

Society for Reproduction and Fertility Travel Grant 2019

Recipient: Miss Abigail Walker

Position: PhD student at Imperial College London

Conference: GPCR Retreat 2019 - 20 years of discovery -25th-28th September 2019, Bromont, Quebec

I would like to extend thanks to the Society for Reproduction and Fertility for enabling me to attend the 20th GPCR retreat in Quebec, Canada. This was an amazing opportunity for the final year of my PhD as it was attended by a huge number of world renowned including two Nobel laureates in my field, both who gave talks.

For me the most exciting talk was given by Professor Raymond C Stevens, who has begun work to assemble a spatiotemporal, multi-scale (atomic to cellular) model of a human pancreatic beta cell. The project is such a huge idea and it's going to involve scientists from all specialities including data scientists, structural chemists and biologists. The potential for this work is astounding and could completely change the way we treat disease.

I presented two posters and gave an oral presentation, which was such fantastic exposure for both me and my work. Presenting to such a large crowd, made up of such eminent scientists, was an experience I won't forget. I also very much enjoyed that the entire conference was GPCR-based, resulting in a huge range of talks from people coming at similar problems with different techniques - all with a GPCR focus.

I met a number of groups who were very interested in my work and a few that were excited about potential new collaborations. This was great for me as I'm about to submit a paper, so it was a good opportunity to get the fields opinions of the work before submission.

I look forward to being able to attend this meeting again in the future and would like the opportunity to thank the SRF once more for their kind and generous support.

Thanks again,

Abigail