

Preface

We were honored when Dr. Hakan Kocamis asked that we edit a special issue dedicated to the field of reproductive biology, the science in which we have enjoyed long and interesting careers. It is not often that a friend, colleague, and graduate of our own university is the Editor of a prestigious journal and makes such a request. So we embarked on a search for reviewers who could address a variety of topics that should interest a broad spectrum of students of the reproductive processes and management. We aimed to get papers in a variety of species and related to both sexes. The resulting issue contains 7 review papers from productive scientists in the field and 12 research reports selected from papers submitted to the journal for publication. These papers come from several countries.

In the reviewing process, we learned several new things and were surprised by the progress that has occurred in some areas with which we had not stayed current over the years. Readers may detect a bias towards ruminants (species that we have worked with extensively) which reflects our contacts in the field, but an excellent review on follicular development in avian species is included, and some of the genetic work was done in mice. The studies include genetic, environmental, and nutritional influences, and work from the gametes through pregnancy and the postpartum period. It is our hope that these papers will enlighten readers and provide bases for both new research ideas and innovative teaching, as well as innovative approaches to reproductive management.

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