

# 1<sup>st</sup> GEMINI MEETING PROGRAM

DOMOTEL – XENIA

1 Plastira str, 38222

Volos, Greece

9th-12th October 2008

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2008:**

18.00: Registration open and Reception

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2008:**

8.30: Registration open

8.45-9.15: Chairman opening, **Dr. Alireza Fazeli, University of Sheffield, UK**

9.15-10.05: Plenary lecture, **Dr. Thomas E. Spencer, Texas A&M University, USA**

Morning session WG 1. Experimental models,

**“The standardization of in vitro models”**

10.05-10.10: Introduction

"Which are the functions of the oviduct that we should mimick in vitro?"

• **Prof. Ann Van Soom, The University of Gent, Belgium.**

10.10-11.10: Short communications

**"Experiences with in vivo and in vitro models of the oviduct" (with the emphasis on standardisation, advantages and shortcomings)**

10.10-10.25 • Wolf E. (transcriptome and proteome studies in an in vitro model of oviduct-embryo interaction)

10.25-10.40 • Fazeli A. (gametes and the oviduct proteome)

10.40-10.55 • Gualtieri (sperm adhesion and release from oviduct in vitro)

10.55-11.10 • Ziecik AJ (hormonal influences on the pig oviduct in vitro)

11.10-11.40 Coffee break

11.40-12.10: Discussion workshop: What should a good experimental model look like?  
Moderators: **Prof. A. Van Soom and Prof. A. Dinnyes**

12.10-13.00: "Progress in tissue engineering"

- **Prof. Colin E. Bishop, The Wake Forest Institute for Regenerative Medicine, USA**

13.00-14.30: Buffet Lunch and Poster Session 1

Afternoon session WG 2. Technologies

**"From tissues to models"**

14.30-14.35: Introduction

"Conceptual and Technical Challenges for Modeling Complex Interactions in the Reproductive Tract"

- **Prof. Eckhard Wolf, The University of Munich, Germany and Dr. Jean-Pierre Ozil, INRA, France.**

14.35-15.15: "Principles of systematic sampling and stereological investigation of complex tissues"

- **Dr. R. Wanke, Institute of Veterinary Pathology, LMU Munich, Germany**

15.15-15.30: Tea-Coffee-Break

15.30-16.00: "Holistic proteome studies of minimal samples: immature vs. in vitro matured oocytes"

- **Dr. G. J. Arnold, Gene Center, LMU Munich, Germany**

16.00-16.30: "Mathematical modelling and control of physiological systems: application to the gonadotropic axis"

- **Dr. F. Clement, INRIA Paris-Rocquencourt Centre, France**

16.30-16.45: Procedural Reconstruction of a Three Dimensional Graphical Model of an Oviduct

- **Mr M. Burkitt, University of Sheffield, UK**

16.45-17.00: Embryo-Maternal communication in bovine oviduct: A transcriptomic approach

- **Ms B Schmaltz, INRA, France**

17.00-17.45: Discussion workshop: What are the next steps to facilitate modelling of maternal interactions with gametes and embryos?

Moderators: **Dr. Jean-Pierre Ozil, INRA, France and Prof. Eckhard Wolf, The University of Munich, Germany**

17.45-18.00: Break

18.00-18.30: Discussion workshop: How we can make the best out of the COST action

- Moderator: **Dr. Alireza Fazeli, GEMINI Chairman**

19.00: Dinner

**Saturday October 11<sup>th</sup> 2008:**

- 8.30: Registration open
- 8.40-8.45: “European Funding” General Session  
• Moderator: **Dr. Alireza Fazeli, GEMINI Chairman**
- 8.45-9.10: “Experiences of obtaining European frame work programmes”  
• **Prof. A. Dinnyes, Hungary**
- 9.10-9.35: “EMBIC: Embryo Implantation Control network”  
• **Prof. G. Chaouat, Centre de recherche INSERM, France**
- 9.35-10.00: Discussion on how to promote GEMINI as a research topic in European frame works

Morning session WG 3

**‘Maternal Nutrition Effects on Embryo and Long-Term Development’**

- 10.00-10.05: Introduction and Welcome  
• **Prof. Tom Fleming, University of Southampton, UK and Dr. Pascale Chavatte, INRA, France**
- 10.05 –10.50: ‘Periconception maternal low protein diet: embryo responses and long-term consequences’  
• **Dr. Adam Watkins and Dr. Judith Eckert, University of Southampton, UK. Joint presentation**
- 10:50–11.25 Tea-coffee break (plus posters)
- 11.25–12.15 ‘Dietary and environmental factors: effects on embryos and long-term development’  
• **Dr. Karen Kind, University of Adelaide, Australia**
- 12.15-12.30 High non-esterified fatty acid concentrations during murine follicle culture are detrimental for the oocyte’s developmental competence  
• **Dr. J. Leroy, University of Antwerp, Belgium**
- 12.30-12.45 Fine tuning of blastocyst development by the insulin-like growth factor system in the rabbit  
• **Dr. A. Navarrete Santos, Martin Luther University, Germany**
- 12.45-13.00 Effects of maternal undernutrition on the hypothalamic-pituitary-gonadal axis function in male and female sheep offspring  
• **Dr. B. Kotsampasi, University of Athens, Greece**
- 13.00.–14.00: **Buffet lunch (plus posters)**

14.00-14.15 Developmental effects of cholesterol enriched hyperlipidic diets in rabbits  
• **Dr. Pascale Chavatte, INRA, France**

**14.15 – 14.45 Maternal Nutrition Discussion forum:**

•Moderators: **Prof. Tom Fleming, University of Southampton, UK and Dr. Pascale Chavatte, INRA, France**

Questions to consider:

*What are the mechanisms and health consequences of models discussed in above lectures?*

*How should we analyse oocytes and embryos in response to dietary and environmental challenges?  
How should we investigate the origin and propagation of long-term changes?*

*What areas of study do we need to set up? What new research directions for COST participants can we plan in this field? What areas of interaction can we develop with other Workshop themes within our COST group as a whole?*

14.45-14.55: “Meeting Closure and Concluding Remarks”  
• **Dr. Alireza Fazeli, GEMINI Chairman**

**14.55 – 15.15: Tea break**

15.15-18.00: “MC Meeting”

19.00: **Dinner**

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2008:**

One day Excursion