The Fifth International Conference on the Epididymis (Epididymis V; www.epididymis5.com.br) was held in Águas de São Pedro, São Paulo State, Brazil, October 25th – 28th, 2010, and was organized by Maria Christina W. Avellar (Universidade Federal de São Paulo, UNIFESP, São Paulo, Brazil) and Patricia Cuasnicu (Instituto de Biologia y Medicina Experimental, IBYME-CONICET, Buenos Aires, Argentina). The venue was the Grande Hotel SENAC Águas de São Pedro located in Águas de São Pedro, a city approximately 200 km from São Paulo capital. Meeting sessions and housing were kept in the same hotel to facilitate and maximize scientific exchange and interaction among researchers.

Opportunities to interact with colleagues were thus offered through breakfasts, coffee breaks, lunches and dinners as well as social activities. The official language was English. This was the first Latin American venue for this meeting following Epididymis IV held in Chatel-Guyon, France in 2006, Epididymis III held in Charlottesville, Virginia, USA in 2002, Epididymis II held in Newcastle, Australia in 1998 and Epididymis I held in Hong Kong, China in 1992. These quadriennial meetings have been designed to provide a focus on all aspects of epididymal development and function, emphasizing new discoveries on cellular and molecular biology of this tissue and new tools in the search of effective male contraceptives.

Following on the successful format of the previous meetings, Epididymis V was small in size (94 participants from 10 countries) to maximize participant interaction. Attendees from Brazil represented research groups located in 6 states (São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Pernambuco, Paraná, Goiás and Minas Gerais). A total of 54 abstracts were presented in the format of posters, mostly with trainees as first authors from 9 countries.

This fifth edition of the Epididymis meeting was a satellite meeting of the 42nd Annual Congress of the Brazilian Society of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics held in Ribeirão Preto, São Paulo,
October 17-21 and The III International Symposium on Animal Biology of Reproduction (ISABR 2010), which was also held in Grande Hotel Águas de São Pedro, Águas de São Pedro, October 22-24, 2010.

The meeting included a total of 22 international speakers coming from countries from all the continents: America: USA, Canada, Brazil, Argentina; Europe: UK, France and Finland; Asia: China; and Oceania: Australia. The scientific program included:

- 3 conferences: the Opening and Closing Conferences presented by Sylvie Breton (USA) and Bernard Robaire (Canada) respectively, and the Final Remarks Conference, presented by Terry Turner (USA), in which the views and questions on the state-of-the-art in epididymal research were presented, highlighting unanswered research questions and views on the future, as well as the challenges that investigators will have to overcome to stay vibrant and active in this research area.
- 7 symposia where speakers from leading laboratories in epididymal research around the world presented their results on topics ranging from basic to clinical application.
- 2 sessions of 5 oral communications each, in which trainees and young investigators presented the best 10 abstracts selected by the member of the scientific committee composed by recognized investigators in the field.
- Exhibition of 54 posters during the whole meeting. In 2 poster sessions, posters were presented by their first authors, mostly composed of trainees/young investigators (see meeting statistics). The Poster Sessions were excellent opportunities for trainees and young investigators to discuss their results and interact with other trainees and researchers in the field.

A special activity for trainees and young investigators called “Young Reproductive Biologists: Let’s talk” during which working groups of 5-6 people each discussed during 1 h different aspects of their opinions, expectations and thoughts about the future of reproductive biology field and strategies to increase trainee interaction and professional network. The results of this session were presented at the end of the meeting and were summarized in the Activity Report that was prepared (see copy in the PDF file that contains the Meeting Materials).

A special recognition for Marie Claire Orgebin-Crist (USA) for her unique contribution to the epididymal field during the past 50 years.

The International Scientific Committee was composed by D. Cohen (Argentina), T.G. Cooper (Germany), J. Drevet (France), F.S. French
(USA), B. Hinton (USA), W.G. Kempinas (Brazil), M.F.M. Lázari (Brazil), C.A. Oliveira (Brazil), C.S. Porto (Brazil), B. Robaire (Canada), T.T. Turner (USA) and Y.L. Zhang (China). The meeting organization also had the support of collaborators (Luis Renato França and Jorge Hallak, Brazil) and members of the local committee (E.J.R. Silva, C.M. Ribeiro and A. Denadai-Souza, Brazil).

The meeting would not have been possible without the important financial and scientific support received from the following Institutions/Agencies/Scientific Societies in Brazil: - Universidade Federal de São Paulo (UNIFESP); - São Paulo; UNIFESP Research Foundation (FAP-UNIFESP); - São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP); - National Counsel of Technological and Scientific Development (CNPq), Brasília; - Coordenação de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Nível Superior (CAPES), Brasília; - Universidade de Campinas (UNICAMP), Campinas; - Universidade Estadual de São Paulo, - UNESP-Botucatu, Botucatu, - Colégio Brasileiro de Reprodução Animal (CBRA), - Brazilian Society of Cell Biology (SBBC). Due to the multidisciplinary program for International Research and Training Grant in Reproductive Biology between USA (F.S. French, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) and Brazil (M.C.W. Avellar, Universidade Federal de São Paulo), financial support was also received from Fogarty International Center/National Institute of Child Health and Human Development/National Institutes of Health (FIC/NICHD/NIH, USA). The local organizer is in debt with The Brazilian Society of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics for the financial support received and, most importantly, the administrative assistance with the management of national and international funds made available for the meeting and logistic guidance during the meeting local organization.

Funds were also raised from the local companies Life Technologies/Applied Biosystems/Invitrogen, WR Research Products, Interprise, Spectrum Bio Engenharia Médico Hospitalar Ltda and from the Public Institution Banco do Brasil. International financial support was received from the American Society of Andrology (ASA; USA) and the ANDROLOGIE: the periodic of the French Andrology Society (SALF, France). A special mention should go to the funds received from The International Society of Andrology and The Lalor Foundation (USA) that made possible the distribution of awards to the 10 trainees/young investigators which were included in the meeting program as speakers in the “Oral Communication Sessions”, and to the 22 trainees/young investigators, who were the first authors of posters presented during “Poster Sessions”. The Society for the Study of Reproduction (SSR; USA) made also available complementary registration for two trainees,
from a country other than USA or Canada and selected for "Best Poster Presentation", to attend the 44th Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Reproduction (SSR; Oregon, USA, from 31 July - 4 August 2011).

The Meeting Proceedings, based on talks given at the Epididymis V meeting, will be published in a special issue of the Journal of Andrology (USA). The publication, a valuable record of the Conference for future reference, is supported by the American Society of Andrology (USA) and will be available online in 2011. Abstracts of the invited speakers and poster sessions will be published in a special meeting volume of Annual Review in Biomedical Sciences (ARBS; Brazil) and ANDROLOGIE (France, in French).

Following the idea to move this series of Conferences in cities around the world, the sixth edition of this Conference (Epididymis VI) will be in Shanghai, China, in 2014 and will be organized by Yong L. Zhang from the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Shanghai (China).

Maria Christina W. Avellar (Brazil)
Patricia Cuasnicu (Argentina)
Organizers

**Group Picture**