“Futures in Reproduction”

Celebrating the award of the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine
To Professor Sir Robert Edwards

Saturday 15th – Sunday 16th December 2012 in Churchill College, Cambridge

A conference convened jointly by the Department of Physiology, Development and Neuroscience (PDN), University of Cambridge, and Reproductive BioMedicine Online

Made possible by an unrestricted educational grant from Merck Serono Geneva SA.

This two-day meeting invites speakers and participants to attempt to capture something of the radical, far-sighted, wide-ranging and challenging spirit of enquiry that has characterized Bob Edwards’ career. A strong focus on the exciting and unconventional is the highest tribute that we can pay to this remarkable man.

Provisional programme (subject to minor change)

Friday 14th December

Arrival
Registration desk will be open from 14.00
14.30: Optional visit to Bourn Hall [maximum 50 persons, coaches provided]
18.45: Welcome reception in the Archive Centre with items from the RG Edwards archive on display
19.30: Dinner at Churchill College

Saturday 15th December

8.30: Conference opening with introductions from Ruth Edwards; Jenny Joy, Bob’s daughter; Sophie Meakin, Bob’s granddaughter and Martin Johnson

The genesis of the embryo Chair: Richard Gardner
8.45-9.25: Alexander Bruce: Generating different genetic expression patterns
9.25-10.05: Maria-Elena Torres Padilla (Strasbourg): Generating different epigenotypes

10.05-10.35: Refreshment break and poster viewing

Implantation & Early Pregnancy Loss Chair: Andrew Sharkey
10.35-11.15: Gijs Teklenberg (Utrecht): Embryo-endometrial interactions in vitro
11.15-11.55: Jan Brosens (Warwick): Uterine memory and reproductive failure
11.55-12.35: Peter Parham (Stanford): Pregnancy, immunology and evolution

12.35-13.30: Lunch

What is the genetic future? Chair: Anne Ferguson-Smith
13.30-14.10: Dennis Lo (Hong Kong): Noninvasive prenatal diagnosis: from science to clinical applications
14.10-14.50: Bert Smeets (Maastricht): Preventing the transmission of mitochondrial DNA disorders: selecting the good guys or kicking out the bad guys
14.50-15.30: Piraye Yurttas Beim (NYC): A report from the front lines of the personalized reproductive medicine revolution

15.30-16.00: Refreshment break and poster viewing
The place of epigenetics  Chair: Azim Surani
16.00-16.40: Mellissa Mann (London, Ontario): Assisted reproduction technologies and epigenetics
16.40-17.20: Erica Watson (Cambridge): The transgenerational effects of abnormal folate metabolism on embryo and placental development

17.20: Presentation of the Robert Edwards prize for 2011

1730: Session closes

18.30: Coaches leave for St John’s College
18.45-19.30: Arrival and welcome drinks
19.30-22.30: Dinner
22.30: Coaches leave for Churchill College

Sunday 16th December

Choosing the best embryo – the way forward  Chair: Simon Fishel
9.55-10.35: Marcos Meseguer (Valencia): Is morphokinetic analysis the answer?
10.35-11.15: Peter Braude (London): Are the ‘best’ embryos being selected and what prospects for improvement?

11.15-11.45: Refreshment break and poster viewing

Technological challenges in ART  Chair: Jacques Cohen
11.45-12.25: Roger Gosden (Virginia): Programmes and prospects for ovo technology
12.25-13.05: Daniel Brison (Manchester): How should we assess safety of oocyte vitrification and other novel IVF technologies?

13.05-14.00: Lunch

Future issues for ART 1  Chair: Colin Howles
14.00-14.40: Susan Bewley (London): Reproductive ageing and clocks: King Midas’ touch
15.20-16.00: Hans Evers (Maastricht): The signal-to-noise ratio of evidence-based ART

16.00-16.30: Refreshment break

Future issues for ART 2  Chair: Martin Johnson
16.30-17.10: Sarah Franklin (Cambridge): Socio-politics and public education
17.10-17.50: Alan Trounson (LA): Transforming medicine and biology through developments in stem cells

17.50-18.00: Howard Jones: A personal tribute to Bob Edwards

18.15: Farewell reception
19.15: Dinner at Churchill College