

**Society for Reproduction and Fertility Travel Grant Award 2015**

**Rebecca Buckley, PhD (St. George's University of London)**

I would like to thank the Society for Reproduction and Fertility (SRF) for generously supporting my attendance of the International Federation of Placental Associations (IFPA) annual conference from September 8-11<sup>th</sup>, 2015 in Brisbane, Australia.

I am currently in the final year of my PhD and the focus of my research is exploring the role of decidual leukocytes in the first trimester of human pregnancy with emphasis on interactions with trophoblast cells in normal and complicated pregnancies. As a consequence, this conference was highly relevant to my research and one of the best places to meet with leading biologists in the field of placentology.

My abstract was selected for a 15 minute oral presentation in the New Investigator Award Session. This was a fantastic opportunity for me to introduce myself and my research to the other delegates, and I was able to meet both early career researchers and more senior scientists working in my specific field who will hopefully be valuable contacts for the future. In addition, the feedback I received will be extremely useful in facilitating the design of my final experiments and for the completion of my thesis.

An excellent mixture of topics were covered by the oral and poster presentations, and proved a good revision of the broader field as well as educational in terms of new research and techniques, some of which I hope to bring back to my group.

Thank you again to the SRF Travel Grant Award for helping to fund my attendance of IFPA 2015.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Buckley', with a horizontal line underneath.

Rebecca Buckley, PhD Student

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