Nancy M. Larson, 60, was presented with the Mary Jane Oestmann award in November 2006 during the ANS meeting in Albuquerque. Larson received her bachelor's degree in mathematics (1967) and her doctorate in physics (1972) from Michigan State University, and thereafter joined the research staff at Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

In the late 1970's, Larson began work on the design and creation of a data analysis tool (the computer code SAMMY) for neutron-induced cross section measurements. This 150,000-line R-matrix code is now used around the world for evaluation and interpretation of neutron time-of-flight data. SAMMY includes sophisticated mathematical and computational descriptions of physical phenomena affecting the measurements as well as advanced data-fitting techniques; the theory and the coding continue to be upgraded for new applications. In addition to maintaining and extending the code, Larson is sole author of a 600-page SAMMY users' manual, and author or coauthor on over 180 peer-reviewed papers and presentations.

To help researchers understand the fundamentals of data analysis in the resolved resonance region, Larson developed a week-long workshop covering both theory and application. She has presented this workshop (or portions thereof) approximately ten times at various locations in Europe, Asia, and the US.

Larson is an active member of the Cross Section Evaluation Working Group, advisory group for the US Evaluated Nuclear Data File. She was a member of the international WPEC/Subgroup 20 on Covariances and a participant in the IAEA Coordinated Research Project on Light Element Standards.