

2015 Recipients of the IETS Distinguished Service Award



Dr. Matthew B. Wheeler

Dr. Matthew B. Wheeler obtained BS and MS degrees from the University of California-Davis and then was awarded a PhD in 1986 from Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado, where he studied *in vitro* capacitation and *in vitro* fertilization in cattle. Dr. Wheeler was an NIH postdoctoral research associate at the University of Virginia School of Medicine and then at the University of Wisconsin-Madison from 1986 to 1989, where he studied granulosa cell function and reproductive endocrinology. Since 1989, he has been a faculty member in the Department of Animal Sciences at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. His current position is professor of biotechnology and developmental biology and director of the Large Animal Transgenic Facility in the Departments of Animal Sciences, Bioengineering, and Veterinary Clinical Medicine. Dr. Wheeler is deeply involved in teaching, research, service, and outreach.

Dr. Wheeler attended his first IETS meeting in 1979 in Denver, Colorado, and has been an active member ever since. As a graduate student, he was involved in the local arrangements of the IETS Annual Conference for five years. Since 1994, he has served as chairman of the IETS Publications Committee and editor of the IETS Newsletter. Dr. Wheeler served as the program chair and a member of the Local Organizing Committee for the 2002 Annual Meeting in Foz do Iguacu, Brazil, and the 2010 Annual Meeting in Cordoba, Argentina. He recently served as the Local Organizing Committee Chair and Pre-Conference Symposium Chair for the 2014 Annual Conference in Reno, Nevada, and has overseen the production of the proceedings of the annual conference since 2002.

Dr. Wheeler was a member of the Board of Governors from 2002 to 2004 and served as vice president in 2004, president in 2005, and immediate past-president in 2006. Dr. Wheeler was re-elected to the Board of Governors in 2008 and 2011 and currently serves as the treasurer. Dr. Wheeler, along with Drs. Gabriel Bo and Henrik Callesen, was instrumental in turning around the society's finances in 2002 to 2004, when the IETS was almost forced to close its doors forever. The excellent fiscal health of the IETS and its investment portfolio are directly due to the tireless efforts and financial strategies developed by Dr. Wheeler.

Dr. Wheeler has been involved in embryo transfer and embryo biology research since 1976 and has published more than 200 peer-reviewed articles, chapters, and technical articles. He has been a tireless advocate for embryo research, the embryo transfer industry, new embryo technologies, and for students. Dr. Wheeler is currently involved with disseminating embryo technologies on four continents, including North and South America, Africa, and Asia. Dr. Wheeler's commitment and dedication to the International Embryo Transfer Society has been unwavering.

Dr. Wheeler can serve as an exemplar of the engaged scientist. He has made significant contributions to the embryo transfer industry and embryo biology while giving selflessly to the IETS and the broader scientific community. He is a most deserving recipient of the 2015 IETS Distinguished Service Award.