Jorge López-Tello, postdoctoral fellow at the University of Cambridge

The Frontiers in Reproduction (FIR) course is an intensive six-week laboratory and lecture course designed for early career researchers who seek training in state-of-the-art methods and knowledge in different areas of reproductive biology. The course is held at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Massachusetts. It is divided in three different sections: 1) signal transduction and transcriptional regulation of gene expression in the hypothalamic-pituitary-gonadal axis, 2) stem cells, gametogenesis, fertilization, and preimplantation embryo development and 3) development of adult male and female reproductive tracts, placentation and mammary development. The course also provides training in laboratorial techniques, such as cell culture, transient transfection and generation of transgenic embryos. Moreover, the students are exposed to different animal models such as mice, sheep or drosophila. It also involves studying of the development of different marine species, as evidenced by the publication that we obtained during the course (Ontiveros *et al.,* 2008).

The last two days of the course are devoted to a symposium where I was able to present my latest postdoctoral results. The symposium is attended by other scientists of the current and past FIR course who have travelled from over the globe. By participating in both the course and symposium I was be able to meet and discuss my findings one-on-one with investigators who have formed the experimental and intellectual basis for my research. This allowed me to gain new insights on my novel results, which has assisted me to design future experiments and write papers for publication and research grants.

Finally, I would like to thank the SRF for awarding me with a travel grant which made it possible for me to participate in the 2018 FIR course.

Ontiveros AE, Blengini C, & López-Tello J. (2018). Skating through development. Molecular reproduction and development.