

Society for Reproduction and Fertility Travel Grant Award 2015

Recipient: Bianca De Leo

Position: Second year PhD student

Supervisor: Professor Philippa TK Saunders

Conference Attended: 62nd Annual Meeting of the Society for Reproductive Investigation in San Francisco, CA, USA.

I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the SRF for awarding me with a travel grant which enabled me to attend the SRI Annual Meeting in March 2015 in San Francisco, USA. I presented work from my PhD research project involving the role of mast cells in the human and murine uterus. My data was presented in the form of a poster presentation entitled "Investigation of the steroid hormone receptor and activation profile of uterine mast cells". My poster presentation was well attended and I benefited from very useful discussion and feedback.

The time spent at SRI annual meeting was very beneficial as I was able to get advice on how to best proceed with my research and I was also able to discuss my work with experts in my field of immunology. Furthermore, I was able to learn new techniques and concepts which I am now incorporating in my studies. I found most sessions relevant and interesting, broadening my knowledge as an in-training scientist.

SRI was a great conference to attend with a very international group of participants. The connection corners session was useful for young scientists, not only to network with peers but also to talk and engage with the more senior investigators within the society. We engaged in various topics while enjoying drinks and conversation with our fellow trainees. Topics which were part of the programme were such as; Going Global with Your Career, Finding a Good Mentor, Diversity is the Future, Funding Rules, How to Negotiate a (post-doctoral) Fellowship, Searching for your First Faculty Position. It was a very inspiring chat on topics relevant for my future career progression

I am very thankful to the SRF for their generous support.

Regards

Bianca De Leo MSc

PhD Student at the Centre for Inflammation Research,
The University of Edinburgh