

Society for Reproduction and Fertility Travel Grant Award 2015

Recipient: Fiona Cousins

Position: Post-doctoral research fellow

Supervisor: Professor Philippa TK Saunders

Conference Attended; 48th Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Reproduction

Many thanks to the SRF for awarding me with a travel grant, this enabled me to attend the above conference from June 18th-21st in Puerto Rico. I presented some of my work from a current study I am undertaking on immune cell function and dynamics during menses. I presented this data in the form of a poster presentation entitled “Two separate populations of macrophages are involved in endometrial repair and remodelling in a mouse model of menses”. At this conference there were morning and evening poster sessions which was beneficial to presenters as it increased the time available for discussion with other attendees. This time was invaluable to me as I was able to get advice on how best to proceed with my work and I was also able to discuss my work with people who also study immune cell function during pregnancy and implantation in the mouse and other model systems.

SSR was a great conference to attend as it really focusses on trainees and their development by hosting trainee-mentor lunches and trainee-mentor mixers which allows trainees to talk to more experienced scientists in an informal setting.

The conference ran concurrent sessions over two days on several topics. As well as attending the implantation session, which is relevant to my work, I also took an interest in the assisted reproduction techniques session which I found very interesting and allowed me to keep up to date with research out with my current studies.

I thoroughly enjoyed the SSR conference, the feedback I received on my work will be very useful moving forward and also helpful to other members of the lab group.