

Travel Grant Award June 2022

Recipient: Karolina Wołodko

Position: Post-doc at the Institute of Animal Reproduction and Food Research Polish Academy of Sciences

I would like to thank the Society for Reproduction and Fertility for their financial support which enabled me to attend the 55th Society for Study of Reproduction Annual Meeting that took place on 26-29th of July 2022 in Spokane, Washington, USA. I was given an opportunity to present my research in a poster session. The work entitled “Diet induced obesity differently affects the methylome of cumulus cells from mice with variable susceptibility to obesity” authored by Karolina Wołodko, Magdalena Jura, Gavin Kelsey and Antonio Galvao, is a part of the manuscript I am currently working on. Presenting my results to the international audience generated important feedback from renowned scientists in the field of reproduction. Moreover, I have been asked some questions and the discussion was of great value.

Attending the meeting was a great experience for me and a clear opportunity to deepen my knowledge in the field of reproductive biology. The conference lasted 4 days, with the Ovarian Workshop taking place prior to the conference for 1.5 days. The lectures and poster session were of great value. The presentations I found particularly interesting concerned oocyte volume regulation delivered by Jay Baltz, gonadotropins regulation of ovarian function by prof Kumar, cohesion loss and chromosome individualisation with age by Greg Frizharris or aberrant methylation in primordial germ cells by Marisa Bartolomei. Moreover, other topics covered during the conference concerned PCOS, ovarian aging, impact of environmental changes on reproduction, endometrial disorders, epigenetic mechanisms regulating embryogenesis. Prof Kelle Moley gave a great speech on the participation of females in studies and inequality with men, presenting also some novel approaches towards development of techniques aimed at improving women’s reproductive health.

Generally, attending the 55th SSR Annual Meeting was a valuable opportunity to meet, listen to and discuss with many world-leading scientists as well as deepen my knowledge in reproductive biology. I appreciate the financial support SRF provided me which enabled me to go to the international conference and present my data.