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I graduated with a First Class Honors in Medical and Pharmaceutical Biotechnology at the University of South Australia. I received a scholarship from the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) of Australia to begin my PhD with Prof. Sarah Robertson at the University of Adelaide. It was here that my enthusiasm for investigating the cause of pregnancy complications was borne. I began investigating the role of immune cells in embryo implantation and early pregnancy success. We discovered that immune cells provide essential support for newly formed blood vessels in the ovary following ovulation – a key component to reproductive success. This work was published in 2014 in the prestigious Journal of Clinical Investigation. I also received many awards for this research, including the Dean's Commendation for Doctoral Thesis Excellence and a Burroughs-Wellcome Scholarship to attend Frontiers in Reproduction in the US.

Following this discovery, I wanted to pursue research related to vascular function. I moved to the University of Alberta, Canada, to pursue a postdoctoral fellowship under the mentorship of Prof. Sandra Davidge. Here, my work focused on how the environment to which a fetus is exposed during pregnancy can impact its risk of developing cardiovascular disease in adulthood. I conceived and conducted preliminary experiments that laid the groundwork for two successful operating grants on the pregnancy outcomes associated with advanced maternal age and cardiovascular disease risk for progeny of older mothers. I am also interested in interventions that can be implemented during the receptive developmental period to alter the disease trajectory for progeny that would otherwise be at risk. I have been funded by highly competitive fellowships from Canadian funding agencies (Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada and Alberta Innovates Health Solutions). I also received the prestigious CJ Martin Overseas Biomedical Fellowship from the NHMRC of Australia.