

Tuesday - June 24 th , 2025	
Time	
13.00 - 13.15	Welcome
13.15 - 14.00	Label-free fluorescence analysis of sperm <i>Dr. Karl Kerns, Iowa State University</i>
14.00 - 14.40	Semen morphological anomalies and their impact on daily operations <i>Dr. Stéphane Alkabès, Synetics</i>
14.40 - 15.25	Reproductive biotechnologies to generate the sires of tomorrow: current opportunities & outlook for the future <i>Prof. Dr. Michael Hölker, Georg-Augustus University Göttingen</i>
15.25 - 15.45	Break
15.45 - 16.30	Whats's new at Minitube Germany: liquid media production – a virtual tour <i>Dr. Kilian Simmet, Minitube Germany</i>
16.30 - 17.15	Bovine ARTs in Australia: an overview <i>Dr. Ced Wise, Wise Repro, Australia</i>
17.15 - 17.30	Wrap-up

Please note that we are not allowed to publish our speakers' presentations and recordings.



June 24, 2025



Dr. Karl Kerns is an Assistant Professor in Animal Science at Iowa State University, specializing in livestock sire fertility. His research combines multiomic tools with advanced imaging and machine learning to explore the molecular and cellular factors affecting sperm function. The Kerns Lab develops label-free sperm analytics and applies flow cytometry and in vitro fertilization techniques to improve fertility diagnostics and reproductive efficiency. By bridging fundamental science with practical applications, Dr. Kerns' work contributes to innovations in animal breeding and assisted reproductive technologies.



Dr. Stéphane Alkabès received his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree in 2003 after studying in Zurich and Budapest. From 2007 to 2010, he completed a large animal surgical training program at Purdue University in the United States, where he also earned a Master of Science degree in 2009. In 2010, Dr. Alkabès became a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Surgery. Since 2014, he has served as Director of the AI Center at Masterrind GmbH, and currently heads the Biotechnology Department at Synetics, focusing on semen and embryo production. His professional interests include semen sorting, genetic engineering, and reproductive biotechnology.



Prof. Dr. Michael Hölker holds the Chair of Biotechnology and Reproduction of Farm Animals at the Georg-August University of Göttingen. A veterinarian by training, he received his Ph.D. from the University of Veterinary Medicine in Hannover, Germany, and habilitated at the University of Bonn in the field of animal breeding and embryo biotechnology. With over two decades of research and teaching experience, his work has focused on reproductive technologies, cloning, and embryo transfer. He has held leadership roles in academic institutions and scientific associations and is a Diplomate of the European College of Animal Reproduction. Prof. Dr. Hölker has contributed extensively to national and international scientific forums and serves as a reviewer for numerous leading journals.



Dr. Kilian Simmet studied agriculture at the University of Hohenheim, specializing in animal reproduction in his master's degree, before completing his Ph.D. at the LMU Munich in 2017 with a dissertation on chimera formation in bovine embryos. Before starting at Minitube in 2021, he held a postdoctoral position at the LMU Munich, investigating the role of key transcription factors during early development of bovine embryos. Dr. Kilian Simmet is a member of the third generation of the founding family of Minitube and was appointed CTO of Minitube International in 2025.



Dr. Ced Wise graduated from the University of Queensland in 1976 and completed postgraduate studies at Colorado State University. Since founding Ced Wise AB Services in 1984, he has focused exclusively on artificial reproduction in cattle, combining decades of hands-on expertise with active leadership across industry, government, and academic sectors. His international experience spans Southeast Asia, the Pacific, the Americas, and New Zealand. In 2024, he led the formation of Wise Repro, now encompassing several reproduction and breeding businesses in Queensland. He is also a co-owner of the bovine IVF company IGT, based in Brisbane.

SPEAKERS