



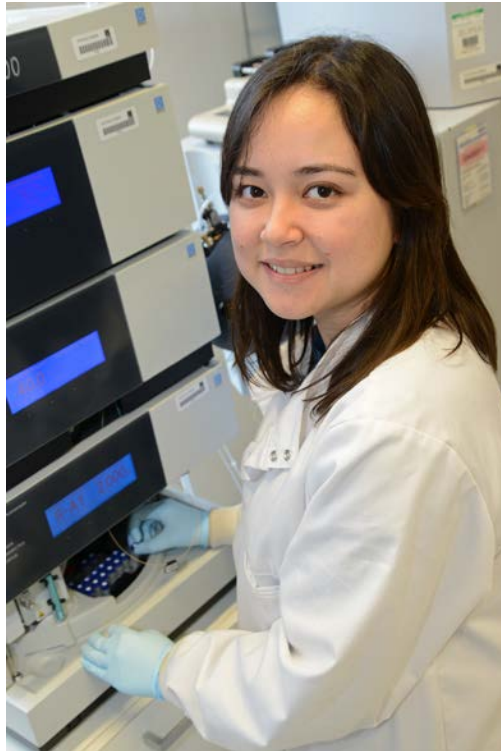
Name:	Selene Jarrett		
Project title:	The contribution of oocytes and follicular fluid to pig fertility		
Institute:	The Roslin Institute, University of Edinburgh		
Start date:	6 th January 2014	Finish date:	5 th January 2018
Lay summary of project (<i>in your own words</i>)			
<u>Efficiency in Pig Production</u> The efficiency of pig production can be measured in terms of the number of pigs weaned per sow per year. Therefore, one way to improve this efficiency is to increase the number of live piglets per litter which can be achieved by improving female fertility. A commercially applicable means of improving female fertility is to alter the pre-mating diet of female pigs.			
<u>High Fibre Diet on Female Fertility</u> A high fibre diet has been shown to be associated with several reproductive advantages including increased embryo survival and more live born piglets. The reproductive advantages extend to the cellular level with improved development of the oocyte (egg cell) and blastocyst (early stage embryo) following <i>in vitro</i> maturation and fertilisation respectively.			
<u>Hypothesis</u> Follicular fluid acts as the microenvironment for maturing oocytes in pig ovaries and is used as a supplement for the <i>in vitro</i> culture of oocytes and blastocysts. We hypothesise that the composition of follicular fluid is altered in response to a high fibre diet and that it is these changes that affect blastocyst development.			
<u>Aims</u> The overall objectives of my PhD are to; <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Identify differences in the molecular composition of follicular fluid as a result of a high fibre diet.2. Identify nutrition dependent molecular mechanisms involved in blastocyst development.3. Optimise oocyte maturation environment <i>in vitro</i> and <i>in vivo</i>.			
A bit about yourself (<i>one paragraph</i>) I am a graduate of the University of Warwick where I obtained my BSc in Chemistry with Medicinal Chemistry. After completing an MSc in Biomedical Sciences at the University of Edinburgh, I decided to stay in Scotland to do a PhD. My research interests include the molecular biology and biochemistry of mammalian reproduction and it is this interest that influenced me to carry out this PhD project. Outside of academic research, I like to spend time outdoors, particularly hill walking, hiking and cycling and watching independent films and documentaries. I also enjoy travelling and always relish the opportunity to explore a new place.			



What you hope to get out of your PhD

I would like to build on my practical and analytical skills which would open up doors into several scientific career avenues, including biochemistry, animal reproduction and biotechnology. The opportunities to work in industry and scientific communications during the PhD would also provide a stepping stone towards a career in any of these venerable fields.

A photograph of your work



Declaration: I hereby give permission for my photo and the information provided to be used by BPEX in any publication, printed or electronic, for the purpose of informing stakeholders about my work.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Smith' or similar, written in a cursive style.

Signature:

Date:30/01/2015.....