

“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

9.15-9.55: Jonathan van Blerkom (Colorado): *Mitochondria, plasma membrane remodeling and developmental competence in the human*

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 ovotechnology*

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*

14.40-15.20: Susan Crockin (Mass): *Future ethico-legal/regulatory issues*

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