The Janice M. Pfeffer Lectureship recognizes the scientific contributions of one of the pioneers in the field of cardiac remodeling. Born in Rockford, Illinois on October 31, 1943, Janice Marie Sikorski graduated with honors from Rockford College. There she studied with a lab partner named Marc Pfeffer, who shared her passion for integrative physiology. Janice and Marc became inseparable not only as husband and wife, but also as collaborators in integrative physiology. Janice M. Pfeffer was awarded her Ph.D. in Physiology and Biophysics from the University of Oklahoma, where she studied under Dr. Edward D. Frohlich. Her doctoral thesis, "Longitudinal Changes in Cardiac Function and Geometry During the Development of Left Ventricular Hypertrophy in the Spontaneously Hypertensive Rat," became a classic study on the role of cardiac hypertrophy and left ventricular remodeling. She continued her studies as a post-doctoral fellow in Dr. Eugene Braunwald's laboratory at the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, Harvard Medical School. There she demonstrated that progressive ventricular enlargement, "ventricular remodeling", occurs following a myocardial infarction, and that this process continues long after the histologic resolution within the infarct zone. Her landmark study, "Influence of Chronic Captopril Therapy on the Infarcted Left Ventricle of the Rat", definitively demonstrated that ventricular enlargement was attenuated by angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors, and that favorable alterations in ventricular remodeling in the animal model were associated with improved cardiac performance and prolonged survival. These pioneering animal studies introduced the concept of ventricular remodeling as a potential therapeutic target, and subsequently served as the basis for the landmark clinical trial, Survival and Ventricular Enlargement (SAVE), which showed that long-term treatment with an angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor (captopril) prevented cardiac remodeling and resulted in improved clinical outcomes in humans. Based upon the results of this seminal translational study, angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors have become one of the mainstays of therapy for the treatment of myocardial infarction.

In addition to being a meticulous and thought-ful scientist, Janice M. Pfeffer was a devoted mother and wife, who serves as a role model for countless women scientists. The intent of the Janice M. Pfeffer Lectureship is to acknowledge not only the latest insights and advances in the field of cardiac remodeling, but also to remember the remarkable personal and professional qualities that were emblematic of Dr. Janice M. Pfeffer.

About the Award...
Each year, the International Council selects a speaker to deliver the Pfeffer Distinguished Lecture at the World Congress or at the annual section meeting of one of the three largest ISHR Sections. The purpose of this lecture is to honor the memory of Dr. Pfeffer and to recognize her contributions to cardiovascular research. The topic of the lecture must be in the field of remodeling, heart failure and/or hypertrophy. The speaker receives a plaque and $1,000 honorarium in addition to travel expenses.
Lea Delbridge, PhD
Berlin, Germany

Lea Delbridge heads the Cardiac Phenomics Laboratory in the Department of Physiology at the University of Melbourne. She leads the Cardiac Consortium of Biology and Disease of Australia and New Zealand. Lea is Professor of Physiology, and an Academic-Researcher investigating fundamental mechanisms of cardiopathology, including diabetic cardiomyopathy, pericardial adiposity and forms of diastolic heart failure. She has pioneered the development of microscopy and mechanical techniques for cardiac and cardiomyocyte experimentation, with particular focus on understanding local cardiac paracrine signalling processes involving peptide and steroid mediators. Her research has had continuity of support from the National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia, the Australian Research Council, the Heart Foundation of Australia, the Diabetes Australia Research Trust and numerous other competitive and philanthropic funders. Lea has published more than 160 peer reviewed papers in many top-discipline and clinical journals.

Lea completed her PhD at the University of Melbourne, and had training positions at Dalhousie University (Halifax, Canada) and also at Loyola University (Chicago, USA) as an International Fellow of the American Heart Association. She is elected World Council Secretary General of the International Society of Heart Research (ISHR) and was President of the Australasian ISHR Section 2007-2013.

Lea is an elected Fellow of the Cardiac Society of Aust & New Zealand (CSANZ) and of the ISHR. Lea served on the Scientific Committee of the CSANZ, has held appointment to the Board of the International Union of Physiological Sciences and completed two terms as Council member of the Australian Physiological Society (AuPS). She is an editorial board member for a number of international journals, including J Molecular & Cellular Cardiology, Frontiers in Physiology, Curr Opin Physiol and the Am J Physiol (Heart.). She was Chair of the Scientific Program for the 2019 ISHR Beijing Congress.

In academic spheres, Lea has an active teaching portfolio and holds positions of senior responsibility within the University of Melbourne governance structures. She chairs the Higher Degrees Research Committee of the Academic Board which has policy and probity oversight in relation to all research degree students (approx. 6000 candidates). She is a member of the Academic Board Planning and Policy Committee, the Committee of Graduate Researcher Associate Deans, and School /Faculty level research training committees.

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