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**Proceedings of the 29th Annual Meeting of the Brazilian Embryo Technology Society (SBTE); Gramado, RS, Brazil, August 20th to 23rd, 2015, and 31st Meeting of the European Embryo Transfer Association (AETE); Ghent, Belgium, September 11th and 12th, 2015**

From the SBTE scientific committee chair

Greetings and welcome to the 29th SBTE Annual Meeting! The Scientific Committee is very happy with this new challenge, which is the joint publication with the proceedings of the 31st AETE Annual Meeting. Therefore, we thank Jo Leroy, Urban Besenfelder, Frank Becker and other members of the AETE Executive Board, as well as the scientists who collaborated with revisions of the AETE abstracts and manuscripts. For the 2015 SBTE, we maintained most of the program structure as we did in 2014. We invited world-class speakers to lecture about up-to-date information on embryo technology-related fields. The novelty for this year are the round tables in hot topics, in which several speakers will have a short presentation and more time for debate. We will encourage the audience to participate and engage more on debates. The opening ceremony will have the traditional talk from the IETS President, plus an exciting lecture about gamete derivation from embryonic stem cells. The main program will have three plenary sessions, and six sessions: Spermatozoa, Oocyte, and Embryo (“SBTE Science”), and Embryo Production, Embryo Development and Cryopreservation, and Health (“SBTE Technology”). For the plenary sessions, speakers were carefully picked to deliver contents of general interest to the society. In the other sessions, attendees will choose between two concurrent sessions, one focused on more basic aspects (“SBTE science”) and the other emphasizing the more applied aspects (“SBTE technology”) of that session’s topic. Special emphasis must be directed to the pre-conference workshops. We will have five workshops, with novelties. 1. Artificial Insemination (focusing on beef cattle, this year); 2. GIFT: Genomic selection for reproductive traits (showing an overview of GIFT Consortium – Brazil and Denmark); 3. The III Symposium of the South American Research Consortium on Cloning and Transgenesis in Ruminants; 4. The In Vitro Fertilization Workshop, that will discuss several topics, including health issues, sexed semen, and the international market and embryo import/export; and 5. The Workshop on Andrology and Semen Technology. The SBTE wants to thank all members that sent their best work to be presented at this meeting. For the poster session, we will have all presentations at the same time, but for a longer period of time, for the attendees to be able to discuss in detail all interested data. Finally, SBTE wants to acknowledge the speakers, for putting a lot of effort on the preparation of excellent manuscripts and lectures to be delivered at this year’s meeting. We also want to thank all the SBTE team and especially, the Scientific Committee and all the reviewers that worked tirelessly and enthusiastically 24/7. This list includes all folks from the SBTE administrative board, abstract session coordinators, abstract reviewers, manuscript reviewers and scientific editors. Once again, SBTE thanks the editor and staff at the Animal Reproduction journal and the Colégio Brasileiro de Reprodução Animal, for their collaborative spirit and instrumental help on putting together this year’s meeting proceedings. We hope you find this volume informative and useful. See you in Gramado!

**Roberto Sartori, PhD**  
Chairman of the SBTE Scientific Committee  
(2014-2015)