



II International Symposium on Animal Biology of Reproduction (ISABR 2008)

Focus on the Ovary: Folliculogenesis, Ovulation, and Luteolysis

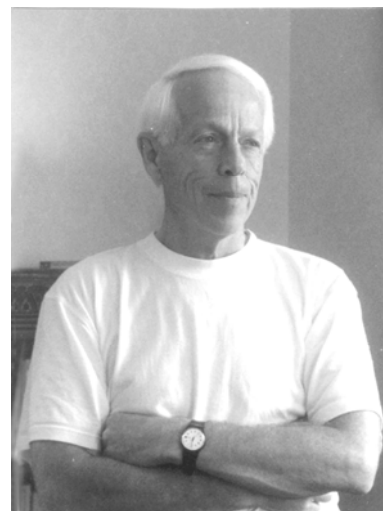
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EDITORIAL

Dear Colleagues and Friends:

We would like to welcome you to the great city of São Paulo for the II International Symposium on Animal Biology of Reproduction (ISABR 2008). The main goal of the ISABR series is to gather scientists from all over the world, in Brazil, to discuss specific topics in reproductive biology. The first and very successful symposium (ISABR 2006) was held two years ago in Belo Horizonte, MG, Brazil and focused on testis function and spermatogenesis. This year's symposium (ISABR 2008) will focus on the ovary, specifically folliculogenesis, ovulation, and luteolysis. The symposium is dedicated to Dr. R.H.F. Hunter (University of Cambridge, UK) as a tribute to his lifetime contributions to reproductive biology.

Dr. Hunter was born in London, UK, trained in Cambridge, UK and got his PhD there in Reproductive Physiology (1965) under the directorship of Professor Thaddeus Mann and supervision of Professor Chris Polge, and surgical instruction of Mr. Tim Rowson. His post-doctoral years were spent with Professors Philip Dziuk and Andrew Nalbandov at the University of Illinois, Urbana, USA, with Dr. M.C. Chang at the Worcester Foundation for Experimental Biology, Massachusetts, USA, and with Professor Charles Thibault in Paris, France. He returned back to Cambridge, UK, as a Senior Research Fellow, and after a year moved to Edinburgh, UK to teach reproductive physiology and endocrinology, an activity he continued with enthusiasm for 20 years. Thereafter, the itchy feet syndrome asserted itself, first as Professor of Veterinary Physiology in Montréal, Canada, then in Göttingen, Germany, Copenhagen, Denmark, and Hannover, Germany in that sequence. He also holds or has held Visiting Professorships in Italy, Spain, Sweden, Mexico and China. His publications include detailed experimental studies on capacitation, fertilization, and early embryonic development in hamsters, guinea-pigs and rabbits. However, most of his research has been in pigs, sheep and cattle, and he frequently employed a surgical approach to analyze factors influencing maturation and transport of the gametes and normal or abnormal fertilization. Techniques of egg and embryo transfer were used in a number of early studies. Apart from the above topics that focus on the Fallopian tubes, he has been fascinated down the years by (1) the process of sex determination in mammals and the formation of ovotestis tissue in putative genetic females, and (2) physico-chemical changes in a mature Graafian follicle and the process of ovulation. He has prepared monographs on both of these major themes that were published by Cambridge University Press in 1995 and 2003, respectively.



The ISABR 2008 will provide a forum for exchange of ideas and discussion about current concepts of ovarian function. The symposium is expected to contribute to the basic understanding and applied knowledge in this area, and to be incorporated into clinical or field situations to enhance or control fertility, and to treat, reduce, and/or eliminate ovarian dysfunctions. This symposium will be a very unique opportunity for scientists, clinicians, embryologists, and graduate students to share experiences in reproductive biology. The program includes original and review presentations on important topics related to the recent advances in ovarian function in animals and women. Invited speakers, workshop and poster presenters, will cover a broad range of topics on ovarian function and others, such as: folliculogenesis, follicle selection, ovulation, angiogenesis, luteal function, luteolysis, neuroendocrinology, oocytes, embryos, ultrasonography, cryopreservation, tissue grafting, assisted reproductive technologies, use of transgenic animals, as well as specific topics about male reproduction and stem cells.

Finally, we would like to express sincere thanks to the secretaries of this journal (*Animal Reproduction*), Eunice de Faria Lopes and Maria Helena Chaves da Silva for the extraordinary and dedicated work in helping us to organize the whole symposium, including the proceedings. We are also sincerely grateful to all the speakers for providing outstanding scientific papers to this issue of *Animal Reproduction*, which are expected to become important references for many years. The work of the reviewers, Scientific Committee and Local Organizing Committee members is also highly acknowledged. Last but not least, the ISABR 2008 was made possible with the generous and highly appreciated support of the following Brazilian Institutions: University of São Paulo (USP; FMVZ, FAU); national (CNPq, CAPES) and state (FAPESP) funding agencies; Federal Veterinary Medicine Council (CFMV); and the Brazilian College of Animal Reproduction (CBRA).

Eduardo L. Gastal

Chairman of the Scientific Committee
President of the Symposium

Scientific and Local Organizing Committees