Society for Reproduction and Fertility Travel Grant Award 2018

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I would firstly like to thank the Society for Reproduction and Fertility for their support of my attendance at the 51st annual conference of the Society for the Study of Reproduction in New Orleans, USA from 10-13th July 2018. At the conference I was given the opportunity to present a poster highlighting my undergraduate research entitled ‘Conceptus-derived proteins with conserved sequences in different mammalian species, alter expression of candidate mRNAs in the endometrium in vitro, in a species-specific manner’, that I conducted within the Forde group laboratory. It was a fantastic opportunity to present at an international conference and receive feedback on my research, which I will be continuing at PhD level in October.

During the conference I attended many presentations and talks from world-leading scientists in many aspects of reproductive biology, and it was brilliant to hear them talk so passionately about their research. There was a great variety of topics which included ethical and public engagements issues currently faced by reproductive biologists, alongside reproductive cellular biology research talks. Many speakers described both published and unpublished works, which gave me insight into how they decide upon future directions for their groups and gave me many ideas for my own research.

I also got the opportunity to attend many additional meetings, such as the trainee-mentor luncheon, thanks to the SRF travel grant. In the trainee-mentor luncheon I met Dr. Lori Raetzman who described her career progression and research areas, which was an amazing opportunity to meet a successful female researcher who has become an expert in her own field. She also described how critical it is to maintain a healthy work-life balance and gave us ideas for how to better manage our time to achieve this.

Overall, the opportunity to attend the SSR 51st annual conference in New Orleans thanks to the SRF travel grant I was awarded has allowed me to immerse myself even further in reproductive biology research, and enthuse me even more towards my own research, and meet many potential future collabprators. I am now very motivated to pursue an academic research career in the field and look forward to beginning my PhD studies. I am so grateful to the SRF for its generous support of my attending and presenting at my first international conference.