



**International Symposium on Animal Biology of Reproduction,
Nov. 15-18, 2006, Belo Horizonte, MG, Brazil**
From sex differentiation to reproductive biotechnology

EDITORIAL

This special issue of *Animal Reproduction* is a product of an exciting and unique conference - The International Symposium on Animal Biology of Reproduction (ISABR): from Sex Differentiation to Reproductive Biotechnology, held in Belo Horizonte, MG, Brazil, November 15-18, 2006. The Federal University of Minas Gerais is honored to host the ISABR 2006, as this is an extraordinary opportunity to pay tribute to Dr. Brian P. Setchell and celebrate his 75th birthday. This meeting covers very important and updated topics in reproductive biology, from fish to mammals and diverse areas of research and biotechnology. The inclusion of such a wide range of topics in reproduction is most appropriate for honoring Brian Setchell, as his research and teaching has had tremendous, wide ranging influence on our current understanding of the male genital system, particularly testicular physiology. Many of his former students have continued as leaders in this field and his work has influenced nearly everyone who has trained in male reproductive biology over the past forty years.

The timeless scientific journey of Brian Setchell (please see <http://www.asiaandro.com/journal/board/plus/070.htm>), starting as Veterinary Research Officer in Australia at the Veterinary Research Station, Glenfield, New South Wales, has taken him to many countries and led to numerous positions of leadership and awards, as he has continued to pursue the advancement of scientific knowledge. He is currently Professor Emeritus and Honorary Visiting Research Fellow at the University of Adelaide. His dedication to quality science, and sustained education and leadership, even during his retirement years, serves as a model for all scientists and young trainees, as his commitment inspires a desire to learn and to reach for goals of distinction. Brian Setchell has been called "A true Renaissance man," by many who know him.

The ISABR 2006 meeting includes topics such as sex determination, testicular dysgenesis, spermatogonial stem cell biology, germ cell transplantation, germ cells gene regulation and expression, Sertoli cells hormonal regulation, sperm function, reproductive tract regulation, male contraception, toxicology, immunology, aging, and reproductive biotechnology. It is a great place to exchange knowledge and to be aware of advancements in reproductive biology. Scientists from many different countries and their Brazilian peers met in a unique forum promoting discussion on current scientific knowledge across numerous animal groups. Over twenty lectures were given by invited speakers and 150 posters presented.

The Federal University of Minas Gerais (<http://www.ufmg.br>) is a young university, but one with past and present scientists dedicated to the study of animal reproduction. It shares a vivid interest in reproductive biology and recognizes the importance of Setchell's outstanding collaborations for her current achievements. Readers are invited to perusal this special issue of *Animal Reproduction*, which we believe provides a historical reference for many years.

Acknowledgments

The conference could not have taken place without the hard work of many people to whom we acknowledge and greatly appreciate. We extend a sincere thank to all the speakers who have traveled to Belo Horizonte to make this meeting successful and we hope your memories will last a life time. ISABR 2006 was made possible by support from various institutions and fund donors. The contributions of the following Brazilian institutions are highly appreciated: Federal University of Minas Gerais (UFMG), Brazilian College of Animal Reproduction (CBRA), the national (CNPq and CAPES) and state (FAPEMIG) funding agencies, and The State of Minas Gerais Veterinary Regional Council (CRMV-MG).

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