Department of Physiology,
Development and Neuroscience
University of Cambridge
Downing Street
Cambridge

Recipient: Nadejda Capatina, BSc (Hons) with IE
1st year PhD student
Supervisor: Professor Graham Burton

**Report on attending the conference "From Unfolded Proteins in the Endoplasmic Reticulum to Disease" in Saxton's River, Vermont, USA**

I would like to express my deep gratitude to The Society for Reproduction and Fertility for funding my attendance at the conference "From Unfolded Proteins in the Endoplasmic Reticulum (ER) to Disease" organized by the Federation of American Societies For Experimental Biology (FASEB), 18-23 June 2017 in Saxton's River, Vermont, USA. This conference brought together experts in the field of molecular and cell biology, genetics, and physiology with the aim of bridging the gap between disease development and the complexities of secretory protein folding, ER stress pathways, lipid signalling, and ER membrane biology.

I presented a poster and delivered a 20-minute talk entitled "The Effect of Endoplasmic Reticulum Stress on Trophoblast Cell Lineage Differentiation". Both the poster and talk sessions generated a lot of discussion and useful feedback. Presenting this work allowed me to dive into the cutting-edge science that experts throughout the world do, and their constructive feedback has made me approach my research question with a different perspective. This opened my imagination for new experiments that I will do during the coming months. This research conference is the first that I have attended since starting my graduate training, and setting up collaborations with researchers from different continents was the highlight of my experience. Listening to talks from outstanding scientists and attending the "meet the experts" session, were a great opportunity to learn about science from the pioneers in the field of endoplasmic reticulum research.

I am extremely grateful to the Society for Reproduction and Fertility for awarding the travel grant and contributing immensely to my professional development.

Yours respectfully,
Nadejda Capatina