



Society for Reproduction and Fertility

59.9 Programme Secretary's Report 2017

59th SRF AGM, ACC Liverpool, 5th January 2018

2017 has been another busy year for the SRF Programme Committee. In January, the SRF Chaired the joint programme committee of Fertility 2017. Soon after that meeting, thoughts turned to the organisation of the World Congress for Reproductive Biology (WCRB) in Okinawa, Japan, followed just 4 months later by Fertility 2018.

The WCRB 2017 was a great success and well represented by the SRF membership. The meeting was a joint venture with 6 societies around the world; SRB (Australia), CSRB (China), KSAR (Korea), SRD (Japan), SRF (UK) and SSR (USA). The conference was hosted by the SRD in collaboration with the other societies. The programme consisted of 6 plenary lectures, 78 oral presentations and 626 posters. In total, there were 765 participants from 33 countries and thus it truly was a world congress. The next WCRB will be hosted by the CSRB and will be held in Beijing in 2020.

As you will be aware, following consultation with the membership, the SRF did not hold a standalone summer meeting in 2017. Thus, Fertility 2018 is the first of the new, annual, joint Fertility meetings in full collaboration with the SRF, ACE (Association of Clinical Embryologists) and BFS (British Fertility Society). The SRF programme committee were particularly keen to maintain all the traditional prize sessions that were associated with our standalone meetings and in particular, to continue our strong tradition of supporting more junior members of the society. In this first year, we decided to hold the Early Career Researchers Symposium, the Postdoctoral prize session, the SRF-SRB exchange lecture and the SRF-SSR New investigator award lectures on the 3rd January followed by an SRF specific social event. Our aim in organising the programme in this way was to ensure that the identity of the SRF was maintained; something we knew was important to our membership.

The overall theme of Fertility 2018 is *Environmental influences in Reproduction*. We hope you find the programme inspiring and scientifically rewarding. We appreciate that the interests of the SRF membership are broad and so endeavour to build a programme that has something for everyone while ensuring scientific excellence. This year the two SRF Update sessions will be entitled *Stem cells* and *Microbiomes*. The final update session will be joint between all 3 societies and separated into either a Clinical, or a Scientific session. One of the changes to the Fertility 2018 programme that you will notice is that the SRF Distinguished Scientist award and the SRF Anne McLaren lecture have been combined into the Anne McLaren Distinguished Scientist Award and I am delighted that Professor Kate Hardy will present this lecture at Fertility 2018. Many congratulations also to Dr Amanda Sferruzzi-Perri who will present the SRF New Investigator lecture and Dr Aritro Sen the SSR New Investigator lecture. We also welcome Quynh-Nhu Nguyen from Monash University who will give the SRF-SRB exchange lecture. In a change to proceedings, the Marshall Medal, the Society's highest award, will be presented at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) to Professor William Holt in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the field of

Reproductive Biology. The Stewart Rhind Science Writing Prize will also be awarded at the AGM. The winner of the SRF Student prize, Postdoctoral prize and Poster prizes will be announced at a Prize Giving ceremony at the end of the conference.

Fertility 2019 will take place in Birmingham from Thursday 3rd – Saturday 5th January. Please save the date! If you have suggestions for speakers, or topics for inclusion at a future SRF meeting, please let us know by emailing srf@conferencecollective.co.uk or complete the online form at www.srf-reproduction.org/contact

My term of office as SRF Programme Secretary comes to an end at Fertility 2018. Over my four year term, we have arranged a staggering eight international conferences on behalf of the SRF. This would not have been possible without the help and support of the fantastic SRF Programme Committee; I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you, both past and present. I am indebted to Michelle and Jacinta at *The Conference Collective* for being such a wonderful secretariat for the SRF and for making my role as Programme Secretary so much easier. Thanks also, to *Profile Productions*, the secretariat of Fertility 2018. A final word of thanks must go to the SRF Council, especially the officers for their continued support during my term of office.

Dr Franchesca Houghton
SRF Programme Secretary
December 2017