



# Society for Reproduction and Fertility

## 59. 8 General Secretary's Report 2017 59<sup>th</sup> SRF AGM, ACC Liverpool, 5<sup>th</sup> January 2018

**Academic Scholarships:** The Society continues to support the research and development of its members through the award of Academic Scholarships. This year we sought to support our members further by opening up our Academic Scholarship scheme to early career researchers and members wishing to return to research after a period of parental or carers leave. Demonstration that this expansion to our Scholarship awards was much needed was evident by the increase in total number of applications being submitted. In 2016, we received just 4 applications, in 2017 we received a total of 12 applications (6 academic scholarships; 1 return to research scholarship and 5 early career researcher scholarships). Out of the twelve applications the Society agreed to fund 8 applications at a total cost of £92,239.

As always, the Society believes that our members should be fully aware of how the Society's funds are being spent and what the outcomes, impact and outputs are from all Society supported activities. As such, the Council will continue to engage with current and future Scholarship awardees to ensure the maximal benefit and impact can be achieved with the Society's funds.

The Council is a representative of the Society and its members and looks to support our members in as many ways a possible. As such, the Council continues to respond to members' comments and, where appropriate, address funding issues we believe are appropriate for our members. However, we are always open to additional suggestions of where our members feel they could be supported further by the Society.

**Vacation Scholarships:** In 2016, the society supported 11 vacation scholarships, enabling undergraduate students to get experience of conducting cutting edge reproductive research for a period of up to 8 weeks over the summer. In 2017, the society agreed to fund 9 vacation scholarships from a total of 16 applications. As an indication of the value and impact of our vacation scholarship scheme, the abstracts of two of our awardees (Daniel Stark and Sofia Akhtar) have been selected for an oral communication and for the SRF's student prize session respectively at Fertility 2018.

The call for 2018 vacation scholarship scheme is now open and the closing date is the 30<sup>th</sup> March 2018. Please see our website for more details and the online application form <http://srf-reproduction.org/grants-awards/grants/vacation-scholarships/>. Projects can be a maximum of 8 weeks long, and include a stipend funded of £250 per week to cover living costs for the student, plus an award of £750 to be paid to the host laboratory to cover the cost of consumables for the project. As always, the highest scoring vacation scholarship applications will be funded, irrespective of institution/location. As we anticipate a high number of applications, we would advise applicants and supervisors to treat an application to the Society's vacation scheme with as much care as any other grant application.

**Travel Grants:** In 2017, the Society instigated our travel grant scheme based on distance travelled rather than awarding a flat sum. In 2017, the Society awarded 23 travel grants allowing members to attend national and international conferences. Applications for Travel Grants are considered throughout the year, but must be submitted in advance of the meeting to which they are being applied for.

Dr Adam Watkins  
SRF General Secretary  
Chair of the Education and Engagement Committee  
12 December 2017