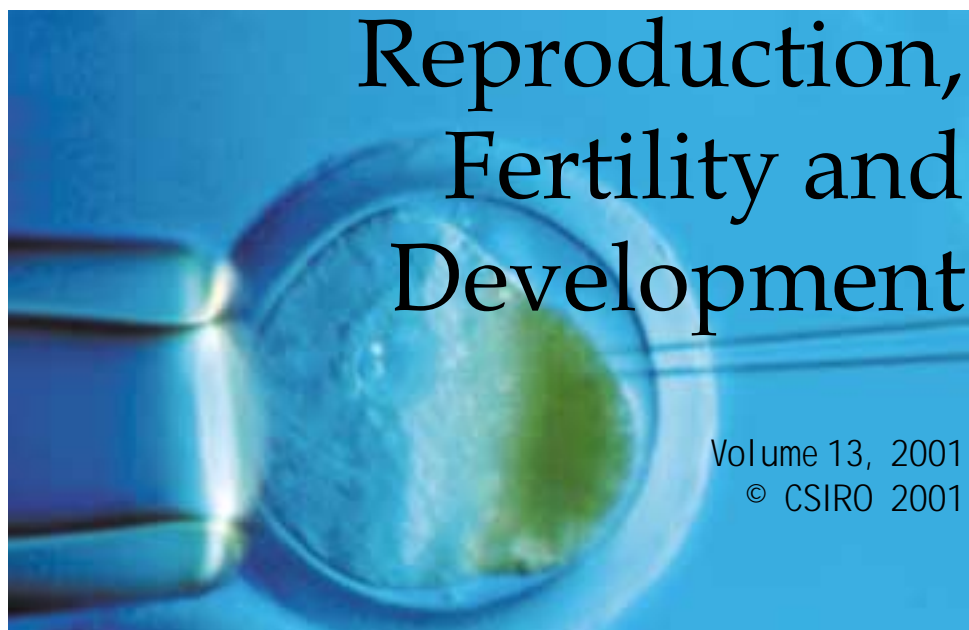


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Foreword

This symposium was convened to celebrate the life and works of Roger Valentine Short. From the day he graduated in veterinary science from Bristol University in 1954, Roger has been a veritable powerhouse of innovative and inspirational thoughts, words and deeds in the wider fields of reproductive physiology and comparative biology. And broad has been his brush within those fields: ranging, as the title of the symposium suggests, from his deep love of wild animals and his abiding interest in the functional mechanisms of their many and varied reproductive strategies; through the complexities of subjects like steroid biochemistry and evolutionary genetics; on through topics as diverse as the history of reproductive medicine, the enigmatic germ cell and the control of sexual differentiation, the effects of lactation on reproduction in man and animals and the dominating influence of the pineal gland upon life in general; and, in more recent years, to a genuine and deep-seated concern for the global consequences of fatal venereal diseases and the desperate need for practical contraception and effective education about sexual practices, to stem both the misery of AIDS and the consequences of overpopulation throughout the world. In scientific terms, Roger is truly a man for all seasons, a man of many parts and a giant among us. Blessed with a brilliant and enquiring mind and imbued with boundless enthusiasm, he remains fit and active and he retains his special affinity for students.

He is a first class researcher, a skilled author, a stimulating teacher and lecturer and the very best of convivial and amusing company. It was a great joy for the 35 individuals who presented papers at the Symposium, all of whom had been fortunate to come under Roger's spell during the preceding 46 years, to have the opportunity to present to Roger, in person, their latest research findings and thereby demonstrate to him their admiration, respect and thanks for his great influence on their own scientific philosophy and research careers. We salute him unreservedly for the great and varied contribution he has made to the science of reproduction.

Finally, we express our heartfelt thanks to the Havemeyer Foundation, and its President, Mr Gene Pranzo, for kindly sponsoring the symposium. The Foundation was established in New York in 1980 at the inspiration and direction of the late Dorothy Russell Havemeyer McConville. It has staged many workshop-style scientific meetings since then, most with a bias towards equine-related research topics, and all with a strong comparative flavour. Production of this volume was supported most generously by the Australian Society for Reproductive Biology.

Twink Allen, John Hearn, Gerald Lincoln, Marilyn Renfree



Roger Short at San Diego Zoo, July 1999.
Photograph by Kurt Benirschke.