

Society for Reproduction and Fertility Travel Grant 2018

Recipient: Sona Relovska, PhD student at the University of Edinburgh

I would like to thank the committee for awarding me the travel grant to attend the GRC Mammalian Reproduction Conference, which took place 29<sup>th</sup> July to 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2018 in Barga, Italy. The conference was attended by experts in the field of reproductive biology, and the programme was varied and very interesting, in line with the conference's theme of Pathways from Gametogenesis to Pregnancy. I particularly enjoyed the sessions about gametogenesis: "Making golden eggs and embryos" and "Making golden sperm", with speakers such as Paula Cohen with her talk "The Goldilocks Principle: How to Ensure Just the Right Amount of Crossing over in Mammalian Meiosis" and Richard Freiman's talk "Regulating Early Oocyte Development and How a Pinch of TAF4b Goes a Long Way".

At the conference I presented a poster based on the results of the first two years of my PhD project, allowing me to share my research with scientists and gain very valuable feedback, as well as ideas to take forward. My poster was well-received and I was able to discuss ideas to take forward, in order to finalise the research in my last year of studies, before preparing it for publication.

Moreover, the rich programme allowed for networking with fellow scientists as well as making connections with principal investigators.

Overall, this conference has been a fantastic experience in all aspects, and I would like to thank again the SRF for their support.

Yours sincerely,

Sona Relovska