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Conference attended: 7th Conference of the International Society of Wildlife Endocrinology (ISWE) held in the Kruger National Park, South Africa from the 13th-16th October 2019

Poster title: *Urinary biomarkers of pregnancy and pregnancy-loss detection in the giant panda*

I am very grateful to the SRF for providing me with a travel grant to help attend the 7th ISWE conference held in the Kruger National Park in South Africa. Not only was it a chance to meet with some of the leading experts in the field of wildlife endocrinology, but it allowed me to visit a part of the world where I wouldn't otherwise have had the opportunity to.

The conference was a meeting of around 100 delegates - this small group allowed for the opportunity to network with a large number of different people, learning about completely different areas of research and also gaining further insights into the work of others which I had initially learned about when attending the 6th ISWE conference.

A student-mentor lunch was organised, this was an excellent event and allowed us to meet experienced researchers in a casual setting – I really enjoyed this session as it gave additional insight into the field, and it really reassured me that there were many different career paths that could be taken whilst keeping in the same area of research. The workshop at the conference was also a useful session, despite there being a large number of people, many people wanted to discuss the same problems and it was a very good troubleshooting session to bounce ideas off one another.

As this meeting is held every two years, it also allowed me an opportunity to meet and catch up with international researchers who work on the same species as I do – as we are a small group, this is great for us to share our recent advances and potential problems. I found this particularly motivating for me to progress with my research once I had returned home.

I had the opportunity to present a poster at this conference, allowing for further networking and the sharing of my results. There was positive feedback to my research, and I had some very interesting discussions with peers. I look forward to building upon this set of results at future ISWE conferences.

Finally, I would like to again thank the SRF for the travel grant to help me attend this excellent meeting.