

## 2012 SSR International Scholar Award

### *Nahoko Ieda, Ph.D.*

(Supported jointly by the Japanese Society for Reproduction and Development and the Society for the Study of Reproduction)



The SSR congratulates Nahoko Ieda, Ph.D. (Graduate School of Bioagricultural Sciences, Nagoya University, Nagoya, Japan), the recipient of this year's International Scholar Award. Dr. Ieda was selected by SSR's partner society, the Japanese Society for Reproduction and Development. She presented her abstract entitled "Increase in Hypothalamic *KISS1* Expression Precedes Onset of Puberty in Pigs" (Program #480) on Wednesday during Poster Session C. Please help us welcome and congratulate Dr. Ieda.

## 2012 Cornelia Post Channing New Investigator Award

### *Inbal Kirenberg Ben-Eliezer*



The first place recipient of the 2012 Cornelia Post Channing new investigator award competition is Inbal Kirenberg Ben-Eliezer. Her talk, entitled "New Insights into the Ubiquitin-proteasome Pathway in Oocytes Resuming Meiosis" was coauthored by Yael Shahar-Pomerantz, Judith Elbaz, Dalia Galiani, Nava Nevo, and Nava Dekel from the Department of Biological Regulation at the Weizmann Institute of Science, Israel. Inbal received her bachelor's degree in biology and psychology from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel. She pursued her M.Sc. degree at Prof. Talila Volk's laboratory at the Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovot, Israel. For her thesis

work, she specifically studied the regulation of tyrosine phosphorylation on HOW, an RNA binding protein essential for tissue development. Inbal is a Ph.D. candidate since 2011 at the Weizmann Institute of Science. She works at the laboratory of Prof. Nava Dekel, where, using a mice model, she studies various factors related to the ubiquitin proteasome pathway and their role during the first meiotic division. Upon completion of her Ph.D., Inbal intends to continue practicing scientific research.

## Regional Abstract Awards

Using the abstract rankings from the Program Committee, the person(s) with the highest-ranking abstract from nine non-North American regions of the world were identified. These eleven attendees will be presented with a certificate during the Trainee Awards Ceremony at the end of the meeting.

Aygul Akyuz (Middle East). Abstract 268.

Chia Lin Chang (Taiwan). Abstract 285.

Wataru Fujii (Japan). Abstract 289.

Jenna Haverfield (Australia). Abstract 9.

Richard Ivell (Europe) Abstract 78.

Uma Jyothikrishnan (India). Abstract 440.

Seong Sung Kwak (Republic of Korea). Abstract 563.

Paula F. Lima (South America). Abstract 295. (Co-author Jose Buratini Jr.

accepted the award on her behalf.)

Manuela Monti (Europe). Abstract 65.

Xin Wu (China). Abstract 50.

## 2012 SSR Trainee Research Award

### Platform Presentation

### *Jenna T. Haverfield*



The first place recipient of the 2012 Trainee Research Award for platform presentation is Jenna Haverfield. Her talk, entitled "Meiosis Does Not Require a Fully Functional Blood-Testis Barrier," was coauthored by Sarah J. Meachem and Peter G. Stanton. Jenna received her Bachelor of Science with Honors from Deakin University, Melbourne, Australia, and is currently in the final year of her Ph.D. at Prince Henry's Institute (PHI) and Monash University, Melbourne, Australia. Jenna's overarching research effort focuses on investigating the endocrine regulation of adult Sertoli cell function. She uses in vivo models of hormone manipulation and clinical samples to

study components of Sertoli cell junctions important in the blood-testis barrier, and the role of follicle stimulating hormone in testis tumor formation. Jenna is lead author of one manuscript, and her Ph.D. work has now culminated into three more papers that are currently under review. Jenna is the fortunate recipient of the Graduate Women Victoria William & Elizabeth Fisher Scholarship, and the Anthony Koellmeier International Travel Award, which recognize post-graduate academic excellence. In addition to her research, Jenna is actively involved in advocating for graduate student interests; she is the current President of the Student Society at PHIMR, and the Student Representative for the Australian Society for Reproductive Biology. Jenna currently works at Monash University, Melbourne, Australia, where she teaches Science Communication to undergraduate students. For her post-doctoral career, Jenna is seeking to combine her research skills with her interest in teaching, and is currently looking for an academic overseas post-doctoral position in reproductive biology.

## 2012 SSR Trainee Research Award

### Poster Presentation

### *Charlene D. Young, Ph.D.*



The first place recipient of the 2012 Trainee Research Award for poster presentation is Charlene Young, from the Ottawa Hospital Research Institute, Canada. Her poster was entitled "Sperm May Act as a Vector for HIV Transmission to the Genital Epithelium" and was coauthored by Duriya Fongmoon, Kessiri Kongmanas, Kym Faull, Jonathan Angel, and Nongnuj Tanphaichitr. Charlene received her Ph.D. from the Department of Biochemistry, Microbiology and Immunology at the University of Ottawa in 2011. Her Ph.D. studies were conducted with Dr. Jonathan Angel and consisted of evaluating the effect of HIV-1 infection on

thymocyte function and in particular their capacity to respond to IL-7 stimulus. Charlene is currently a post-doctoral fellow in Dr. Nongnuj Tanphaichitr's laboratory group at the Ottawa Hospital Research Institute. Her current research investigates the mechanisms of HIV transmission to the genital epithelium and in particular the interaction between HIV virions and sperm.

