**Grants & Awards Committee**

**Society for Reproduction and Fertility**

11th July, 2022

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I would like to thank the Society for Reproduction and Fertility for financial support to attend the 19th International Congress on Animal Reproduction, held at Bologna from the 26th to the 30th of June 2022.

This congress is a major international animal reproduction conference bringing together academics, scientists and practitioners from a broad range of reproductive specialities. As such, it was a unique opportunity to network with experts (applied and academic) from my own areas of research as well as areas with which I am less familiar, and to be exposed to the latest scientific developments in animal reproduction.

The broad nature of the conference was a great advantage to me, given I have recently changed the focus of my research. I was able to go to talks and poster presentations relevant to areas I am currently writing up (relating to either hormone programming or lipid metabolism in relation to bovine oocyte maturation and *in vitro* fertilisation), as well as gaining insight into the areas I will be investigating with my new postdoctoral position (relating to epigenetics and reproductive toxicology).

I also had the opportunity to give a short oral presentation “*Interaction of polyunsaturated fatty acids and melatonin during bovine in vitro maturation on cumulus-oocyte metabolism and embryo development*” at the conference. The main result was that addition of melatonin or fatty acids (linoleic acid plus α-linolenic acid) independently have adverse effects on cumulus-oocyte complex metabolism (particularly glycolysis and oxidative phosphorylation) and subsequently embryo development; however, this did not occur if melatonin and fatty acids were added in combination.

Yours Sincerely

Des Tutt