



Professor Renae Ryan Receives the 2023 Sharona Gordon Award

The Society of General Physiologists is honored to announce the recipient of the 2023 Sharona Gordon Award, Professor Renae Ryan from the University of Sydney in Australia. Renae is an internationally recognized structural biologist and neurophysiologist studying the mechanisms of neurotransmitter transporters, having published over 55 peer-reviewed manuscripts in this field. In addition to building a cutting-edge research program, Renae has made continuous efforts in building and reinforcing the infrastructure that is necessary to provide inclusive and equitable environments in science.

As part of this work, Renae has served as a sub-Dean and Chair of an early career researcher group at Sydney Medical School, Chair of their Gender Equity Committee, and the Academic Director for the Science in Australia Gender Equity (SAGE) program. SAGE is an accreditation program that applies metrics to assess equity, diversity, and inclusion practices in scientific workplace environments, derived from the Athena Swan program in the UK and is now present as the SEA Change program from the AAAS in the USA. With great industriousness and leadership, Renae led the team that achieved the Bronze level SAGE accreditation for the University of Sydney, establishing the foundation and mechanisms that maintain a quality workplace environment. Her work in this area has extended beyond her institution, as she is an elected leader of the Asian Biophysics Association, the international OECD Women in STEM Engagement Group and the Vice-President and Inclusion and Diversity Officer of the International Transmembrane Transporter Society. With this, she has built up firsthand knowledge on effective tools to reinforce inclusive environments that address workplace bullying, harassment, and inequity. She is a highly sought after speaker for both for her scientific research and her continuous efforts to improve representation, diversity, and equity in science. In addition, she is a respected teacher and mentor, heavily invested in training the next generation of scientists. For all this work, she has already been recognized on many occasions, most recently with the Order of Australia, the Australian Museum Eureka Prize for Outstanding Mentor of Young Researchers, and the Nancy Millis Medal for the Australia Academy of Science, and we are pleased to join in recognizing Dr. Renae Ryan and her continuous effort to improve scientific research environments. For more information about Renae, 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.