



## RECIPIENT OF THE 2001 PIONEER AWARD

PHILIP J. DZIUK, Ph.D.

Dr. Philip J. Dziuk was born and raised in Foley, Minnesota, on a farm homesteaded by his Polish immigrant grandfather, who assumed the land was fertile and suitable for farming because it was densely covered with stumps of the recently-cut virgin forest. Phil's initial stint in college was interrupted by service in the US Navy during World War II. Following the war, he completed college and was awarded a graduate assistantship in embryo transfer at the University of Minnesota under W. E. Petersen.

Much of Phil's initial work in embryo transfer is documented in his detailed correspondence during the early 1950s with C.R. Bard, Inc. and The Armour Laboratories, regarding catheters and ovulatory hormones. His numerous, early attempts at superovulating cows and non-surgical embryo collection are detailed in a lengthy 1958 monograph (2). While at the University of Minnesota he also engaged in pioneering work on electroejaculation (1) that continued after he joined the faculty of the University of Illinois in 1955 (3). Throughout his career Phil developed embryo transfer techniques to study basic questions of fertilization, embryo spacing and implantation in a number of species (5,8,10,15). Prior to the availability of prostaglandins, he investigated methods of controlling estrous cycles in several species (4,6,7,13). To a considerable extent, the current dependence of the commercial embryo transfer industry on the availability of devices that release progestins is based on his discovery of the steroid permeability properties of silicone rubber (11,12). He also pioneered the use of competitive fertilization to study questions regarding capacitation, fertilization and ovulation (9,16). In addition, Phil was a pacesetter in his utilization of ultrasound in the early 1970s to diagnose pregnancies in sows (14). Today, 11 years after his 'retirement', Phil remains active professionally, publishing papers and interacting on a daily basis with colleagues at the University of Illinois.

Equally important as his own research achievements are the subsequent contributions to the field of embryo transfer made by numerous former graduate students whom Phil mentored over a 35-year period at the University of Illinois. As a teacher, he acquired a well-earned reputation for enthusiastically helping serious students, while students with a lack of ambition were known to fear his attention. In addition to serving on editorial boards of a number of journals, Phil has been awarded numerous academic honors, including awards from The American Fertility Society, The American Society of Animal Science and The Society for the Study of Reproduction. He was a founding member of the Society for the Study of Reproduction and later served as its president.

In spite of a very active research and teaching career, Phil found the opportunity and energy to sire seven children of his own! Perhaps more impressive is the fact that he found the time to function as an involved and active father, who has watched all his children embark on professional careers. A sound mind is aided by a healthy body and in this respect Phil set and continues to exhibit a standard of physical achievement that few of us could duplicate. While winning more than 250 racquetball trophies, Phil has been nationally ranked more than once at the top of his age division.

Philip J. Dziuk is a most worthy recipient of the 2001 IETS Pioneer Award; his numerous contributions to superovulation and embryo transfer are complimented elegantly by similar pioneering efforts in electroejaculation, heterospermic insemination, estrus synchronization and ultrasonography.

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