

Special Issue

Ovarian Function and Antral Follicular Development in Livestock Reproduction

Message from the Guest Editors

Recurrent follicular waves emerge throughout the luteal phase of the estrous cycle; previously, antral follicular growth was believed to occur at random or as a single bevy of follicles which mature just before ovulation. Abnormalities may contribute to suboptimal fertility; however, their etiology is not completely understood. The application of transrectal ultrasonography for monitoring ovarian dynamics paved the way for extensive studies on the endocrine control of ovarian function. Moreover, ultrasound imaging combined with computer-assisted analysis of ultrasonograms is a promising tool for determining and predicting various aspects of ovarian physiology; however, their applications have not been fully explored or utilized yet. In the 2000's and 2010's, an array of imaging modalities including, but not limited to, color and spectral Doppler ultrasonography have been added to the repertoire of ovarian monitoring techniques. This field of research still holds legitimate potential for advancing our knowledge of animal reproduction and reproductive biotechnologies; hence, it deserves to become a subject of reinvigorated attention.

Guest Editors

Prof. Dr. Paweł Mieczysław Bartlewski

Department of Biomedical Sciences, Ontario Veterinary College,
University of Guelph, Guelph, ON N1G 2W1, Canada

Dr. Maria Emilia Franco Oliveira

Department of Pathology, Reproduction and One Health, School of
Agricultural and Veterinarian Sciences, Sao Paulo State University,
Jaboticabal, SP, Brazil

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Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
animals@mdpi.com

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Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Clive J. C. Phillips

1. Institute of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Sciences, Estonian University of Life Sciences, Kreutzwaldi 1, 51014 Tartu, Estonia
2. Curtin University Sustainability Policy (CUSP) Institute, Kent St., Bentley 6102, Australia

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