



UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE

Department of Physiology, Development  
and Neuroscience

Society for Reproduction and Fertility

16 November 2016

Dear Ms Maginn

Thank you for your email dated 10 November 2016. I would be delighted to accept the travel grant of £384 awarded from the Society for Reproduction and Fertility. This grant enabled me to attend the British Endocrine Societies meeting in Brighton from 7-9 November 2016.

The annual BES meeting is the leading international conference on endocrinology in the UK. The 3-day scientific programme was extensive and spanned many aspects of endocrinology, including several presentations with relevance for the reproductive systems and my own research.

I especially enjoyed the symposia 'Thyroid hormone: the journey from cell surface to action' and 'Exposing the sins of our fathers (and mothers)' which included a variety of engaging talks. Heike Heuer described the interesting differences between human and mice with mutations in the MCT-8 thyroid hormone transporter and Amanda Drake questioned the evidence for epigenetic mechanisms in transgenerational developmental programming. Plenary lectures given by Steve Bloom (Jubilee Medal) and the new president of the Society for Endocrinology, Graham Williams (Pitt-Rivers Lecture), were engaging and wide-ranging reviews of appetite regulation and thyroid hormone actions, respectively.

At the meeting, I presented a poster entitled 'Hypothyroidism induces hyperplasia of unilocular adipocytes in perirenal adipose tissue of the ovine fetus'. This research was a collaborative project between the Universities of Cambridge, Oxford Brookes and Western Australia and was primarily the research work of my PhD student, Shelley Harris, who unfortunately was unable to attend the meeting. The BES meeting was an ideal forum for the presentation of new data and discussion of research findings with a mixture of clinical and basic scientists.

Many thanks again for the financial support to attend the BES meeting.

With best wishes

Alison Forhead

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