

## **Society for Reproduction and Fertility Travel Grant Award 2013**

Recipient: Sara Rinaldi, PhD student

Supervisors: Professor Jane Norman and Professor Adriano Rossi

Conference: 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Society for Gynecologic Investigation

Many thanks to the SRF for awarding me a travel grant to attend the SGI meeting in Orlando, Florida, USA on 20-23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2013. This international conference brings together reproductive scientists and clinicians from across the world to present and discuss research in all areas of obstetrics and gynaecology research. The theme of the 2013 SGI conference was 'Plasticity: Molecules to Motherhood and Beyond'.

At the conference I had the opportunity to present some of my work from my PhD in 2 poster presentations. These posters were entitled "Investigating the anti-inflammatory agents epi-lipoxin and IL-10 in a mouse model of infection-induced preterm labour" and "Investigating the role of neutrophils in a mouse model of infection-induced preterm labour". It was an excellent opportunity to discuss my work with many leading experts in the field of preterm birth research and I received many helpful comments and ideas which I was able to consider when writing up my thesis on my return from the conference.

I found the satellite meeting on "Global Issues for Preterm Birth" particularly interesting to attend, with fascinating talks discussing epigenetics and preterm birth and the role of the microbiome and parturition.

Additionally the SGI organised a number of opportunities for young trainee members to socialise and discuss our current research and gain advice on future career plans.

Overall the SGI conference was a great experience which gave me the opportunity to present my data internationally and discuss my research with world leading experts in my field. Attending this conference was an invaluable experience and provided me with many new ideas to incorporate into the writing up of my thesis.