

Society for Reproduction and Fertility Travel Grant 2018

Recipient: Miss Caroline Allen

Position: PhD student at the University of Edinburgh, Biomedical Sciences

Conference: 20th European Testis Workshop, 23rd-27th May 2018, Óbidos, Portugal

I would like to take the time to thank the SRF education committee for providing me with the funds to travel and attend the European Testis Workshop in Óbidos, Portugal. This international conference gathers experts in my field focusing on the molecular and cellular endocrinology of the testis, which is unique amongst reproductive biologists, providing an outstanding programme of inspirational speakers.

During this workshop I had the opportunity to give a 10-minute presentation based upon my miniposter submission titled 'Comparison of toxicity of chemotherapy drugs cisplatin and carboplatin on prepubertal mouse gonads'. This was my first experience presenting my research at an international conference and has given me the confidence to continue to submit my research for presentations. The questions asked following the presentation were also very informative giving me some points to think on for further research.

There were many excellent speakers at the conference who gave talks that have opened my eyes to new areas of research that I may be interested in pursuing in the future e.g. Prof. Dr. Andreas Meinhardt's plenary session titled 'The immune system of the testis: 3 infectious stories'. I was also greatly inspired by the closing lecture by Prof. Dr. Ans Van Pelt titled 'Preservation of fertility in oncological patients: lessons learned from Growsperm programme' whose research has greatly informed my current research project.

This workshop was also a great opportunity to network with leaders in my field, developing my contacts and giving me the chance to develop a working relationship with potential collaborators.

I would highly recommend this conference to anyone within the field of testicular biology and I hope to attend many more European Testis workshops in the future.

Yours sincerely,

Caroline Allen