

Young Scientists Award

Dr. Claude Robert



This award is given in recognition of the achievements of new members of the research community. Members of the Canadian Society of Animal Science who have demonstrated excellence in research in any area of Animal or Poultry Science, and who have held their Ph.D. for a period not greater than seven years. The Award is sponsored by Pfizer Canada Incorporated.

Dr. Robert has a BSc degree in biochemistry obtained at the University of Sherbrooke in 1992 and received his Master and Ph.D. degrees in Animal Science from Laval University in 1996 and 2002, respectively. During his graduate studies he worked at the identification of gene expression markers in swine (M.Sc.) and in bovine (Ph.D.). Although the goals were targeting very different aspects of livestock production namely backfat thickness and oocyte developmental potential, both studies involved comparative gene expression approaches which is nowadays referred to as functional genomics. In June 2003, he joined the Animal Sciences Department to undertake the establishment of his research program. His main research topic is to study the early embryonic development with the application to produce high quality embryos which is instrumental to the valorisation by commercialisation of high genetic merit animal backgrounds. His expertise in functional genomics allows him to collaborate with research teams involved in numerous animal species. Over the past 5 years, he has been involved in the training of 14 graduate students (supervision and co-supervision) as well as teaching at undergraduate and graduate cycles. He participates on many animal genetic committees at the provincial and national levels. So far his research team has developed a unique expertise in the study of early bovine development by addressing many of the challenges inherent to the handling of such minute samples as well as to the comparison of the developmental stages which are dramatically different. He developed this expertise through successful granting support, amongst these, he is actively involved as co-investigator, theme leader and platform developer within the EmbryoGENE network; a 7.5M\$ research initiative supported by NSERC.

Nominated by Dr. Marie-France Palin

Pictured above: Dr. Paul Baillargeon (Pfizer Animal Health) and Dr. Claude Robert