member and, later, chair of General Motors Cancer Research Foundation, Sloan Prize Committee; member of General Motors Cancer Research Foundation Assembly; elected associate member of the European Molecular Biology Organization, and elected fellow of the Royal Society.

Dr. Robertson has lectured at a number of leading research organizations, including the Dana Farber Cancer Institute where she served as Swerling Lecturer; and the University of Pennsylvania where she was both Smith and Marookian Lecturer; and the Harvey Society. Her plenary talks include the SDB meeting in Boulder, CO., and the International Society for Developmental Biology meeting in Kyoto, Japan. Dr. Robertson was also the invited speaker at the Nobel Foundation Jubilee Symposium "Beyond Genes" in Stockholm, Sweden, in 2001.

In addition to being editor of the journal *Development*, Dr. Robertson is on the editorial boards for the journals *Developmental Biology*, *Current Opinion in Genes and Development*, and *Developmental Cell*. She has published extensively in leading developmental biology journals.

Dr. Robertson participates on a number of scientific advisory boards, including the University of Cambridge, School of Biological Sciences; Temasek Life Sciences Laboratory, the National University of Singapore; and the Skirball Institute for Biomedical Research, New York University. She is also chair of the Scientific Advisory Committee for the Max Planck Institute for Immunology in Freiburg,

Each year since 1995, the SDB has awarded the [Edwin Grant Conklin Medal](#) to an eminent scientist with a significant research program in developmental biology and a strong commitment to mentoring young scientists. Edwin Grant Conklin (1863-1952) spent most of his distinguished career in the Department of Biology at Princeton University where, as chair for a quarter of a century, he played a key role in the department's growth and development.

For more information about Dr. Robertson's research, please go to:  
<http://www.path.ox.ac.uk/dirsci/molbiology/robertson/>

*by Anne Blank*