

Fifth International Conference on The Epididymis (Epididymis V)

October 25-28, 2010, Águas de São Pedro, Brazil.

EDITORIAL

The Fifth International Conference on the Epididymis (Epididymis V) was held in Águas de São Pedro, Brazil, October 25–28, 2010, with the central theme “The Epididymis: Present Progress, Future Directions” (Fig. 1).



Figure 1. Group picture of the Fifth International Conference on The Epididymis, Águas de São Pedro, São Paulo, Brazil, 2010.

The first quadrennial meeting to take place in Latin American, Epididymis V carried on the tradition of the previous meetings (China, 1992; Australia, 1998; United States, 2002; and France, 2006): small in size (94 participants from 10 countries) and international in scope, maximizing participant interactions and strengthening scientific discussions among researchers. The meeting received important financial and scientific support from different Institutions, Agencies and Scientific Societies in Brazil (Universidade Federal de São Paulo, UNIFESP; UNIFESP Research Foundation, FAP-UNIFESP; São Paulo Research Foundation, FAPESP; The National Counsel of Technological and Scientific Development, CNPq; Coordenação de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Nível Superior, CAPES; Universidade de Campinas, UNICAMP; Universidade Estadual de São Paulo–UNESP–Botucatu, Colégio Brasileiro de Reprodução Animal; Brazilian Society of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics and the Brazilian Society of Cell Biology), United States (International Research and Training Grant in Reproductive Biology USA/Brazil, Fogarty International Center/National Institute of Child Health and Human Development/National Institutes of Health; American Society of Andrology, ASA; The Lalor Foundation; The Society for the Study of Reproduction), Germany (The International Society of Andrology) and France (ANDROLOGIE: the periodic of the French Andrology Society, SALF).

The scientific program included twenty-two speakers from different countries (Australia, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, China, England, Finland, France, United States of America) covering topics on basic and clinical

aspects of epididymal biology from cellular, molecular, and hormonal regulation, to aspects of organ development, to the central role of the epididymis in sperm maturation and fertility, providing new basis for approaches for treating male infertility and developing male contraceptives. Peer-reviewed papers submitted by eighteen of these invited speakers have been organized in a special issue of the Journal of Andrology dedicated to the Proceedings of this meeting (<http://www.andrologyjournal.org/content/vol32/issue6>), representing an opportunity for reproductive biologists to be updated on the many recent discoveries over the last few years in various areas of epididymal research and future research perspectives.

In addition to the main scientific program, two sessions of the Epididymis V meeting were devoted to oral short communications presented by trainees and young investigators competitively selected from abstracts submitted to the meeting. A total of 54 abstracts were also presented in poster format, most with trainees as first authors (Fig. 2).



Figure 2. Group picture of the young investigators and poster sessions.

These abstracts can be viewed in the present issue of the Animal Reproduction, each representing ongoing research in various areas of epididymal research from laboratories in Brazil and in different countries around the world. On the behalf of the Organizing and Scientific Committees of the Fifth International Conference on the Epididymis, we hope that the present publication can be appreciated by all readers, both inside and outside the epididymis research field. For those interested in the area, keep in mind that the sixth edition of these series of international meetings will be held in Shanghai, China, 2014, under the organization of Dr. Yong-Lian Zhang from the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Shanghai.

Maria Christina W. Avellar, PhD

On the behalf of the Organizing and Scientific Committees
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