Dr. Janet Rossant is a world leader in the field of developmental biology. She is a major contributor to research into stem cells, cell lineage and developmental biology, having either been the sole author of or a contributor to over 384 peer-reviewed articles. Dr. Rossant is particularly known for her research on the role of genes in embryonic development.

Dr. Rossant was born in Chatham (UK), and received her undergraduate degree at Oxford and her PhD at Cambridge. She moved to Canada in 1977 at which time she joined the faculty of Brock University. In 1985, she joined the faculty of the University of Toronto.

Janet Rossant has played a prominent role in helping to set public policy regarding stem cell research. She played a major role in establishing guidelines for this research in Canada and in other countries. As well, she has been a major contributor to the scientific and ethical debate with respect to cloning and human embryonic cell research in both Canada and the United States.

Dr. Rossant has received 15 national and international awards, including: the Canada Gairdner Wightman Award; the Killam prize; the prestigious Michael Smith (CIHR) Prize; and the Friesen Prize. Other distinctions include: 4 Honourary degrees; fellowships in both the Royal Society of Canada and London; and the Companion of the Order of Canada.