

Society for Reproduction and Fertility Travel Grant Award 2016

Recipient: Claire Stenhouse

Position: Second year PhD student

Supervisor: Professor Cheryl J. Ashworth

Conference Attended: 18<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Animal Reproduction, 26<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> June in Tours, France

I would like to thank the SRF for generously supporting my attendance to the 18<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Animal Reproduction (ICAR), 26<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016 in Tours, France. During the conference I was given the opportunity to present my data in the form of a poster presentation entitled “Alterations in the Vasculature of Placental, but not Endometrial, Tissue Associated with Small Porcine Foetuses Compared to their Normal-Sized Littermates”. The data I presented was well received and I benefited vastly from the feedback of other delegates who work in my field, and my discussions with them have influenced the direction of my work.

ICAR was great conference to attend with a wide range of topics and species being covered in both the oral and poster presentations, from general aspects of reproductive biology and its importance to the food production industry, to very specific techniques and new emerging technologies. A number of the parallel symposia and workshops were extremely relevant to my research, including embryo implantation, placental function, pig reproduction and early maternal-embryo communication. These talks enabled me to familiarise myself with some of the new and exciting research and techniques being carried out in the field, some of which I hope to bring back and implement in my group.

I am extremely grateful to the SRF for awarding me this travel grant which has provided me with the invaluable opportunity to broaden the scope of my knowledge in the field I work in, meet potential collaborators and colleagues and enable me to communicate my research to a wide audience.