



**Diane Duffy, PhD**  
**Virginia Medical School**

**Diane M. Duffy, PhD** is a Professor at Eastern Virginia Medical School (EVMS) in Norfolk, VA. She also serves as Vice Chair (Research) for the Department of Physiological Sciences and as the Director of Summer Scholars, a summer research program for EVMS medical students and visiting undergraduates. Dr. Duffy received her BA (Biology) from Reed College in Portland, OR and her PhD (Endocrinology) from the University of California, San Francisco, then trained as a primate reproductive endocrinologist during her postdoctoral fellow at the Oregon National Primate Research Center. Dr. Duffy joined the faculty at EVMS in 2001, where her research program on paracrine control of ovulation in humans and non-human primates has been continuously funded by NICHD and has also received support for contraceptive discovery research from organizations such as CONRAD and the Mellon Foundation. She has mentored over 50 students and junior faculty and received the EVMS Faculty Achievement Award for Mentoring in 2017. Dr. Duffy is currently a regular member of the NIH ICER study section and also serves on the Board of Directors of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB).



**Shuo Xiao, PhD**  
**Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey**

Dr. Shuo Xiao received his medical degree in Preventive Medicine and Master in Nutrition and Food Toxicology from Peking University Health Science Center. He earned his PhD in Toxicology under the supervision of Dr. Xiaoqin Ye from the University of Georgia (UGA) in 2013. He joined Dr. Teresa Woodruff's lab for his postdoctoral training at Northwestern University. Dr. Xiao started his faculty appointment as an Assistant Professor at the University of South Carolina in 2017. In the summer of 2020, he moved to Rutgers University. Dr. Xiao's

research is focused on how environmental chemicals and clinical drugs impact female ovarian functions and fertility and how to use the 3D in vitro ovarian follicle culture model to study ovary biology and disease and ovarian toxicity.



**Marina Peluffo, PhD**  
**Centro de Investigaciones Endocrinológicas (CEDIE)**

Since starting my career as a reproductive biologist, I focused specifically on ovarian processes such as folliculogenesis, follicular atresia, ovulation as well as corpus luteum formation and luteolysis. I conducted the research for my dissertation studying the role of caspases in luteal regression in Dr. Marta Tesone's laboratory at the Institute of Biology and Experimental Medicine (IBYME). During my Ph.D. training, I had the opportunity to work as a Fogarty Fellow with Dr. Richard L. Stouffer, Head of the Division of

Reproductive Sciences at the Oregon National Primate Research Center (ONPRC-OHSU). I received my Ph.D. from the Department of Biochemistry at the University of Buenos Aires in 2007. Then, I conducted my postdoctoral training (2008-2011) in reproductive sciences at the ONPRC-OHSU under the supervision of Dr. Richard L. Stouffer, Dr. Jon D. Hennebold and Dr. Mary B. Zelinski. During my postdoctorate fellowship, I conducted studies that aim to understand the molecular and cellular events involved in the expansion of the primate cumulus-oocyte complex (COC) as well as characterizing oocyte maturation in vitro. After my postdoctorate, I returned to my home country (Argentina) and since then (2012) established an independent laboratory at Centro de Investigaciones Endocrinológicas "Dr. César Bergadá" (CEDIE-CONICET), studying primarily the role of chemokines in C-OE and oocyte maturation. I established two different valuable feline culture systems (antral follicles and COCs) that support

their use to study follicular development, steroidogenesis, periovulatory events as well as follicle and COC biology in general, respectively.



**Sergio Romero, PhD**  
**Universidad Peruana**

Sergio Romero is a Biologist graduated from San Marcos National University, Lima Peru. He obtained his master and PhD degrees at The Free University of Brussels under the guidance of Prof Johan Smitz. His main interest is the design and optimization of culture environments for the in vitro development of mammalian follicles and oocytes, in particular for In vitro Maturation of human oocytes. He is currently Research Director and Embryologist at Centro de Fertilidad y Reproducción Asistida (CEFRA) and Associated Researcher at the Laboratory of

Reproductive biology and Fertility Preservation at Cayetano Heredia University, both in Lima, Peru.