

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE0111

Sanger, Ruth Anne

(1918 - 2001)

Born	18 June, 1918, Southport Queensland Australia
-------------	---

Died	5 June, 2001
-------------	--------------

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

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

1940 - 1946

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

1946 - 1946

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

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

1973 - 1983

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

1972 - 1972

Awarded a Fellow of the Royal Society, London

1990 - 1990

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

1991 - 1991

Awarded a gold medal from the Australasian Society of Blood Transfusion

1990 - 1990

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

1957 - 1957

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

1970 - 1970

Awarded the Philip Levene Award, United States of America

1972 - 1972

Awarded the Gairdner Foundation Award, Canada

1973 - 1973

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

1936 - 1939

Attended the Women's College within the University of Sydney

1939 - 1939

Awarded the Grace Frazer scholarship

1937 - 1937

Treasurer of the Women's College dance committee

1938 - 1938

Secretary of the Women's College dance committee

1938 - 1938

Member of the Students' House committee

1940 - 1940

Graduated Bachelor of Science (BSc)

1948 - 1948

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

1938 - 1938

Awarded Caird scholarship in zoology

1938 - 1938

Honorary treasurer of the basketball club

1936 - 1939

Played in the inter-Varsity basketball team

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