



AETE

Association Européenne de Transfert Embryonnaire
European Embryo Transfer Association

July 2016

AETE Newsletter Issue 45

Editor: [Roger Sturmeijer](#)

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PRESIDENTS LETTER

Dear colleagues and friends,

I hope that you are all keeping well and for those that have not yet had holidays, I am sure that they will come soon. I had the opportunity to see many of you last week in Tours-France at the ICAR meeting; an excellent conference organized by two AETE members, Pascal Mermillod and Pascale Chavatte Palmer and their colleagues. Time is flying and we are already in July getting closer to the celebration of our 32nd Annual Meeting of AETE, which will be held 9-10 of September in Barcelona, Spain. The LOC chaired by Teresa Mogas has chosen a beautiful venue for the conference in the heart of the city “the Casa de la Convalescència” and an excellent social program. The Casa de Convalescència, one of the last great works of

Catalan Modernism, forms part of the complex of the Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau. The complex was designed in the late 19th century to alleviate the shortage of hospital space in Barcelona. The Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB) was granted use of the building in 1969 to develop different academic activities and to consolidate the university's presence in the city. The whole complex was declared Historical Artistic Monument in 1978 and World Cultural Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1997. The scientific program put together by the board of AETE is very inspiring covering most interests of our members. The meeting will open with an “Update and overview on assisted reproductive technologies in Brazil” by Roberto Sartori from our sister Brazilian society SBTE, before Ann Duittoz from France who will give us an update on “Timing of puberty”. Trudee Fair from Ireland will give us an overview on “Embryo maternal immune interactions in cattle” followed by “practical applications of sperm selection techniques for improving reproductive efficiency” from Jane Morrell from Sweden.

We will have 14 short oral communications including the student competition and two workshops. The first workshop will be managed by Giovanni Gnemmi from Italy and Serge Lacaze from France, and will focus on “CL/P4 and Doppler sonography”, while the second one will be led by Patrice Humblot from Sweden and Pascal Salvetti from France and will be on “Genomics-practical consequences: up-date; current challenges-future”. This year we have a **record of 100 accepted abstracts** to be presented as posters. This means that EVEN numbers will be presented on Friday 9th and ODD Numbers on Saturday 10th of September.

A special celebration will be held for our 2016 AETE Medallist. It is a great honor for all board members and for me personally to present **Prof. Henrik Callesen** from Aarhus University in Denmark as the 2016

AETE Medallist. Prof. Callesen has been working in basic and applied research in farm animal reproduction including superovulation, embryo transfer, ovum pickup in cattle, in vitro production and cryopreservation in cattle and pig, methods monitoring embryo development and with somatic cell nuclear transfer to create transgenic pigs as models for human diseases. His research is recognized nationally and internationally. Prof. Callesen has been an AETE member for many years and from 1996 to 2005 was on the board of AETE. We all looking forward to this event. One of our main priorities is the AETE STUDENT's. Jo Leroy is responsible and this year he is organizing a special student's lunch on Saturday 10th of September. Master, PhD and Post-Doc students who are interested in participating should register at the meeting. Apart of the student competition prizes we will continue this year awarding the best poster presentation and the best oral presentation. This year we implemented an electronic Abstract submission and reviewing process managed by FASS. It worked very well and I would like to thank all authors, section chairs and reviewers for excellent collaboration. All invited papers and abstracts from our 32nd Annual Meeting will be published in July-September 2016 issue of Animal Reproduction (the official journal of the Brazilian College of Animal Reproduction) together with the 30th SBTE's annual meeting which will be held 25-27 of August 2016 in Foz de Iguazu, Brazil.

I am very much looking forward to welcoming you all on Thursday evening 8th of September with an appetitive at the "casa de la convalescencia". On Friday night we will enjoy the Gala Dinner with spectacular views of Barcelona, while, Saturday we are preparing a farewell party with typical food at the beach of Barcelona. Hurry and do not miss our **early bird registration (15th July)** and make your hotel reservation as soon as possible for our 2016 AETE Meeting in Barcelona, still high season and very attractive city for tourists. Wishing you all a great summer and looking forward to see you in September in Barcelona

Kind regards,
Dimitrios
[Dimitrios Rizos](mailto:Dimitrios.Rizos), President, AETE

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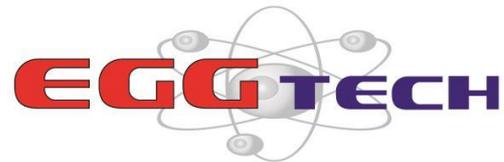


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BREXIT AND THE AETE



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The Editor, with, and on behalf of the AETE Board

On June 23, 2016, the British public took part in a referendum on membership of the European Union (EU). The result of this vote was that the UK should leave the EU; a result unexpected in many quarters. What has followed has been unparalleled in modern times - a resignation of the British prime minister and a stasis of the country's entire political system, as well as financial and economic shockwaves across the whole of Europe. Even more surprising is the lack of any clear 'plan' for the pathway to Brexit. Of course, there is endless commentary in the media about these events, events that have filled the rolling news, at least in Britain for the past two weeks.

Whatever our personal views on the outcome of the UK referendum, it is in this reality that we now live, and we must move forwards. The consequences of "Brexit" will be felt in many aspects of many people's lives. But, as a pan-European Scientific Society, we felt it important to comment on such an event at this time.

Firstly, there are a great many questions to which there are simply no answers; there are probably yet more questions we have yet to even think about. What is undisputed however is that we now find ourselves in a period of great uncertainty. The obvious relevant things that spring to many people's minds include; collaborations, funding, travel and industrial relationships. Of course, these subjects do not reflect bigger concerns which might affect people's livelihoods; most notably of farmers in the UK, who simply do not know how changes in subsidies might alter agriculture. For now though, it is crucial to remember that at this time, the UK remains a full member of the EU, and will do so for at

the very least 2 years. So, in the immediacy there are likely to be no changes - just lots of discussion about what *might* happen. In this context, it is worthwhile thinking about what Brexit means:

Collaborations. Remember that first and foremost, collaborations are between **PEOPLE**, not countries. From a scientific standpoint, we all want to 'learn more' and 'know more' and many of us realise that the best way to do this is to collaborate. We do this now, within EU member states, as well as beyond the EU and European Boundaries. It would be tragic if one of the outcomes of Brexit, both immediately and in the long term was to stifle scientific endeavour. Worrying evidence is emerging already that suggests that collaborations are suffering. Anecdotal reports suggest that academics in EU countries are withdrawing from joint funding applications for multi-year applications (Greg Hurst, [The Times July 7 2016](#)). Of note, almost all UK Universities and Research Institutions have offered formal written statements underlining their "*global outlook*" and that they are "*open for business*", in an attempt to reassure international partners. From the other side, it might appear that Britain is 'pulling up the drawbridge' and isolating herself. This is unfortunate, and from the scientific standpoint largely false. Good international collaborations are the key to ground breaking scientific discoveries and so we must work hard to ensure that our links remain strong, despite political movements occurring in ways that we cannot influence directly.

Funding. This is linked to the comments above. There are a number of important Pan-European initiatives ongoing at the moment - The COST Actions spring to mind instantly. As stated above, until the UK invokes Article 50, they remain a full member of the EU, with full access as before June 23. Indeed, COST, and many of the Horizon 2020 and Erasmus+ programmes specify a list of member countries; these are not necessarily EU member states. So, for at least the next two years, joint funding proposals involving Britain should remain unchanged, and beyond that, significant efforts will undoubtedly be made to preserve relationships with international agencies to ensure that science does not suffer. This was underlined by a statement on June 28, by the UK Minister for Universities and Science: "UK researchers and businesses can continue to apply for the programme [H2020] in the usual way". For

the full statement, [click here](#), and for more details on what might happen next [click here](#)

Travel. Again, in the short term, nothing changes - people from the EU can still travel to the UK as they always did, and vice versa. More importantly, we are being told that at least for the next two years, EU students are still eligible to study in the UK as always, paying the same fees as a UK based student. This may well change as Brexit negotiations proceed, but this change will not be fast, so for now, it is “as you were”.

Industrial relationships. This is a complex issue as it will be driven, at least in part, by market forces and industrial imperative. In seeking opinions on for this piece, many industrial colleagues (without wishing to go on the record) expressed ‘caution’, due to the significant uncertainty, especially surrounding tariff agreements. However, in practical terms, until we know any details of conditions of Brexit, it remains very much business as usual. Moreover, any transfer of gametes across the EU will need to comply with appropriate EU directives; this will not change post-Brexit.

Our society, and a great many others like it, have a very special opportunity and responsibility - to ensure that Brexit does not have a detrimental effect on science and industrial endeavour. We can do this by remaining an open, encouraging and collegiate collection of like-minded, open-minded people representing a host of countries across the world. We must be ready to challenge decisions and comment/contribute to the international dialog where applicable, especially where this relates to our field.

Most importantly, we must remember that working together we can ensure that our desire to discover new knowledge, and apply this in the most appropriate and valuable ways is not hindered by politics.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY DOLLY!

Roger Sturmey



Image courtesy of Toni Barros and used under a creative commons license (https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Dolly_face_closeup.jpg)

For some of us, it is hard to believe that 1996 was 20 years ago. It was the year that the Spice Girls first told us about “Girl Power”; the year that Britain declared an outbreak of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE). Bill Clinton was the US president, Germany won the European Soccer Championships, Peter Doherty and Rolf Zinkernagle won the Nobel Prize for Physiology/Medicine for the discovery of immune-recognition of viral-infected cells, Astronomer Carl Sagan passed away, and a lamb was born. But of course, that was no ordinary lamb, she was a scientific breakthrough of global significance; she was the first mammal conceived by somatic cell nuclear transfer (SCNT) and would be known to the world as [Dolly](#).

This was not the first example of SCNT - John Gurdon pioneered this field through the 1960s and [1970s](#), amassing evidence that it was possible to reprogram the nucleus from an adult differentiated cell back to an embryonic state, as well as establishing that, as a concept, SCNT ‘worked’. This work was all done in frogs, but was [and remains] incredibly impressive and pivotal work. However, there were a great many attempts, to varying success, to clone mammals prior to Dolly. Probably the first report of SCNT should be attributed to Steen Willadsen, who, whilst working at Cambridge, UK, in the early 1980s performed SCNT using embryo cell-derived karyoplasts. This resulted in embryo development, and, when the reconstructed embryos were transferred, development post-implantation. However, no live offspring were born. Nonetheless, this was a crucial study as it proved that the principles reported in amphibians could be applied to mammals, all built on the experiments performed by [Briggs and King](#), who developed the necessary techniques to carry out SCNT. It is somewhat

co-incident Willadsen's work was also performed in sheep.

Dolly was special though - for many reasons. Firstly, the birth of that sheep, and the work of the team of Roslin Team, was special because it showed that somatic **mammalian** cell nuclei could be reprogrammed to develop into an *entire* offspring, something that was believed, but not proven until the generation of Dolly. That in itself was groundbreaking, and led to a media storm at the time, re-examining the concepts of eugenics, reproductive cloning, restoration of extinct species, and many more fanciful suggestions. Since Dolly, there have been a whole host of mammals 'cloned' - dogs, cattle, felids, piglets, which have been cloned from clones and so on. But what of this technology? Where are the fields of cloned animals? And where are the cloned people that sci-fi writers such as Huxley have been using as inspiration for stories for decades? Human reproductive cloning was probably the number one fear following Dolly - what many people feared now seemed very possible. Yet, to the best of our knowledge this hasn't been done. A Korean group claimed to have cloned human blastocysts in 2004, and to have generated stem cell lines from these, but these experiments were famously **discredited**. Since this time, cloning a human with the intention of generating a baby (so-called reproductive cloning) has been banned, however in some countries, therapeutic cloning is legal. It was **Mitalipov** who first reported that human SCNT embryos could be created and could be used to generate stem cell lines, opening up the prospects of stem-cell derived personalised therapeutics; which remains a lively area of research.

And what of those fields of clones? Was that prospect ever going to be reality? While studies led to the US government claiming in 2008 that cloned animals did not differ from standard livestock, the EU **banned livestock cloning in 2015**. There are further reports that a Chinese company plans to clone 100000 cattle, although Dolly was famously the one success in 270-odd attempts. Whilst technical improvements have been made, SCNT remains an inefficient, technically challenging process; far less efficient than good quality breeding programmes.

So 20 years on, what was the impact, or value of Dolly? Well, the biology was astounding - demonstrating the potential pluripotency of differentiated cells and

highlighting the vital role of the cell cycle and cell synchrony in reprogramming somatic nuclei. Of course, the work that followed was fast and furious, and great leaps have now been made in understanding the molecular process that regulate nuclear reprogramming. The proof-of-principle that it was possible to reprogramme somatic nuclei using embryonic cytoplasts contributed in a significant way to the development of induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs), for which Shinya Yamanaka was jointly awarded the **Nobel Prize for Physiology/Medicine in 2012**, jointly with Gurdon.

Dolly had arguably another, significant societal impact. The internet was just beginning and we didn't have 24h news channels - society consumed news through daily newspapers and a nightly 30min news bulletin. With such little 'real-estate' science stories had to be significant. The arrival of Dolly was **global news** - and you couldn't escape it. She was on the cover of Time magazine, and almost everyone had an opinion. Nowadays, with the need to fill the news '24-7', science stories, some mundane, are common place, but the description of Dolly was important because of the way it passed into the mainstream conscious. It sold newspapers and made people watch the news because of a science story, and, it might be argued, pushed the door ajar for basic research to go mainstream. It even became graffiti! And, for anyone doing a science degree at the time, it was inspiring - Yamanaka has talked about the impact that the research had on his career.



Scientific graffiti? Image by Pvasiliadis Image used according to a creative commons license (https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Everybody_is_Dolly.JPG)

So, 20 years on from the birth of 6LL3, who famously took the name of a US country and western singer, the impact remains. In a very worthwhile series of articles, **Scientific American** do a superb job of considering the impact of that lamb born in 1996. Dolly is no longer with us, yet the legacy, and **controversy continues**

INVITATION TO THE 32ND ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AETE –SEPT 9-10, 2016

On behalf of the European Embryo Transfer Society, the local organizing committee chaired by Dr. [Teresa Mogas](#), would like to extend a warm invitation to join us at the annual meeting of AETE, scheduled for September 9th and 10th 2016, in **Barcelona, Spain**. Both science and pleasure will be combined at this AETE-meeting. The scientific program includes five invited talks on recent progress in embryo transfer technologies, with relevance for basic science and practical application of modern breeding technologies. Moreover, the meeting features two workshops, short oral presentations selected from abstracts, 100 poster presentations, student and poster competitions, the industrial exhibition and an ample opportunity to meet with friends, colleagues and experts.



Main entrance of the Casa de la Convalescència.

As a social events, for those of you that will arrive September 8th a welcome cocktail will be served at the hall of the [Casa de Convalescència](#), where the registration will take place as well as the rest of the scientific programme. After a first day of science on Friday, we'll meet together at the Casa de la Convalescència to enjoy a traditional performance. Afterwards, we'll take the bus to

the Restaurant Mirabé where we'll enjoy dinner, live music and dancing. The restaurant is placed on the Tibidabo, one of the mountains that surround Barcelona and that offers a lovely view of the city.

On Saturday, a special lunch will be served only for the students, where they will have the chance to talk and discuss with established senior scientists. And when the congress ends we will enjoy a get-together party at the Restaurant Salcafé, right by the beach of Barcelona, where we will enjoy the typical fish and shellfish "tapas".



Aula Magna of the Casa de la Convalescència

You can find more detailed information about the scientific and social program of the AETE meeting on the [AETE website](#) and the programme is at the back of the newsletter.

The Local Organizing Committee encourages you to join us in this meeting that we are sure will be worth it both scientifically and professionally speaking. In addition, the organized social events will allow us to meet and enjoy some good moments together. We will do everything in our hands to make your stay in Barcelona as pleasant as possible. We look forward to seeing you in September in Barcelona

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Park Güell

Author: Espai d'Imatge

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The Conference Location

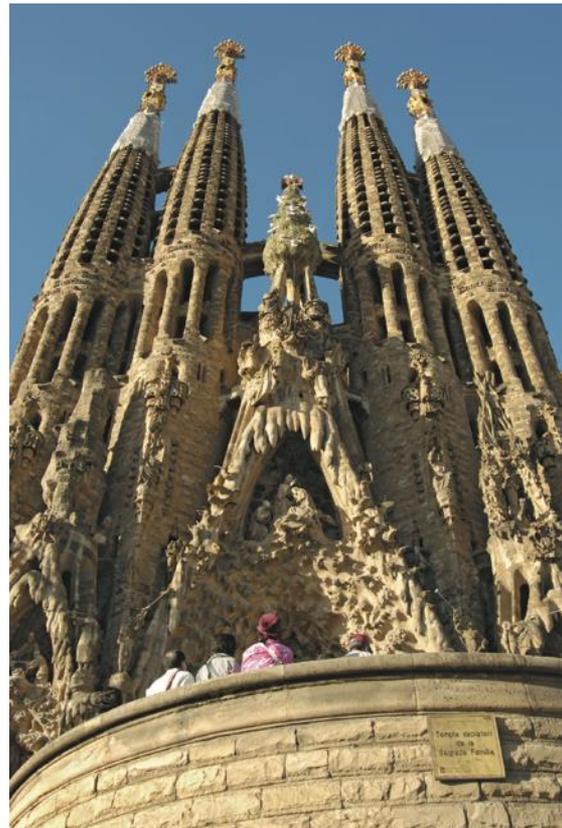
The meeting will take place in Barcelona, at the "[Casa de la Convalescència-UAB](#)". The Casa de Convalescència, one of the last great works of Catalan Modernism, forms part of the complex of the Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau. The complex was designed in the late 19th century to alleviate the shortage of hospital space in Barcelona. The building, which was used for convalescent patients, with a maximum capacity for 100 residents, featured stunning glazed solariums and a chapel, which split the building into two wings, one for men and one for women. The whole hospital complex, including the Casa, was declared Historical Artistic Monument in 1978 and World Cultural Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1997. For further information about the conference location or how to arrive there visit the [website](#)

Welcome to Barcelona: Some reasons to come to Barcelona.

Barcelona is one of the most visited cities in Europe, both by tourists who travel for pleasure or for business visitors who travel for conferences, meetings or all kinds of cultural exhibitions. Barcelona is a great city that it is worth visiting. But, what is so special about Barcelona? Here there are some reasons to visit Barcelona.

The [weather in Barcelona](#) is always mild all year around so it does not matter if you're coming in the summer or toward the coldest seasons. You can always enjoy the sun and its beautiful beaches. Its average annual temperature is 21 °C during the day and 14 °C at night. The coldest temperatures during the year are usually from December to February, in which the average temperature is between 10 and 12°C. The warmest month is usually August, with temperatures around 29°C. In

September, the temperature usually ranges from 26 °C during the day to 18°C at night.



Sagrada Família

Author: Espai d'Imatge

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Architecture and Cultural Exhibitions

Barcelona is as the capital of Modernism and you can find many monuments built and designed by famous architect **Antoni Gaudí**. The most impressive Gaudí's works to visit are: the **Sagrada Família**, **La Pedrera**, **Casa Batlló** and **Park Güell**. In addition, it is worth visiting the Gothic quarter where you can still visit parts of the Roman walls, Las Ramblas street, the [Barcelona cathedral](#) and the famous gothic [Santa Maria del Mar church](#). Moreover, you can also enjoy some of the many art galleries and museums in Barcelona like MACBA (Museum of Contemporary Art of Barcelona), the Picasso Museum, the Miró Foundation and the MNAC (Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya).

<http://www.barcelonaturisme.com/wv3/en/>



Les Rambles de Barcelona
Author: Espai d'Imatge
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Gastronomy

Barcelona's food scene is creative and eclectic, fusing Catalan and Spanish traditions with worldwide and cutting-edge techniques and flavors. You will find both Spanish favorites such as *Paella* and *Tapas*, along with innovative takes based on the Mediterranean diet with a lot of **vegetables, seafood, fresh fruits, bread and olive oil**. There are many food markets around the city (the Boqueria Market, among others) as well as great restaurants with typical cuisine.

Getting around the city

Barcelona and its metropolitan area have a wide range of public transport and sightseeing transport options. Public transport such as the **metro (TMB), bus, tram and Ferrocarrils de la Generalitat (FCG)** are the quickest, simplest and most convenient way of getting around Barcelona. There are different ticket types and travel cards so that you can get to where you want to go in Barcelona easily and conveniently. **Barcelona** has also a service of **taxis** which can be easily identified by their **yellow and black** livery. You can find more information about transportation in Barcelona at the website

<http://www.barcelonaturisme.com/vv3/en/page/5/getting-around-the-city.html>

pdfWhere to sleep

A hotel with views, a bed and breakfast, a city-centre apartment... Barcelona offers a wide range of accommodation so that everyone can find their perfect base camp. You can book hotels recommended at the AETE website (<http://www.aete.eu/index.php/all-documents/various/135-hotel-information-for-the-32nd-aete-meeting-in-barcelona-accommodation-form>) or you can also look for accommodation at:

<http://www.booking.com/>
<http://www.tripadvisor.com/>
<https://www.airbnb.com/>

How to travel to Barcelona?

By plane, car or train... even by boat! You can get to Barcelona by any means of transport.

Plane

Barcelona-El Prat international airport, with two large passenger terminals, T1 and T2, is located 16 kilometers south of the city. Different airlines offer direct flights all over Europe. Intercontinental flights usually stop over Madrid or other European capitals but there are also direct connections with various cities around the world. Barcelona can also be reached by transport links from other three regional airports: Girona-Costa Brava, Reus and Lleida - Alguaire.

Train

Barcelona has direct railway links with the rest of Spain and several major European cities. The high-speed train service connects the city with Madrid, the southern and eastern Spain and France

Car

Barcelona has an extensive road and motorway network linking it to the rest of Spain. The border with France is only 150 kilometers away.

Bus

You can easily get to Barcelona by bus from anywhere in Europe, North Africa and the rest of Spain. The bus station in Barcelona that has the most national and international connections is Barcelona Nord Bus Station. Buses also depart from Barcelona Sants station and other areas of the city.

Boat

Barcelona has become the Mediterranean's foremost cruise ship harbor. It has connections with the Balearic Islands and the main Mediterranean harbors.



Barceloneta Beach; Author: Espai d'Imatge
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**We look forward to seeing you in 2016 in
Barcelona
Local Organizing Committee**

UPCOMING EVENTS

SBTE

August 25-27 2016

Recanto das Cataras – Termas Resort and Convention, Foz do Iguaçu

www.sbte.org.br

[Meeting announcement](#)

32nd Annual Meeting of the AETE

9-10 September 2016

Barcelona, Spain

Early Bird Registration until July 15

AETA & CETE/ACTE JOINT CONVENTION

29 September – 1 October 2016

Marriott St. Louis Union Station, St Louis, Missouri, USA

[Meeting details](#)

COST-EPICONCEPT meeting

26-29 september 2016, Giardini, Naxos, Sicily-Italy

[Meeting details](#)

Satellite meeting of the " Rep-Biotech "

September 26th 2016 Giardini Naxos, (Sicily) Italy in association with the Annual Epiconcept meeting which runs from 26-29 September 2016 at the same location.

[Details](#)

20th Annual ESDAR Conference 2016

27/10/2016 - 29/10/2016

Lisbon, Portugal

[Meeting details](#)

followed by

ESDAR 2016 satellite workshop

October 30th

Innovations to improve dairy cow fertility

Joint FECUND-PROLIFIC EU Projects Final Conference

43rd Annual Conference of the IETS

14-17 January, 2017

Renaissance Austin Hotel, Austin, Texas, USA

**** [ABSTRACT DEADLINE](#) JULY 13, 2016****

[Meeting announcement](#)

...Pssst – you, hey there... Yes, you... Whilst you're online, why not [click here](#) to register for the AETE meeting in Barcelona? And if you're fast, you can make the early bird registration data of July 15...

AETE MEETING PROGRAMME 2016



AETE

Association Européenne de Transfert Embryonnaire
European Embryo Transfer Association

32nd SCIENTIFIC MEETING

Casa de la Convalescència-UAB

Barcelona - Spain

PROGRAMME

9th and 10th September 2016

THURSDAY, September 8th 2016

18.30-20.00: Registration (Lobby of Casa de la Convalescència-UAB)

18.00-22.00: Welcome Reception Casa de la Convalescència-UAB

FRIDAY, September 9th 2016

08.00-17.00: Registration (Lobby of Casa de la Convalescència-UAB)

08.45-09.00: Opening meeting by the AETE President **Dimitrios Rizos**,
by IRTA General Director **Josep M. Monfort** and
by LOC chair **Teresa Mogas**

SESSION 1 - Chairpersons: JO LEROY & RAINER SANER

09.00-09.45: First invited lecture:
Sartori R (Brazil): Update and overview on assisted reproductive technologies (ARTs) in Brazil

09.45-10.30: Second invited lecture:
Duittoz AH (France): The timing of puberty (oocyte quality and management)

10.30-11.15: POSTER SESSION 1 (even numbers) and coffee break

Student Competition SESSION: JO LEROY

11.15-12.30: Short oral communications

- (1) **Lies Jordaens:** In vitro monolayer barrier function of bovine oviduct epithelial cells is modified due to high concentrations of non-esterified fatty acids.
- (2) **Julieta Gabriela Hamze:** Porcine sperm bind to beads conjugated to ZP2 protein under in vitro conditions.
- (3) **Paul Kordowitzki:** In vino veritas? – How resveratrol attenuates oxidative stress in bovine oocytes of prepubertal and adult donors.
- (4) **Perrine Nogues:** A proteomic approach to monitor interactions between oviductal fluid and spermatozoa across the estrous cycle.
- (5) **Marcia AMM Ferraz:** Bovine embryo production is very sensitive to toxins released from 3-D printed acrylate chambers.

12.30-14.00: Lunch

SESSION 2 – Chairpersons: URBAN BESENFELDER & MARJA MIKKOLA

14.00-14.45: Third invited lecture:
Fair T (Ireland): Embryo maternal immune interactions in cattle

14.45-15.30: Short oral communications (Embryology, developmental biology, and physiology of reproduction)

- (1) **Blad-Stahl et al.:** Liquid preservation of bovine embryos as an alternative to cryopreservation
- (2) **Lebedeva et al.:** Progesterone is involved in anti-aging effects of prolactin on bovine cumulus-enclosed oocytes matured *in vitro*
- (3) **Valdes-Hernández et al.:** Effect of maternal genotype on embryo and foetal survival using rabbit as a model

15.30-16.15: POSTER SESSION 2 (even numbers) and coffee break

16.15-17.45: Workshop I:CL/P4, Doppler sonography
managed by **Giovanni Gnemmi (Italy)** and **Serge Lacaze (France)**

19:00 – 24:00: Artistic performance at Casa Convalescència
Bus transfer to Gala Dinner

SATURDAY, September 10th 2016

08:00-17:00: Registration (Lobby of Casa de la Convalescència-UAB)

SESSION 3 – Chairpersons: IAN KIPPAX & JAN DETTERER

09.00-09.45: Fourth invited lecture:

Morrell JM (Sweden):

Practical applications of sperm selection techniques for improving reproductive efficiency

09.45-10.30: Short oral communications (Cumulus cells, oocytes and early embryo development)

- (1) **Arcarons et al.:** Cholesterol addition to immature and in vitro matured bovine oocytes before vitrification altered the expression of some genes important for early embryonic development
- (2) **Aardema et al.:** Cumulus cells protect the bovine oocyte against lipotoxicity by converting saturated into unsaturated fatty acids using stearoyl-CoA-desaturase during in vitro maturation
- (3) **Chen et al.:** A polarized oviduct epithelial cell culture model supports murine early embryo development without additional medium supply

10.30-10.45: Sponsor presentation

10.45-11.15: General Assembly

11.15-12.00: POSTER SESSION 3 (odd numbers) and coffee break

12.00-13.30: Lunch / Student Lunch (only after subscription, only open for master, PhD or post doc students co-authoring a presented abstract)

SESSION 4 – Chairpersons: ROGER STURMEY & PETER VOS

13.30-14.00: Fifth invited lecture

Henrik Callesen (Denmark): Circles around the farm animal embryo – a Danish perspective

14.00-14.15: Pioneer award 2016 - Henrik Callesen AETE Medallist Presentation

introduced by **Torben Greve (Denmark)**

14.15-15.00: Short oral communications (OPU - IVF and ET)

- (1) **Fonseca Balvis et al.:** Optimization of RNA concentration for genome editing by CRISPR in rabbit zygotes
- (2) **Egberts et al.:** Cytological evaluation of PMN distribution in the genital tract of superovulated embryo donor cows
- (1) **Martinez et al.:** Melatonin accelerates the timing of in vitro porcine embryo development

15.00-15.45: POSTER SESSION 4 (odd numbers) and coffee break

15.45-17.15: Workshop II: Genomics – practical consequences: up date – current challenges – future managed by **Patrice Humblot (Sweden)** and **Pascal Salvetti (France)**

17.15-17.30: Closing session: Student Competition results and invitation to the AETE Conference 2017

20.00: Farewell party with typical food at the Beach of Barcelona