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

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**Conference: PPTOX VI 2018**

I would like to express my gratitude to SRF, for supporting my travel to the Faroe Islands in order to attend PPTOX VI 2018 (Prenatal Programming and Toxicity Conference), which took place from the 27th to 30th May in Tórshavn.

This Environmental Toxicology conference particularly focuses on fetal and early postnatal exposures, because these critical periods are recognized as key windows of susceptibility to environmental hazards.

The conference was absolutely relevant for me, as my project is looking at the effects of *in utero* exposure to maternal smoking on fetal and placenta development. Indeed, maternal smoking is a suitable model to investigate “complex mixture” exposure.

The conference brought together scientists working on both basic science and on epidemiology, a connection that often is missing in current environmental health research. Therefore this was a very positive aspect.

I am grateful to have had the chance not only to attend the conference, but also to give an oral presentation (the first one from the beginning of my PhD) with the title “*In utero* exposure to cigarette smoke is associated with sex and age specific changes in NAFLD pathways”. Indeed I am currently exploring the interesting possibility of a role for prenatal exposure to cigarette smoke and the development of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) later in life. It was a relatively small conference, therefore it was very easy to meet people and exchange ideas. Attending PPTOX was definitely beneficial for my networking and I left with much more knowledge and new perspectives for the future.

Once again, I would like to thank SRF for supporting my attendance to PPTOX VI 2018.

Chiara Talia