**Lisa Campbell**

**Global Obstetric Update & Australian Reproduction Update, Melbourne, Australia**

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I am a final year PhD student and clinical fellow working in the field of placental biology in reference to ectopic pregnancies. Thanks to the travel grant awarded by the SRF I was able to attend Global Obstetric Update (GOU) and its sister meeting Australian Reproduction Update (ARU).

GOU is an extremely popular meeting, inviting high profile clinical academics to provide updates on clinical trial advances in many areas of Obstetrics. My research interest is in clinically translational basic science and so it is extremely useful to understand where gaps have arisen in clinical knowledge that require lab-based research to progress understanding. Of particular interest were talks delivering the results of the ASPRE and PIE trials looking at medical interventions in pre-eclampsia. ARU is a new meeting run in conjunction with and complimenting GOU to bring together scientists in a friendly and collaborative environment. The atmosphere created by the organisers made networking easy and it was extremely beneficial to gain careers advice from other investigators at different stages of their career. Of particular interest were sessions discussing: repurposing of drugs within obstetrics and gynaecology; exciting developments in bioinformatics; and the epigenetic sequelae of exposure to endocrine disruptors.

In addition to attending these meetings, I was able to revisit the lab of one of our collaborators in Melbourne to develop new techniques. This has helped progress several aspects of my PhD and was invaluable. Overall this was a very productive trip for which I really appreciate the support from SRF.