First Reproductive Biology and Immunology Autumn School

Magdeburg, Germany, October 5th - 8th 2011

The first Reproductive Biology and Immunology Autumn School was supported by the German Council of Science “DFG”. In addition, the school received the support of the State of Magdeburg which granted the two best posters presented during the school and from the International Society of Andrology (ISA) which granted the two best abstracts with a travel grant of 500 €/each.

In term of participants, the school exceeded the expectations of the organizers. More than 70 registrations were accepted from different countries from Europe, USA and South America. We received and evaluated 30 abstracts, being 7 of them selected for oral presentation while 23 were presented as poster format.

The school had several lectures held by very well recognized specialists in the field of Reproductive Biology as well as workshops in which the students had the chance to directly interact with the speakers. In addition, we organized three practical courses; A) Isolation of immune cells from murine decidua, sample preparation and analysis by flow cytometry. B) Isolation of murine spermatozoa and oocytes, sperm capacitation and in vitro sperm-oocyte interaction assays. C) In vivo imaging of the uterus. The courses were directed by personnel from Magdeburg (A) but also by internationally recognized researchers such as Dr. Vazquez-Levin (B) and Dr. Tadokoro (C).

Based on the abstract quality, the following students were awarded with the ISA travel grants:

- **Daniel Murta**, PhD student from the “Centro de Investigação Interdisciplinar em Sanidade Animal, Faculdade de Medicina
Veterinária, Universidade Técnica de Lisboa, Portugal”. “**Notch pathway expression in the male mouse reproductive tract**”.

- **Mohammad Ali Sabbaghi**, PhD student from the “Department of Biology, Faculty of Science, Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, Mashhad, Iran. Department of Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART), Novin Fertility and Infertility Center, Mashhad, Iran. Group of molecular immunology, Institute de Biotecnologia y de Biomedicina, Department of Cell Biology, Physiology and Immunology, Universitat Autonoma de Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain”. “**IL-17A concentration of seminal plasma and follicular fluid in infertile men and women with various clinical diagnoses**”.

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Ana Zenclussen and Federico Jensen
Organizers
Experimental Obstetrics and Gynecology
Medical Faculty
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Ph D Student D. Murta, receiving the ISA Award from Dr. Stefan Schlatt, ISA Secretary and Dr Mónica Vazquez-Levin, ISA Editor. (left). Dr. Vazquez-Levin during introductory remarks at the Practical Course about murine gamete handling (right).