JoAnne S. Richards, PhD - Biography

Dr. JoAnne S. Richards is a distinguished professor in the Baylor College of Medicine Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology. She received her bachelor's degree from Oberlin College in Ohio and her master's and Ph.D. from Brown University in Providence, RI. She did her postdoctoral work at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor and was a member of the faculty there until 1981, when she joined the faculty at BCM.

Dr. Richards' work focuses on ovarian cell differentiation, ovulation and cancer. Her current research focuses on several animal models of ovarian cancer and she now focuses her research in the area of ovary formation, how endocrine signals and genes regulate follicular growth and follicular cell function and how ovulation occurs. Her laboratory's goal is to provide translational information for better detection, screening and cancer treatment strategies for women with ovarian cancer.

She has received the SSR Research Award, the Basic Research Award from the Society for the Advancement of Women's Health Research, the Pioneer Lecture Award from the Frontiers in Reproduction Course of the National Institutes of Health, the Women in Endocrinology Mentor Award and the Michael E. DeBakey Award in Research Excellence in 2009. In 2011, Dr. Richards received the SSR Carl G. Hartman Award, the society's highest award given in recognition of a research career and scholarly activities in the field of reproductive biology.