

The American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) presents this 2025 Citation Award to Sandra K. Hunter, PhD, FACSM, for her broad-based excellence in research, teaching and service over three decades. Her groundbreaking work on aging, sex, muscle fatigue and human performance is especially notable.

Sandra Hunter is a native of Australia. In 1985, she received a Bachelor of Education in physical education and health from the University of Sydney. For several years, she was a high school teacher and women's sports coordinator at Downlands College, Toowoomba, Queensland, followed by a Graduate Diploma in human movement science from the University of Wollongong, New South Wales. She then received a Doctor of Philosophy degree (1998) in exercise and sport science from the University of Sydney. Her dissertation was titled "Human Skeletal Muscle Function and Morphology: The Effects of Ageing and Exercise." During graduate school, Sandra worked closely with former ACSM president the late Professor John Sutton. This work set the stage for her professional dedication to ACSM and career-long interests in skeletal muscle performance, aging and sex differences in human physiology.

From 1999 to 2003, Hunter was a postdoctoral research associate at the University of Colorado working with Professor Roger Enoka, where her work on aging, sex differences and fatigue hit its full stride. She made key contributions to understanding sex differences and fatigue, showing that women are more fatigue resistant than men during isometric and slow dynamic contractions.

Professor Hunter led an independent research laboratory at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, for 21 years (2003-2024). She broadened her research scope to include in vitro studies of skeletal muscle function in various populations, including diabetes, combat veterans, older adults, long COVID, stroke and postpartum women. She also tested novel hypotheses related to exercise, aging and sex using real-world data that included results from competitive athletic events. In 2005, she became an ACSM fellow. In 2024, Professor Hunter moved her research program to the University of Michigan's School of Kinesiology, where she is the Francie Kraker Goodridge Collegiate Professor of Kinesiology and chair of the Movement Science program. Professor Hunter has >170 journal publications and for the last 2 years has been listed in the 2% of cited scientists in the world.

In the context of the professional milestones outlined above, Professor Hunter's work has been marked by continuous high levels of grant funding, including serving as principal investigator on multiple National Institutes of Health grants since 2004. She is also a generous collaborator who has mastered the arts of translational research and team science. Additionally, all her professional efforts have been leveraged to successfully mentor numerous students, including undergraduates, graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. Many of her trainees have established independent laboratories at leading institutions. In addition to her educational excellence, she has served on numerous grant review panels and editorial boards, including serving as associate editor of *Medicine & Science in Sports and Exercise* (12 years) and *Exercise and Sports Sciences Reviews (ESSR)* (10 years) and as *ESSR* editor-in-chief since 2022. Importantly, she has been a strong advocate for women in science, and her work on sex differences and human performance has informed policymaking by international governing bodies.

Thus, Sandra K. Hunter, PhD, FACSM, is a classic triple-threat scientist: skilled in her research, enthusiastic about teaching and committed to service.

