

## Jeremy Block

Jeremy Block is an assistant professor in the Department of Animal Science at the University of Wyoming, where his laboratory studies ruminant reproduction. He received a BS in animal science from the University of Missouri and subsequently completed his graduate studies, including an MS in animal sciences and a PhD in the Animal Molecular and Cellular Biology Graduate Program, at the University of Florida. His graduate work focused on developing strategies to improve the post-transfer survival of bovine embryos produced *in vitro*, with a primary interest in the role that insulin-like growth factor-1 plays in regulating preimplantation embryo development and survival following embryo transfer.

After completing his doctorate in 2007, Block became an independent practitioner and started a business, Ovatech, which focused on providing assisted reproductive services, including *in vitro* fertilization, to livestock producers. During this time, he also served as a research assistant professor at the University of Florida, collaborating on research efforts focused on identifying embryokines that could be used to improve *in vitro* embryo development and post-transfer pregnancy establishment, as well as work directed toward understanding how uterine infection impacts oocyte developmental competence.

In 2016, Block moved to Zoetis and served as a principal scientist in the livestock wellness and performance research group, where he worked to identify novel therapeutic strategies for improving reproductive efficiency in livestock. In 2020, he accepted his current position at the University of Wyoming, where his laboratory works on the development of culture conditions to promote the efficient differentiation of bovine embryonic stem cells toward a germ cell lineage, identification of embryonic receptors that are functionally important for preimplantation embryo development and survival, and understanding how microbes within the male reproductive system impact sperm function and male fertility.

During his research career, Block has been part of 46 peer-reviewed publications that have been cited collectively more than 3,100 times. Block has been an active member of IETS for 20 years. During this time, he has served as an abstract section chair for the past nine years, been a member of the Local Organizing Committee for conferences in Orlando and Denver, and either helped to organize or participated in two pre-conference symposia and an Innovation Conference. His first IETS conference was in Omaha in 2001. In the intervening years, Block has not only enjoyed actively participating in the society but has benefited greatly. The international diversity, camaraderie, and collaborative nature of the members of IETS have contributed to his development as both a practitioner and research scientist. Now, he is eager to give back to the society and hopeful that his varied career in industry and academia can provide insights that help support the continued growth of IETS in the coming years.