

## **SRF Travel Grant Report**

### **International Federation of Placenta Associations Annual Meeting 2015** **Brisbane Exhibition and Convention Centre Queensland, Australia**

The IFPA conference is a relatively small annual meeting where both scientists and clinicians in the placental field meet each year to discuss advances and novel research in placental biology. Being a PhD student whose thesis involves investigating the interactions between decidual and trophoblast cells in pre-eclampsia, it was an amazing opportunity to be able to attend such a relevant meeting.

This year the conference was entitled The Placenta: influence and impact and was held in Brisbane, Australia. One of the main focuses was on how maternal factors impact the placenta and the consequences this has on the offspring later on in life. This was spoken about in both plenary lectures, which were extremely interesting. As well as hearing many stimulating talks I also attended three afternoon workshops entitled 'Placental Pathology', 'Biomarkers of Placental Complications of Pregnancy' and 'Placental Immunology and Infection'. These workshops were split into multiple short lectures from both students and more senior attendees which allowed a good overview of the topics and research being carried out. During the conference I was given the opportunity to present some of the data from my PhD in the form of a poster. This was a great chance to discuss my work and to speak to others about their research.

I have come away from the conference with a lot of new knowledge and enthusiasm for this field. It was an amazing chance to travel to Australia to attend my first IFPA conference. Therefore, I would like to thank SRF for awarding me a travel grant allowing me to attend this meeting.