Marcello Rubessa

Marcello Rubessa is associate director for strategic operations at the Roy J. Carver Biotechnology Center and research assistant professor in reproduction and regenerative medicine at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. In his current role at the Carver Biotechnology Center, he oversees operations across service laboratories in genomics, proteomics, metabolomics, bioinformatics, flow cytometry, and translational medical research, while providing leadership for administrative staff and supporting professional development within the center. In parallel with his administrative responsibilities, he maintains an active research program in reproductive biology, advancing the development of assisted reproductive technologies. He continues to support and train undergraduate students and graduate students.

Dr. Rubessa earned his PhD in veterinary sciences in animal production, health and food safety from the University of Napoli Federico II in Naples, Italy, where his doctoral research focused on factors affecting embryo development, sex distribution, and resistance to cryopreservation in cattle and buffalo. He also earned an MS in biotechnology of veterinary activity and a BS in biotechnology of health trends veterinary science from the same university. His early scientific training included work in bovine and buffalo reproductive physiology, cloning procedures in bovine and buffalo species, and embryo production.

Before returning to the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in his current leadership role, Dr. Rubessa worked at Genus PLC as an R&D team leader and later as an independent scientist, where he proposed and executed research in reproductive biology, contributed to patent submissions and patent reviews, and developed SOPs for R&D and manufacturing.

Dr. Rubessa has held several academic and research appointments at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, including research assistant professor in the Department of Animal Sciences, adjunct professor, and postdoctoral research associate at the Carl R. Woese Institute for Genomic Biology. His earlier appointments included postdoctoral and fellowship work through the National Research Council in Italy, Cairo University Research Park in Egypt, and the University of Napoli Federico II, with research focused on embryo production in native species at risk of extinction, camel oocyte maturation and cryopreservation, and reproductive physiology in buffalo and cattle.

Statement from Rubessa: *IETS has been an important part of my professional career since I first became involved with the Society in 2009. During that time, I have contributed to the Society in a variety of capacities, including supporting workshops and educational initiatives, serving as president of the Morulas, participating in DABE activities, serving on the Board, and being directly involved in the drafting and revision of chapters of the IETS Manual. These experiences have provided me with a unique perspective on the Society's mission and have reinforced my*

appreciation for the dedication of our members and the critical role IETS plays in advancing embryo technologies through scientific excellence, education, standardization, and international collaboration. Throughout my career, I have had the opportunity to conduct research and build collaborations across Europe, North Africa, North America, and South America. Working with scientists, students, veterinarians, and industry professionals from many different cultures and scientific backgrounds has reinforced my appreciation for the truly international nature of IETS. Our Society is unique in bringing together experts from around the world who openly share their research, experiences, and perspectives to advance both science and its practical applications. I believe this diversity of expertise and backgrounds is one of the greatest strengths of IETS, and I would like to continue working to expand international participation and engagement within the Society. My career has been built around assisted reproductive technologies, embryo production, cryopreservation, embryo and gamete physiology, noninvasive assessment technologies, and the translation of scientific innovation into practical solutions for agriculture and animal reproduction. I strongly believe that the future of our field depends on supporting the next generation of scientists and practitioners. As such, one of my priorities would be to create additional opportunities for students and early-career professionals through mentoring, networking, workshops, and leadership development initiatives. IETS has always provided an environment where young scientists can learn from leaders in the field, build lifelong collaborations, and develop professionally. I would like to help strengthen these opportunities and ensure that students remain actively engaged in shaping the future of our Society. IETS represents the connection between scientific discovery, practical application, and global collaboration. It would be an honor to continue serving the Society and its members, helping to strengthen its international reach, support its trainees and early-career members, and promote the open exchange of ideas that has made IETS such an influential organization in animal reproductive technologies."