

Pukkila to Receive Alberts Award

Recognizing her leadership role advocating for the inclusion of inquiry-based education and research in the American science curriculum, the ASCB Education Committee has selected Patricia J. Pukkila as the 2007 recipient of the Bruce Alberts Award for Excellence in Science Education. Pukkila is the founding director of the Office of Undergraduate Research at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She was chosen primarily for her exceptional contributions to undergraduate science education at the local, state, and national level. An internationally recognized leader in the study of recombination and fungal genomics, Pukkila is also recognized for her effort to make undergraduate research a key part of the Quality Enhancement Plan for the recent Southern Association of Colleges and Schools reaccreditation.

In 1996, Pukkila established the “Genetics Education” section of the journal *Genetics*; this section has provided a scholarly showcase for innovations in teaching and learning genetics. And in 2001 she focused her educational efforts on both students and state legislators: She initiated biannual, multicampus undergraduate research symposia for the North Carolina state legislature. These ongoing symposia enable students to convey the excitement and importance of their original work to their elected officials.

Pukkila will receive the award and discuss “Catalyzing Changes in Undergraduate Science Education” on Sunday, December 2, at the 2007 ASCB Annual Meeting in Washington, DC. □