Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE0111

Sanger, Ruth Anne

(1918 - 2001)

Born	19180618, Southport Queensland Australia
Died	20010605
Occupation	Author, Haematologist

Summary

Dr Ruth Sanger was an internationally known expert in blood grouping, who for many years worked for the Medical Research Council in London.

Ruth Sanger, the daughter of Hubert and Katharine Mary Ross (née Cameron) Sanger, obtained her Science Degree from Sydney of University in 1940. She then worked in the blood-grouping laboratory of the Sydney Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service. After the Second World War Sanger moved to London and worked for Dr Robert Race, her future husband, at the Medical Research Council. In 1950 she co-wrote *Blood Groups in Man*, with her husband and they released their sixth and final edition in 1975. Dr Sanger also contributed papers to medical and genetic journals. She was admitted as a fellow of Britain's Royal Society in 1972 and in the same year she was a joint recipient of the Gairdner Foundation Award. In 1983 Dr Sanger retired as director of the British Medical Research Council, a position she had held for ten years. She was a member of the International Society of Blood Transfusion and an affiliate of similar groups in Canada, Germany, Mexico and Norway. The British Blood Transfusion Society has established the Race and Sanger Award.

Events

1936 - 1939
Attended the Women's College within the University of Sydney

1972 - 1972
Awarded a Fellow of the Royal Society, London

1991 - 1991
Awarded a gold medal from the Australasian Society of Blood Transfusion

1938 - 1938
Awarded Caird scholarship in zoology

1948 - 1948
Awarded her Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) from the University of London

1972 - 1972
Awarded the Gairdner Foundation Award, Canada

1939 - 1939
Awarded the Grace Frazer scholarship

1957 - 1957
Awarded the Karl Landsteiner Memorial Award (with R Race), United States of America

1973 - 1973
Awarded the Oliver Memorial Award for Blood Transfusion from the British Red Cross

1970 - 1970
Awarded the Philip Levene Award, United States of America

1973 - 1983
Director of the Blood Group Unit of the Medical Research Council (London)

1940 - 1940
Graduated Bachelor of Science (BSc)

1938 - 1938
Honorary treasurer of the basketball club

1938 - 1938
Member of the Students' House committee

1940 - 1946
On the scientific staff of the New South Wales Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service

1936 - 1939
Played in the inter-Varsity basketball team

1990 - 1990
Received Doctor of Medicine (MD (Honoris Causa)) from the Helsinki University

1949 - 1949
Returned to Sydney and worked with the Blood Transfusion Service

1946 - 1973
Scientific staff member of the Blood Group Unit of the Medical Research Council, London

1938 - 1938
Secretary of the Women's College dance committee

1990 - 1990
The *Ruth Sanger Oration* established by the Australasian Society of Blood Transfusion

1946 - 1946
Travelled to London to work with Dr R Race, director of Medical Research Council's Blood Group Unit

1937 - 1937
Treasurer of the Women's College dance committee

1938 - 1938
Vice-captain of the basketball team

1940 - 1940
Worked with the Science Research School in the Department of Zoology at the University of Sydney

Published resources

Edited Book
Biographical register : the Women's College within the University of Sydney, Annable, Rosemary, 1995

Resource
Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Archival resources

The University of Adelaide Archives
Correspondence with Ruth Sanger (Blood Group Research Unit, Lister Institute)

Author Details
Anne Heywood

Created 30 August 2001
Last modified 29 October 2018