

Department of Veterinary Medicine and Science
Comparative medicine
University of Nottingham

Society for Reproduction and Fertility Travel Grant Award 2017

Recipient: Maria Dolores Ruiz-Diaz

Position: 3rd year PhD

Conference attended: 21st European Society for Domestic Animals Reproduction (ESDAR) conference. 24-26 of August, Bern, Switzerland.

I would like to thank the SRF for awarding me this travel grant. It allowed me to attend the ESDAR conference, which otherwise I would not be able to attend due to the financial limitations of my PhD scholarship. My current study focus is on how maternal nutrition affects the development of the reproductive tract in bulls. However, in the future, I would like to work in embryo transfer and in vitro fertilization. That is one of the main reasons why this conference was good for me. The talks were not just focused on the theme I am working on now but also in the area I would like to work in the future. This also ensured that I saw a broad range of research, vital when you are undertaking your PhD. Although the keynote talks were less related to my work, they were fascinating and expanded my knowledge. There were oral communications and workshops which were very interesting, they focused on sperm proteomics, which is the theme of part of my thesis project, and ovum pick-up and embryo transfer. In addition, my abstract was selected for a poster presentation and I could share my knowledge with experts in the field.

As I am in the last year of my PhD, networking is essential in order to open new opportunities to continue with my research career. Attending the ESDAR conference enabled me to communicate with a researcher who told me to send her my CV, since future positions in her team may be available. There were many similar discussions. My viva is now imminent and the conference has enabled me to gain confidence and broaden my knowledge in the very latest research. In summary, thanks to the support of the SRF, I was able to improve my knowledge in the themes that I presently work in, expand my knowledge in the areas that I would like to concentrate on in my future career and open doors for a possible future work.