SRF Education & Engagement Committee

29 October 2018

Dear SRF Education & Engagement Committee members,

I am very grateful to the Society for Reproduction and Fertility for providing a travel grant to support my attendance at the 10th International Ruminant Reproduction Symposium (IRRS) held in Foz do Iguazu, Brazil, from 16th-20th September 2018. I gave a poster presentation on recent research from my lab entitled: Expression of inhibin α subunit in bovine theca cells: does inhibin α contribute to the regulation of androgen production? (M Laird, C Glister, LS Satchell, W Cheewasopit, PG Knight).

I have attended three previous symposia in this series (IRRS3 in Nice, France 1990; IRRS8 in Anchorage, Alaska, 2010; IRRS9 in Obihiro, Japan, 2014) and have always found them to be high quality meetings with a wealth of new information on offer from both invited speaker sessions sessions and poster presentations. IRRS meetings have also provided an outstanding opportunity to meet and engage with other reproductive biologists at all levels from PhD student through to established group leaders. The 10th IRRS fully lived up to expectations and the organising and programme committee members deserve praise for what was a well-attended and vibrant meeting with delegates from around the globe. I particularly enjoyed insightful and informative presentations by Danielle Monniaux on ‘Factors influencing establishment of the ovarian reserve and their effects on fertility; Alvaro Garcia-Guerra on ‘Mechanisms regulating follicle selection in ruminants: lessons learned from multiple ovulation models’; Ana Meikle on ‘Influences of nutrition and metabolism on reproduction of the female ruminant’; Rob Gilchrist on ‘Follicular guidance for oocyte developmental competence’ and Alejo Menchaca on ‘From reproductive technologies to genome editing in small ruminants: an embryo’s journey’

All in all, an excellent scientific meeting in a beautiful location – thanks again to the SRF for the generous contribution towards my travel costs.

Kind regards,



Phil Knight

University of Reading