The Legacy of **DR. SUZANNE EATON, Ph.D** (1959-2019)

Suzanne Eaton was a brilliant, award-winning, world-renowned scientist who left this world far too soon. She was particularly noted for her passionate enthusiasm for tackling the most difficult and seemingly intractable scientific problems. To do that, she uniquely combined various disciplines to bring significant advances to some of the most complex problems in developmental biology.

Furthermore, Dr. Eaton was remembered by her colleagues and students as a compassionate and encouraging mentor who always sparked their enthusiasm for science. Finally, she had a vibrant life outside of science, focused on her family, music, athletics and many other interests. Working in Germany when her sons were small, she appreciated the child care available there and often regretted that young scientists in the U.S. did not often have access to good child care. This prize is designed to honor her and to help young scientists, who display her unique characteristics, to better cope with child care costs. Suzanne Eaton was born in Oakland California, graduated from Byram Hills High School in Armonk, NY and received her undergraduate degree from Brown University. She received her Ph.D. in Microbiology from UCLA in 1988. Working with her advisor, Dr. Kathryn Calame, she performed an important early sequence and functional analysis of immunoglobulin heavy chain promoters.

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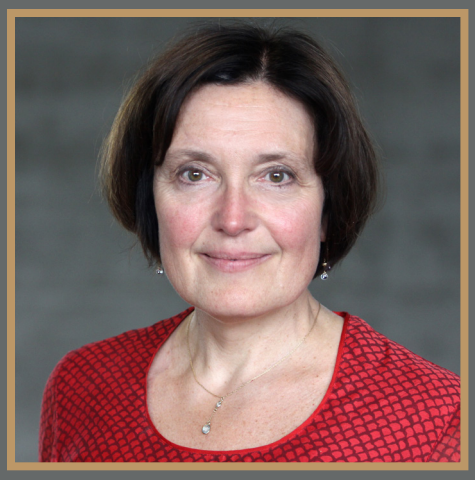
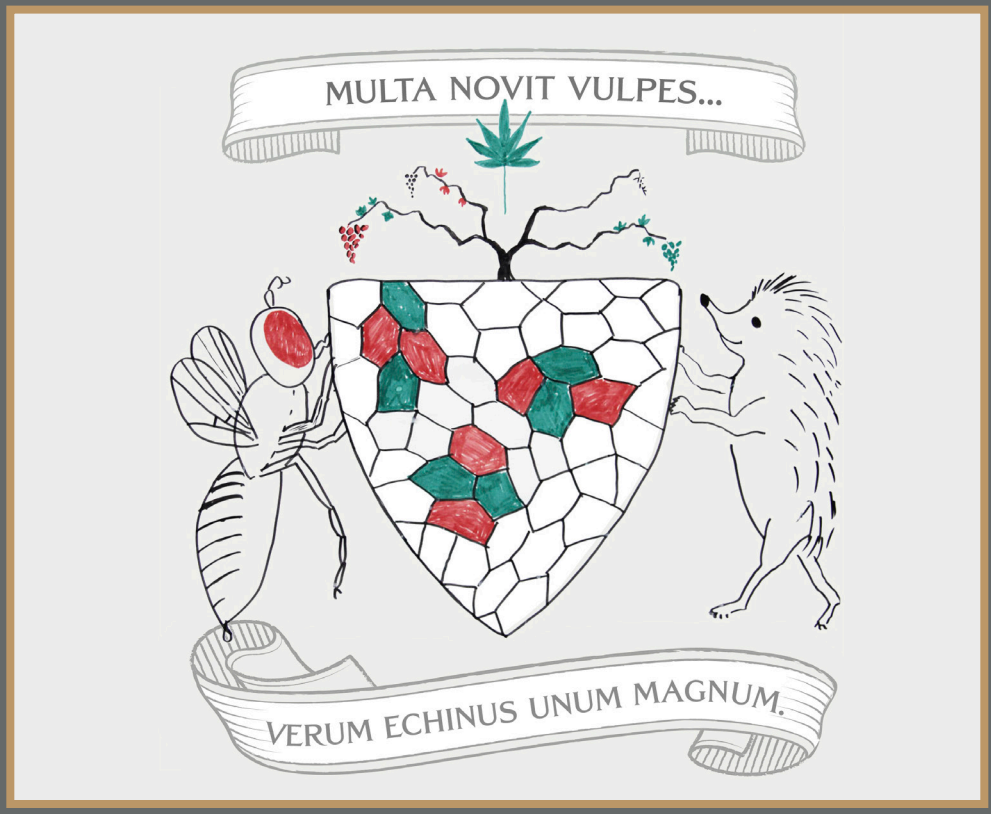
"She fit Jane Austen's strictest description of an 'accomplished woman' while maintaining a natural humility and 'insatiable curiosity'"



She developed strong friendships with all around her during her time in the lab as well. She was awarded the Sydney C. Rittenberg Award for Distinguished Academic Achievement in Microbiology by the Association of Academic Women in 1988 for her doctoral work at UCLA.

For postdoctoral training, she worked with Dr. Tom Kornberg at UCSF, studying cellular development in the fruit fly Drosophila melanogaster. Those studies focused on signaling via Hedgehog and formation and morphogenesis of the fly wing, two topics which continued to fascinate her throughout her scientific career. At the European Molecular Biology Laboratory in Heidelberg Germany, working with Dr. Kai Simons, she studied epithelial polarity, the role of small GTPases for cell shape change, and the role of lipid microdomains in developmental processes. Dr. Simons stated "Suzanne Eaton has been an outstanding role model for our whole community."



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"Multa novit vulpes...Verum echinus unum magnum. *(A fox knows many things...A hedgehog knows one big thing."*

In 2000 she moved to Dresden to join the Max Plank Institute for Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics, where she became a founding group leader. The Institute's mission was to "find out how cells form tissues." Suzanne, in collaboration with Dr. Frank Julicher, used a brilliant combination of theory and experiments involving imaging and laser ablation to construct a vertex model for how the fly wing achieves its shape. She was in the forefront of merging two fields—growth control and pattern formation by morphogen gradients and the roles of circulatory lipoproteins. In 2006 she was awarded the Women in Cell Biology Junior Award for Excellence in Research from the American Society for Cell Biology. Her scientific passion never flagged for identifying new and interesting scientific problems.

Dr. Eaton also had passions in addition to science. Foremost among these were her devotion to her husband, Dr. Tony Hyman, and their two sons, Lukas and Max. Suzanne was an accomplished pianist, and played duets with her husband, who plays the flute. She was also a strong athlete; she taught and practiced Tae Kwon Do as a second-degree black belt. She was a uniquely inspirational role model to so many because she was able to nurture such a rich and joyful family life and cultivate diverse and rewarding creative interests outside the lab while being a luminary leader in science. Ultimately, the inspiration for this prize comes from how Suzanne was treasured as an insightful, compassionate, optimistic, and encouraging mentor and colleague.

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"I quickly realized I was matched with a force of nature. What exuberant radiance."

It reflects her strong desire to support the success of others, and her sensitivity to the challenges in navigating a career in science as a parent and spouse. The profound impact and enduring legacy of her mentorship on so many are evident in the eloquent and moving reflections of her mentees, friends and colleagues. Here, her UCLA family remembers her passion for inclusivity and fairness, kind and supportive words to encourage and restore self-confidence, fearlessness in tackling new problems, optimism and tenacity to work through disappointment, exuberant joy at a new discovery or insight, standing up for her ideas, for science, for women, and challenging others, doing so with respect, humility, and grace. Also remembered is her hilariously irreverent sense of humor, her sense of fun, and knowing how to enjoy life. That we remember and still laugh at those moments is testimony to how strongly she impacted us so many years ago. These qualities are life-sustaining in a creative field like scientific discovery that can be unforgiving, frustrating, and challenging to the spirit. Suzanne continues to be an inspiring role model for all of us.