



Proceedings of the 30th Annual Meeting of the Brazilian Embryo Technology Society (SBTE); Foz do Iguaçu, PR, Brazil, August 25th to 27th, 2016, and 32nd Meeting of the European Embryo Transfer Association (AETE); Barcelona, Spain, September 9th and 10th, 2016

From the Chairs of the Scientific Committee

Greetings and welcome to the 30th Annual Meeting of the Brazilian Society for Embryo Technology (SBTE). This is our second joint proceedings with the European Embryo Transfer Association (AETE) that held the 32nd Annual Meeting on September 9 and 10 in Barcelona, Spain. We express our appreciation to the AETE Board for this opportunity of continuing scientific collaboration and would like to highlight the commitment of Dr. Urban Besenfelder, who shared the editorial duties and responsibilities of these joint proceedings.

This special issue of *Animal Reproduction* contains the full papers from invited speakers of both societies' annual meetings. For the SBTE meeting held on August 25 to 27 in the city of Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil, home of Iguaçu Falls, one of the natural wonders of the world, the program included an opening session, four plenary sessions and four concurrent basic and applied sessions featuring seventeen world-class invited speakers. We thank all the speakers for their commitment and effort in preparing the scientific review articles, their oral presentations during the annual meeting, and for their kind willingness to comply with our deadlines.

The opening session included an update on embryo production activity worldwide by Christine Wrenzycki, the current president of the International Embryo Technology Society. Her presentation was followed by the lecture of Robert Webb on the role of the agri-food sector in developing and applying technologies to meet the global challenges for food production. Dr. Webb provided clear evidence of the role of animal reproduction in meeting those current and future needs. We organized a program that covered different aspects of the ever-progressing field of embryo-related biology and biotechnology. The presentations encompassed developments and new knowledge from "bench top to animal-side", covering aspects from the uncertain roles of non-coding RNAs in reproduction to their novel application on pregnancy diagnosis. The program included topics related to animal epigenetics, extracellular vesicles communication, "omics", reproductive physiology, uterine health, embryo production and reproductive programs to enhance fertility in cattle.

The program was complemented by 5 high-quality independently coordinated workshops. We are thankful to Mario Binelli, Fernanda Landim, Yeda Watanabe, Roberto Sartori, and Edmundo Vilela who dedicated time and resources to elaborate on topics such embryo-maternal communication, stem-cell biology, and wide-ranging discussions on development and application of reproductive technologies in cattle production to the SBTE annual meeting.

We received approximately 270 abstracts, of which 56 applied to the students' competition and another 25 to the awards of best abstract in basic sciences, best abstract in applied sciences, or best field report. We would like to express our gratitude to the coordinators of the abstracts' sessions, to the reviewers of abstracts, and to the colleagues who evaluated the abstracts for the competitions and awards. A team of reviewers listed in these proceedings carefully reviewed all manuscripts published herein. Thank you all for your time and effort dedicated to the review process.

We are also very thankful to all members of the SBTE board. They worked tirelessly to make this meeting possible.

On behalf the SBTE and the AETE we acknowledge the dedication of Maria Helena Chaves da Silva that made editorial corrections and formatting of manuscripts. We also express our gratitude to the editorial board and staff of the *Animal Reproduction Journal* for their support and collaboration in organizing and publishing the joint proceedings of the annual meetings of the Brazilian Society for Embryo Technology and the European Embryo Transfer Association.

Finally, we thank you all for attending the annual meeting.

Felipe Percin

Paula de Carvalho Papa

José Eduardo Santos

Co-Chairs of the SBTE Scientific Committee (2016-2017)



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