**Society for Reproduction and Fertility Travel Grant Award 2018**

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**Position: Final year PhD student, Birmingham medical and dental school-UK**

**Would like to thank the SRF for supporting my attendance at the DORDON conference of Mammalian reproduction from gametogenesis to pregnancy Italy -29th July-3rd August 2018. At the conference this year, I was given the opportunity to do poster presentation on the first day of poster sessions. The title of my poster was “Development of in *Vitro* models to investigate endometrial-stromal trophoblast interactions during embryo implantation)”. My presentations to people who visited my poster was well-received , interestingly, I was individually visited by very important authors in my field e.g. Dr.Fazel Abbas , Prof . Fuller Bazer (Texas A&M University, USA), Gregory Johnson (Texas A&M University, USA), Hongmei Wang (Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China), Indrani Bagchi (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA), , Milan Bagchi (DIRECTOR OF THE SCHOOL OF MOLECULAR AND CELLULAR BIOLOGY, Matteo Avella (University of Tulsa, USA), Ripla Arora ( Michigan State University), and also more other scientists and students.
.Following the session, I received useful feedbacks from those experts in the field, which will be taken into account for my future project. The GORDEN conference provided me with a great platform to learn from many world-reknowned scientists who are passionate about maternal-foetal interaction during embryo implantation and early pregnancy. I enjoyed many of the talks on maternal –foetal interaction and modelling human embryo implantation as the informative talks from Mana Parast (University of California, San Diego, USA) entitled as "Modelling Human Placental Development and Disease Using Pluripotent Stem Cells. They were all very relevant to my research area and were of very good standard. Many of the talks were delivered by authors of highly cited papers which I have read, and what better way can there be than to learn about their work from them in person! Furthermore, I particularly enjoyed the power hour which held by the conference letting women in science to discuss very interesting topic as life-work balance, negotiation, and other few nice topics, whilst accepting questions from the audience simultaneously. Additionally, I am very grateful for the new connections made with senior investigators and professors from all over the world during the conference dinner at free afternoon time as Irina Larina (Baylor College of Medicine, USA), Yang Xia (McGovern Medical School, University of Texas Health Science Centre at Houston, USA), Francesca cole University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Centre, Sarah England, Ko CheMyong Jay University of Illinois, Hang, Jing Peking University, 3rd Hospital. Socializing and networking with those scientist open new fields in my critical and scientific thinking as long very nice and funny time.**

 **. Overall, the SRF kind grant of GBPs 700 help me much to attend and make great deal of conference attendance requirnents.GORDON conference enabled me to develop my interest in research and motivated me to pursue my ambition to become an academic member . I thoroughly enjoyed the being in Italy with all those expert wonderful people.**

**Israa Alshalal**