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Contents

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| | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| From the SBTE President | 164 |
|-------------------------|-----|

| | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| From the AETE President | 165 |
|-------------------------|-----|

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| From the Scientific Committee Chair | 166 |
|-------------------------------------|-----|

Conferences papers

| | |
|---|-----|
| The transformational impact of site-specific DNA modifiers on biomedicine and agriculture K. Polkoff, J.A. Piedrahita | 171 |
|---|-----|

| | |
|---|-----|
| The local regulation of folliculogenesis by members of the transforming growth factor superfamily and its relevance for advanced breeding programmes J.L. Juengel, P.R. Smith, L.D. Quirke, M.C. French, S.J. Edwards | 180 |
|---|-----|

| | |
|---|-----|
| Laparoscopic ovum pick-up for in vitro embryo production from dairy bovine and buffalo calves H. Baldassarre, V. Bordinon | 191 |
|---|-----|

| | |
|---|-----|
| Intensified use of TAI and sexed semen on commercial farms M.O. Marques, F. Morotti, E. Lorenzetti, C. Bizarro-Silva, M.M. Seneda | 197 |
|---|-----|

| | |
|---|-----|
| Epigenetic remodeling in preimplantation embryos: cows are not big mice P.J. Ross, R.V. Sampaio | 204 |
|---|-----|

| | |
|--|-----|
| History, Origin, and Function of Transzonal Projections: The Bridges of Communication Between the Oocyte and its Environment H.J. Clarke | 215 |
|--|-----|

| | |
|--|-----|
| Expression of estrus as a relevant factor in fixed-time embryo transfer programs using estradiol/progesterone-based protocols in cattle G.A. Bó, A. Cedeño | 224 |
|--|-----|

| | |
|--|-----|
| Oocyte mitochondria: role on fertility and disease transmission M.R. Chiaratti, B.M. Garcia, K.F. Carvalho, C.H. Macabelli, F.K.S. Ribeiro, A.F. Zangirolamo, F.D. Sarapião, M.M. Seneda, F.V. Meirelles, F.E.G. Guimarães, T.S. Machado | 231 |
|--|-----|

| | |
|---|-----|
| Use of Doppler ultrasonography in embryo transfer programs: feasibility and field results G. Pugliesi, G.D. Melo, G.A. Ataíde Jr, C.A.G. Pellegrino, J.B. Silva, C.C. Rocha, I.G. Motta, J.L.M. Vasconcelos, M. Binelli | 239 |
|---|-----|

| | |
|---|-----|
| Genetic market in cattle (Bull, AI, FTAI, MOET and IVP): financial payback based on reproductive efficiency in beef and dairy herds in Brazil P.S. Baruselli, A.H. Souza, M.F. Sá Filho, J.N.S. Sales | 247 |
|---|-----|



| | |
|--|-----|
| Strategies for increasing fertility in high productivity dairy herds L. Bragança, A.F. Zangirolamo | 256 |
| Contributions from the ovarian follicular environment to oocyte function M. del Collado, G.M. Andrade, F.V. Meirelles, J.C. Silveira, F. Perecin | 261 |
| Oocyte related factors impacting on embryo quality: relevance for <i>in vitro</i> embryo production F. Nuttinck | 271 |
| From clinics to (cow)mics; a reproductive journey P. Humblot | 277 |
| Directions and applications of CRISPR technology in livestock research I. Lamas-Toranzo, P. Ramos-Ibeas, E. Pericuesta, P. Bermejo-Álvarez | 292 |
| Preservation of female fertility in humans and animal species H.M. Picton | 301 |
| Ovarian antral follicle populations and embryo production in cattle A.F. Zangirolamo, F. Morotti, N.C. Silva, T.K. Sanches, M.M. Seneda | 310 |

Conference abstracts

32nd Annual Meeting of the Brazilian Embryo Technology Society (SBTE)

| | |
|--|---------|
| TAI/FTET/AI (Abstracts A001 to A077) | 316-392 |
| OPU-IVF and ET (Abstracts A080 to A124) | 393-437 |
| Folliculogenesis, Oogenesis and Superovulation (Abstracts A138 to A158) | 438-458 |
| Physiology of Reproduction in Male and Semen Technology (Abstracts A160 to A172) | 459-471 |
| Embryology, Developmental Biology and Physiology of Reproduction (Abstracts A182 to A216) | 472-506 |
| Cloning, Transgenesis and Stem Cells (Abstracts A241 to A255) | 507-521 |
| Support Biotechnologies: Cryopreservation and cryobiology, diagnosis through imaging, molecular biology and “omics” (Abstracts A260 to A275) | 522-537 |

34rd Meeting of the Association of Embryo Transfer in Europe (AETE)

| | |
|--|---------|
| TAI/FTET/AI (Abstracts A078E to A079E) | 538-539 |
| OPU-IVF and ET (Abstracts A125E to A137E) | 540-552 |
| Folliculogenesis, Oogenesis and Superovulation (Abstracts A159E to A159E) | 553 |
| Physiology of Reproduction in Male and Semen Technology (Abstracts A173E to A181E) | 554-562 |
| Embryology, Developmental Biology and Physiology of Reproduction (Abstracts A217E to A240E) | 563-586 |
| Cloning, Transgenesis and Stem Cells (Abstracts A256E to A259E) | 587-590 |
| Support Biotechnologies: Cryopreservation and cryobiology, diagnosis through imaging, molecular biology and “omics” (Abstracts A276E to A288E) | 591-603 |
| Workshop I: Sanitary and regulations on embryo transfer | 604-607 |
| Workshop II: Preservation of IVP embryos | 608-610 |

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| Author index to v.15, n.3, 2018 | 611 |
|---------------------------------|-----|



A095 OPU-IVP and ET

Ethanollic extracts of cerrado plants on the oxidative stress of *in vitro*-produced bovine embryos

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The *in vitro* embryo culture induces an excessive production of reactive oxygen species (ROS) and affects blastocysts production. Medium supplementation with antioxidants agents in culture is an interesting alternative to minimize those effects. The present study evaluated the effect of ethanollic extracts obtained from cerrado plants on the oxidative stress of IVP embryos. Bovine ovaries from slaughterhouse were used to obtain grade I and II oocytes, which were submitted to maturation, fertilization (D0) and *in vitro* culture. Four groups were used in the culture: a control group subject to high oxygen tension (G20%), a group subject to low oxygen tension (G5%), besides two groups cultivated under high oxygen tension, supplemented with 0.01mg/mL of cagaite extract (GCag) and another group with 0.01mg/mL of murici extract (GMuri). Cleavage (D2) and blastocyst rates (D6 and D7) were evaluated. D7 expanded blastocysts were used to evaluate ROS, glutathione (GSH) and gene expression. ROS levels were analyzed by confocal microscopy using H2DCFDA (6-carboxy-20,70-dichlorodihydrofluorescein diacetate), and GSH on epifluorescence microscopy with Cell Tracker Blue (4-chloromethyl- 6,8-difluoro-7-hydroxycoumarin). The transcripts level of genes involved in apoptosis (BAX, BCL21L, CASP3 and CASP8) and in the ROS metabolic pathways (SOD2, CAT, GPx4 and PRDX3) was determined by qPCR, with GAPDH used as a housekeeping gene. Data were analyzed by ANOVA and the means compared by Tukey test, at 5%. A total of 2135 oocytes were used and 893 embryos were produced (41.8%). Embryo production was similar ($P>0.05$) among G20% (cleavage: $87.6 \pm 8.1\%$, D6: $26.5 \pm 12.2\%$ and D7: $42.7 \pm 6.2\%$), GCag ($89 \pm 7.3\%$, $23.9 \pm 10.3\%$, $43 \pm 6.2\%$), GMuri ($89 \pm 9.5\%$, $26.7 \pm 16\%$ and $40.1 \pm 8.4\%$) and G5% (88 ± 9.5 , 26.7 ± 16 , 40.1 ± 8.4). ROS and GSH emitted fluorescence were also similar ($P>0.05$) among G20% (105.24 ± 26.04 and 156.36 ± 11.39), GCag (125 , 92 ± 31.82 and 159.98 ± 10.89), GMuri (135.25 ± 29.05 and 155.36 ± 14.07) and G5% (116.05 ± 27.51 and 151.37 ± 17.45). The results showed that transcripts levels of apoptosis-related genes were similar ($P>0.05$) among the groups. However, genes involved in ROS metabolism were differentially expressed in the treatments. Abundance of GPX4 transcripts was higher ($p < 0.05$) in the groups cultured with cagaite and murici than the G5% group, and PRDX3 transcripts was higher ($p < 0.05$) in the GMuri group than the G5% group. The other transcripts analyzed (SOD2 and CAT) were similar among treatments ($P>0.05$). Supplementation of culture medium with extracts (0.01mg / mL) of cagaite and murici increased transcripts levels for genes related to antioxidant function (GPx4 and PRDX3), although it did not increased embryo production. Therefore, those extracts can be an alternative to reduce oxidative stress caused by IVP adverse conditions.