

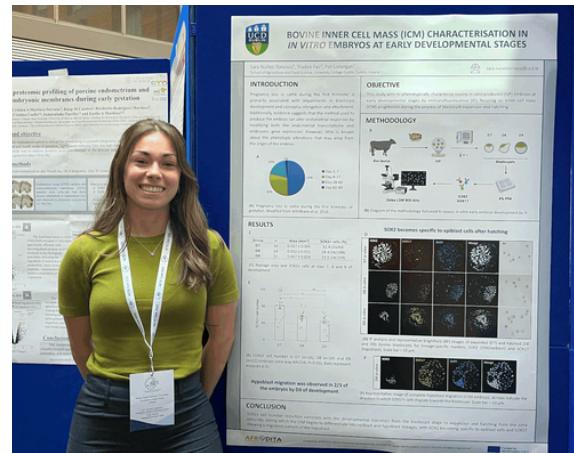
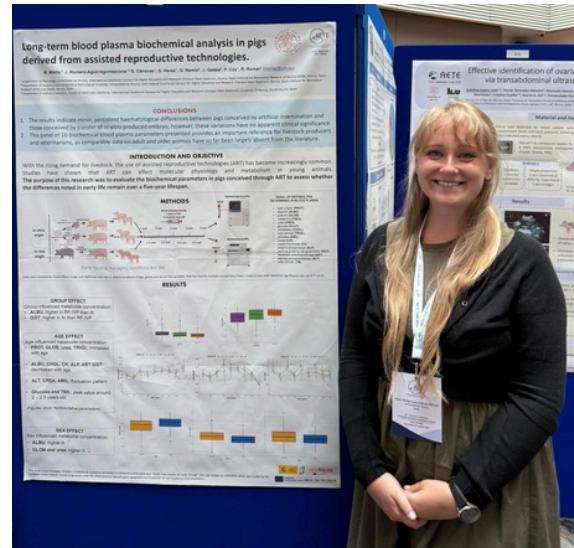
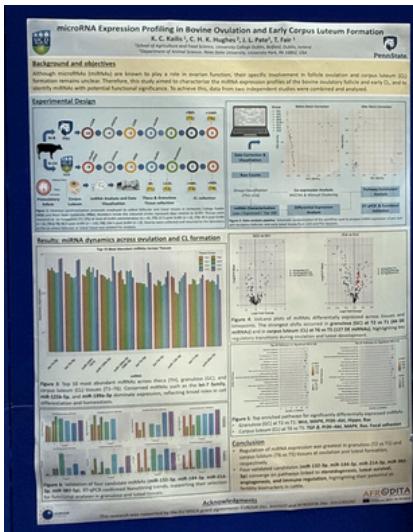
# AFRODITA NEWSLETTER

## Doctoral candidates present their scientific findings at the AETE Meeting

The 41st Annual Meeting of the **Association of Embryo Technology in Europe** (AETE) took place in Cork, Ireland, on 4–5 September 2025, bringing together leading experts and young researchers in the field of reproductive technologies.

**AFRODITA doctoral candidates Kristian, Sara, and Gosia** actively participated in the event, alongside project **supervisors Pilar Coy (UM), Raquel Romar (UM), Patrick Lonergan (UCD), and Dimitrios Rizos (INIA-CSIC)**, who delivered a talk on “*Functional and structural profiling of region-specific bovine oviductal organoids*.”

During the conference, Sara Núñez highlighted the unique opportunity to combine insightful talks with hands-on pre-conference wet labs focused on oocyte recovery, embryo vitrification, and sperm selection techniques. Kristian presented his poster on microRNA expression in bovine ovulation and early corpus luteum formation, while Gosia presented two posters on the long-term biochemical and haematological analysis in pigs derived from assisted reproductive technologies.



Their participation not only showcased AFRODITA's scientific progress but also strengthened collaboration among partner institutions and fostered valuable discussions with the wider research community.

## Doctoral candidates embark on International Secondments

**Doctoral candidate Nathaly Hernández** completed her secondment at the Centro de Biología Molecular Severo Ochoa (CBM) in Madrid, where she worked under the **supervision of Dr. Vicente Pérez García**, learning to derive and characterize 3D cell cultures of human and bovine models, and to isolate organoid-derived secretions. Recently, another doctoral candidate, **Arooj Azeem** has begun her secondment at Ghent University under the **supervision of Prof Ann Van Soom**.

*Both secondments highlight the importance of international mobility and interdisciplinary collaboration within AFRODITA*



DC Nathaly Hernández at CBM lab

## Bringing Science to the Field: AFRODITA at SEPOR 2025



Project Coordinator **Sebastián Cánovas** took part in the **Livestock, Industrial and Agri-food Fair** (SEPOR) in Lorca (Murcia, Spain) where he presented AFRODITA's latest advances in assisted reproduction.

His talk highlighted how scientific innovation can enhance animal breeding efficiency, sustainability, and profitability, demonstrating the project's relevance for the livestock industry and the regional economy.



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UPCOMING EVENT

**Training School at the University of Teramo (Italy) in March 2026**

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