



**IV International Symposium on Animal Biology of Reproduction (ISABR 2012)**  
**Focus: Environment and Reproduction**  
**October 17-20, 2012, Campinas, SP, Brazil**

**EDITORIAL**

Dear Colleagues,

We are proud to present the fourth edition of the International Symposium on Animal Biology of Reproduction (ISABR). Six years ago, Dr. Luiz R. França and the Brazilian College of Animal Reproduction (CBRA) had a vision of hosting the first ISABR as a Brazilian initiative to gather scientists interested in basic and mechanistic concepts of reproduction.

The 2006 ISABR, centered in Belo Horizonte, state of Minas Gerais, was focused on male reproduction and the second one, happening in São Paulo city two years later and chaired by Dr. Eduardo L. Gastal, turned its attention to female biology. In 2010, organizers decided to have the ISABR focused on a macro topic, instead of either male or female. Then, the major topic of the Symposium chaired by Dr. Mário Binelli was brought to Epigenetics, for the joy of participants met at the town of “Águas de São Pedro”, in São Paulo. This year of 2012, integrating basic concepts and cutting-edge technologies, the Symposium is dedicated to Reproduction and the Environment. Based on our interpretation of such idea, we invited speakers to present their view on molecular aspects of reproduction, their potential interactions with the environmental and conservation issues. With the support from CBRA, sponsors and past ISABR presidents, we will have a multidisciplinary scientific program, with speakers from Argentina, Canada, Denmark, United States and different states of Brazil. Also, there will be more than 200 posters at our event. The quality of these abstracts and the overall ISABR program reflect the maturity and commitment of the Brazilian research community.

Historically, each of the past ISABR was held in tribute to an icon of the reproductive biology field, for his/her lifetime contributions to research and education. In 2006, the ISABR Scientific Committee chose to praise Dr. Brian Setchell, from The University of Adelaide. In 2008, Dr. Ronald H. F. Hunter (University of Cambridge, UK) was honored and in 2010, the special tribute was dedicated to Dr. Bruce D. Murphy, from the University of Montreal. Following this tradition, this year our ISABR is equally proud to present a tribute to Dr. Gary J. Killian, a Distinguished Professor at the Department of Dairy and Animal Science of the Pennsylvania State University and Project Coordinator at the National Wildlife Research Center of USDA. Gary's research has been dedicated to the comprehension of factors that modulate gamete physiology and its fertilizing capacity. We find truly elegant that his work is not only focused on the male components that potentially influence fertilization, but also on the contribution of female factors. With his experience, Gary's agenda has gone beyond the scope of farm animals and includes projects on contraception and reproductive biology of wild species as well. More than that, Gary's activities are well integrated with the industry and development of patents, teaching and advising students from different backgrounds and cultures. His ties to Brazil are close, with previous visits, collaborations with some of our universities and mentoring scholars and students in exchanging programs. Personally, Gary is an inspiring leader and, on day-to-day life and work, he has the capacity of gathering people, keeping them close and focused, no matter how distant they physically might be.

In the city of Campinas, state of São Paulo, I encourage all ISABR participants have a chance to meet Dr. Gary Killian and the other outstanding speakers. We deeply appreciate their visit and contributions to this special issue of Animal Reproduction. As making this Symposium is much more than the work of a single person or group, both the Scientific and Organizing Committees want to thank the entire CBRA Staff, reviewers and former ISABR presidents.

Welcome to the IV ISABR and enjoy this great celebration with new and old friends.

**Arlindo A. Moura, Ph.D.**

Chair of the 2012 ISABR Scientific Committee

