



Society for Reproduction and Fertility

CANDIDATE STATEMENTS FOR EARLY CAREER REP VACANCY TERM JULY 2017 – JANUARY 2019

Name: Maha Al-Gazi

Institution: Manchester Metropolitan University

Statement:

I am a fourth year PhD student studying the miRNA in sperm, I learned many different techniques during my study, RNA sequencing, DNA methylation and part of study was done on HFD mice to investigate the miRNA expression in their sperm and has learned the western blot as well.

I have a good experience in IVF laboratory techniques, has worked in the lab for 13 years ago in Baghdad/ Iraq in the High institute of infertility diagnosis and embryo research and has worked as a member of academic staff since 2000 teaching high diploma and master students different subjects related to assisted techniques. In addition, I was my department demonstrator and head of it at the same time besides; I was the head of quality insurance of higher education sector in Iraq.

During my PhD, I have had several different duties:

I worked as volunteer as one member of MMU conference committee in 2015, organizing the conference, and sorting the emails as well as judging the panels.

I worked as MMU student ambassador and outreach ambassador.

I demonstrated in practical subjects for undergraduate students.

I gave lectures about IVF outside the UK for STP students.

I am enthusiastic to be one of the member team of the SRF society to give more chance for every person interested in reproduction and infertility helping them through advice or workshops, engaging them in different activities of the societies. Giving hope to the people that the life should be never ending with the first snake because there should be a ladder somewhere and if we sake; definitely we will find a lovely people trying to help.

My big interest is to continue working as embryologist and researcher trying to find some clues for idiopathic infertility specially and other types as well in general, and trying to help including myself in finding a good path in this amazing career.

Name: Chris Coyle

Institution: University of Aberdeen, School of Biological Sciences

Statement:

Hello, I'm Chris and I'm currently a PhD student at the University of Aberdeen. I study the role of epigenetics in the reproductive neuroendocrine axis in seasonally breeding animals.

During my studies, I have been the Postgraduate Convener for the College of Medicine and Life Sciences. In this role, I was responsible for representing MSc, MRes and PhD students' academic concerns to the Academic Senate of the University of Aberdeen.

I have also been the Postgraduate Representative for the Society of Reproduction and Fertility before from 2014-2016. Having already served on the SRF Council, I have a wealth of experience that I can draw on. It is this experience that would allow me to best serve the Early Career members as there wouldn't be any delay in me getting on with the job in hand.

The SRF is a fantastic society I have enjoyed being a part of over the past 4 yrs. The society a wonderfully supporting network of people who have helped an extraordinary amount in my first baby-steps into the world of academia. The SRF hasn't only allowed me to meet a myriad of excellent scientists from across the field; we also have a large delegation of Early Career members who I have gotten to know fairly well across the years, and I would love nothing more than to give back to the society that has treated me so well by representing the views and issues of my fellow Early Career members again.

Name: Nafi Dilaver

Institution: St George's, University of London & Swansea University Medical School

Statement:

I would be grateful if you would consider my application for the position of Early career representative at the Society for Reproduction and Fertility from July 2017 to January 2019.

It was during the third year of my Bachelors in St George's, University of London, in which I developed a passion for reproductive biology. I undertook a BSc project with Professor Helen Manson and Dr Suman Rice which ultimately lead to a publication. I then went on to complete a Masters in Research in Reproductive Medicine and subsequently secured a funded PhD with Prof. Mason and Dr Rice. My thesis was on the role of anti-Mullerian hormone in the normal and polycystic human ovary. My research was focused on the anovulatory effect of AMH in PCOS. On completing my PhD I decided to read Medicine as I have a desire for academic and clinical research.

One of my main goals as an early career representative would be to aim to bridge the gap between academic and clinical research. I believe I am in a unique position having completed a PhD and currently being a medical student in my clinical years. I would aim to increase interest, understanding and awareness of reproductive research and issues amongst medical students as well as undergraduate science students. I believe I am in an ideal position to advertise and encourage medical students to get involved with reproduction related events as well as to join and attend SRF meetings.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Nafi Dilaver, BSc (*Hons*), MRes, PhD

Name: Michelle Johnson
Institution: University of Leeds

Statement:

Over the last 7 years, SRF has played a huge role in my growth from a timid first year PhD student, too scared to speak to anybody, to a confident postdoc who enjoys networking at each event. I always enjoy presenting my work to a diverse and supportive audience of reproductive scientists. In 2015, I won the SRF Postdoctoral Scientist Prize, giving me the chance to attend SRB. This fantastic opportunity is just one of many reasons I want to give something back to SRF.

My PhD focussed on maternal adaptations to pregnancy and lactation, and how changes in appetite-regulating gut hormones support these. I currently explore immunomodulation during early pregnancy, working to develop products that induce pseudopregnancy, and superovulate mice.

The Postgrad/Postdoc Symposium is an important aspect of SRF meetings, and I have gained a great deal from presenters with diverse career backgrounds. I would aim to expand this event even further to provide greater opportunities to network with invited speakers, possibly through a speed networking-style event. I have previously assisted in workshop organisation and would relish the opportunity to expand my skills in this area.

A passionate speaker, I volunteer in schools and at science events as a STEM Ambassador. The skills I have developed in this role have enabled me to become a fair and strong communicator, which would be important when sitting on council.

Having been a member throughout my PhD and into my postdoc, I have an insight of what is important for early career members at each stage of their journey, and I would take great satisfaction and pride in being elected as an SRF Early Careers Rep.

Name: Adeoye Oyetunji Oyewopo

Institution: College of Medicine, University of Ilorin, Nigeria

Statement:

I am Oyewopo, Adeoye Oyetunji (Ph.D), a faculty member of College of Medicine, University of Ilorin, Nigeria a dynamic, goal-oriented and information hungry researcher, who is specialized in Reproductive Biotechnology, Endocrinology and Histomorphometric analysis and with several publications on reproductive physiology and anatomy.

My research focus is on male and female reproductive biology, Dietary intervention, Alternative medicine, Invitro fertilization and epigenetics, and our previous works have shown that the solution to the increasing prevalence of infertility commences with looking beyond female partners as the only subject responsible for increasing trend of infertility.

If I am giving the privilege to serve as early career rep as organized by Society for Reproduction and Fertility, I am optimistic to use this platform to network, render services and mentor postgraduate students, postdoctoral scientists and learned colleagues who have devoted themselves to learning by doing. I will also use this avenue to organize Researcher Symposium as contained in the mission of SRF.

Being a vibrant researcher with a drive to enhance research profiles and widening horizon in Reproductive Biology and contribute to the Society through service role, I hereby state my intention as aforementioned.

I hope SRF will consider my intention significant enough to decide to help carrying out my purpose and values for Reproductive Biology and Society at large.

Thanks.

Name: Rebecca Sumner

Institution: Royal Veterinary College London

Statement:

I completed my PhD at the University of Nottingham with Dr. Richard Lea in 2016. This investigated the impact of environmental chemicals upon male reproductive health, utilising the dog as a possible sentinel species.

From the start of my PhD I knew I wanted to pursue my passion for science and reproductive health research and following the submission of my thesis, I undertook a six-month research associate position with Professor Gary England and Dr. Richard Lea. This project expanded upon my PhD work and began to investigate the effects of environmental chemicals on the female reproductive system. In May 2017, I relocated to The Royal Veterinary College to undertake a research associate position with Dr. Andrew Childs investigating the somatic cells of the developing ovary and their roles within follicle formation.

As an early career researcher myself, I feel I could represent the views and opinions of fellow early career members and continue the positive effects of the SRF. I am an extremely easy going and approachable person. I wish to expand upon the supportive role of the SRF by organising talks from reproductive specialists and from those that can provide advice for those early career members, either bringing their PhD to an end, or, in the initial phase of their research career.