

SRF Travel Grant Report: *Eva Nagyova*

In 2014 Society for Reproduction and Fertility/ Education & Engagement Committee approved my application and I obtained the travel grant from the Society (£375).

Although it was only partial support for the meeting, I was able to attend "the third World Congress in Reproductive Biology" (Edinburgh, 2-4 September 2014).

This meeting focused on the most recent data concerning ovary, folliculogenesis, control of meiosis, pregnancy and also preserving fertility.

I had the opportunity to present our results as a poster presentation entitled "Expression of *Pentraxin 3 Transcript and Protein in Porcine Preovulatory Follicles: Comparison of In Vivo and In Vitro Conditions*"; prepared by "Nagyová, Nemcova, Kalous , Salustri and Camaioni.

We have demonstrated that pentraxin 3 (PTX3) as a key component of the cumulus oophorus extracellular matrix is expressed in porcine preovulatory follicles. Its expression was significantly increased 24 h after either *in vivo* hCG stimulation or *in vitro* FSH/LH treatment in both oocyte-cumulus complexes (OCC) and mural granulosa cells. Western blot analysis with PTX3 antibody revealed that not only matrix extracts from naturally cycling gilts contained high levels of PTX3 protein but also matrix extracts of FSH/LH stimulated OCC cultured in medium supplemented with follicular fluid or porcine serum.

For me, it was an excellent opportunity to discuss our results with world experts in the field. The discussion with experts was very stimulating for our future experimental work. Next, it was great occasion to get new knowledge concerning regulation and dysregulation of primordial follicle formation and activation. What impressed me more were data showing major causes of age-related chromosome segregation errors in oocytes and environmental effects on gametogenesis.