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**Proceedings of the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the Brazilian Embryo Technology Society (SBTE); Cabo de Santo Agostinho, PE, Brazil, August 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017, and 33<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Association of Embryo Transfer in Europe (AETE); Bath, United Kingdom, September 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

From the Chairs of the Scientific Committee

Greetings and welcome to the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the Brazilian Society for Embryo Technology (SBTE). This is our third joint proceedings with the Association of Embryo Technology in Europe (AETE) that held the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting on September 8 and 9 in Bath, United Kingdom. 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 17 to 19 in the city of Cabo de Santo Agostinho, Brazil, the program included an opening session, three plenary sessions and four concurrent basic and applied sessions featuring nineteen 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 Daniel Salamone, the current vice-president of the International Embryo Transfer Society. We organized a program that covered different aspects of the ever-progressing field of embryo-related biology and reproductive biotechnologies. The presentations encompassed applied aspects and new knowledge, covering themes from the effect of maternal metabolic disorders on reproduction to the effects of cellular metabolic disruption during *in vitro* culture of gametes and embryos. The program included topics related to the integration of big-data to understanding of animal reproduction, animal welfare, follicle development, cryopreservation, fetal programming, sperm selection techniques, and reproductive programs to enhance fertility in cattle.

The program was complemented by 2 high-quality independently coordinated workshops. We are thankful to Marcelo Nogueira and Edmundo Vilela who dedicated time and resources to elaborate on topics on cattle fertility and wide-ranging discussions on development and application of reproductive technologies in cattle production to the SBTE annual meeting.

We received 279 abstracts. 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 Association of Embryo Technology in Europe.

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

**Felipe Perecin**  
**Paula de Carvalho Papa**  
**José Eduardo Santos**  
Co-Chairs of the SBTE Scientific Committee (2016-2017)



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