**Travel Grant Report: Canadian Fertility and Andrology Society 68th Annual Meeting**

The “Canadian Fertility and Andrology Society 68th Annual Meeting” was a highly rewarding and enjoyable experience. We flew out to the conference on the first day, excited to present our new data. The conference was themed around “Back to the Future”, so many of the talks focussed on where we are now and the future of IVF treatment. On the first day, I attended some very interesting talks about the future of IVF treatment, including talk from an astronaut titled “Medicine on Mars” which provoked thoughts of extra-terrestrial repopulation. Later, I explored the poster section, and talked with students about some particularly interesting data on cytoplasmic flow in human eggs as a measure of aneuploidy.

On the second day of the conference, I presented my project titled “The consequences of aneuploidy upon the cell cycle in preimplantation embryos” to an international audience of academics and clinicians. Here, I presented evidence to suggest that the technology utilised in fertility clinics, called morphokinetics, may not be able inform clinicians about the genetic status of the embryo. This presentation was a general overview of the data I have collected over the past 2 years during my MSc with Professor Greg FitzHarris. My presentation lasted for approximately 15 minutes including questions from the panel and audience. This built my experience in presentations and scientific communication which was a rewarding experience.

I received valuable feedback after my presentation from clinicians, questioning how this is applicable to their own practice in clinics. I also engaged in interesting theoretical questions from academics about the potential biological mechanisms behind my findings. Furthermore, in discussions after the session, I talked with researchers about my methodology and how they might be able to implement this in their lab. As well as discovering new ways to analyse my data which would make my research more robust as well as new avenues of research relevant to my project. I thoroughly enjoyed these discussions and it gave me a different angle to approach my research with, which I am excited to implement into my research at UdeM.

At the conference dinner on the second day, I was able to meet with clinical embryologists and it was very interesting to hear a more clinical side to the story and what the working environment is like in a clinic.

Unfortunately, Hurricane Fiona struck on the evening of the conference dinner, which caused falling power lines and winds of 180kmph. We were evacuated from the conference centre and soon after much of Halifax lost power. This lead to a cancellation of the conference a day early, so we sheltered in our hotel until the airport had repaired all of the damage and flew home a few days later. But I am grateful that I was able to present and attend two days of the conference. Thank you to the SRF for the travel grant which was able to help me fund my expenses to attend this conference, presenting here elevated my presentation skills, connections in the industry and knowledge about the clinical IVF world.