

## Holly Groome

### 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting of the Australian Society for Immunology (ASI)

With the travel grant provided by SRF, I was able to attend the Annual Scientific Meeting for ASI in Brisbane, Australia. This meeting was largely focused on immunology where my research area covers reproductive immunology and in particular how the innate immune cell, the macrophage, can regulate pregnancy success. The meeting brought together basic scientists working on diverse immune cells in different tissues and how disease may be regulated by these immune cells. With very knowledgeable scientists attending the conference, interest in other immune cells and their roles in various conditions and tissues allowed very in-depth and specific question times and gave a more well-rounded approach to the immune systems due to studies on the basic biology of particular cell types. This meeting also allowed potential collaborations to be formed through similar immune cell interests but different disease and tissue settings.

I gave an oral presentation in the Mucosal Immunity Special Interest Group on day one of the conference. Whilst a majority of the audience were unfamiliar with reproductive immunology, macrophage biologists were very interested in the broad roles of this immune cell and provided significant feedback relating to other diseases that relate to macrophage functions. The interaction with successful scientists has broadened my knowledge and has allowed me to pursue other avenues in my project. I sincerely thank the SRF for the opportunity to present at ASI and gain significant understanding of the dynamic nature of the immune system in a variety of settings.