

Society for Reproduction and Fertility Travel Grant Award 2016

Event Attended: 19th European Testis Workshop, 11-15 June, 2016, St. Malo, France

Recipient: Michael Kings Curley

Position: 3rd Year PhD Student MRC Centre for Reproductive Health

Supervisor: Professor Lee B. Smith

I would like to express my gratitude to the Society for Reproduction and Fertility for awarding me a travel grant which enabled me to attend the 19th European Testis Workshop in St. Malo, France. This biennial meeting, focussed on molecular and cellular endocrinology of the testis, is one of the best attended by the international male reproductive research community. As such, it delivers an outstanding programme with talks from leading researchers in the field, providing a rich and stimulating environment to discuss novel developments and contextualise one's own research.

I was afforded the opportunity to present an oral-poster during one of the sessions on testicular somatic cells. My presentation, entitled '*Compensated Leydig Cell Failure in a Novel Mouse Model of Premature Ageing*' detailed some of the work I have undertaken as part of my PhD project. The presentation was well received, with a number of interesting questions and comments raised during the question and answer session following the talk, as well as during subsequent coffee breaks. It was extremely useful to receive this critical feedback, particularly as I enter into the last stretch of my PhD project.

In addition to attending the conference proper, I was also able to attend a satellite meeting of the International Network for Young Researchers in Male Fertility held 9-11th June in Rennes, France. This was a great meeting with a relaxed and informal atmosphere, enabling similar career stage young researchers to discuss their work and develop networks. The meeting also delivers an outstanding programme of talks by leading figures, but what makes it special is the intimacy of a smaller delegation compared to a large conference. I particularly enjoyed the discussion around career paths following a talk on 'Serendipity in Research' delivered by Serge Nef.

I highly recommend both these meetings to anyone with an interest in male reproductive biology. Again, I am extremely grateful to the SRF for its generous support.