

Professor Gabriela Popescu receives the 2022 Sharona Gordon Award

The Society of General Physiologists is honored to announce that the recipient of the 2022 Sharona Gordon Award is Dr. Gabriela Popescu, Professor of Biochemistry in the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at the University at Buffalo. Gabriela is a nationally and internationally recognized scientist investigating fundamental mechanisms of synaptic transmission and neuromodulation, with a specific focus on the physiological regulation and functioning of the NMDA subtype of glutamate receptors in the central nervous system, publishing more than 50 papers over the course of her career.

Alongside her scientific endeavors, Gabriela has been working tirelessly towards building the infrastructure to improve gender equity and representation throughout the scientific community. At her home institution, Gabriela has led several workshops focusing on building mentorship skills and establishing connections for early-career scientists. In addition, she has made notable contributions to the community during her two-term tenure as the Chair of the Committee for Professional Opportunities for Women (CPOW) of the Biophysical Society, where she worked to broaden committee membership to include a diverse representation of scientists, considering gender, geography, ethnicity, and career stage. In this role, she led the charge to establish the Biophysical Society's anti-harassment code of conduct and building the first plenary session addressing sexual harassment. She continues to provide a voice in situations where implicit bias and unrealized inequities enter the room, particularly speaking up for those with invisible disabilities and raising awareness about violence against women. Gabriela is a constant presence in our community working hard to advance gender equity and address other disparities in academia.

For more information about Gabriela, visit sgpweb.org/awards/sharona

About the Sharona Gordon Award

The Sharona Gordon Award for transformational leadership is given to an individual who has made a clear and sustained impact on improving equity and inclusivity in the fields of Physiology and Biophysics. This award was established in 2020 as recognition for the important contributions that Professor Gordon has made in changing the scientific environment, including establishing standards of equity in the peer review process during her time as the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of General Physiology, developing mentoring networks for early-career scientists, disseminating information about harassment in Academia, and standing up for inequities in the greater scientific community.

About the Society of General Physiologists

The Society of General Physiologists is an inclusive, international scientific society whose goal is to advance the understanding of the fundamental physiological mechanisms and physical principles that govern the functioning of biological systems. In addition to promoting pioneering and innovative research, the Society advocates for education and training, and it is committed to increasing diversity in the scientific workforce.