# Fertility in Adverse Environments: Who we are & what we do...



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**AUSTRALIA** 

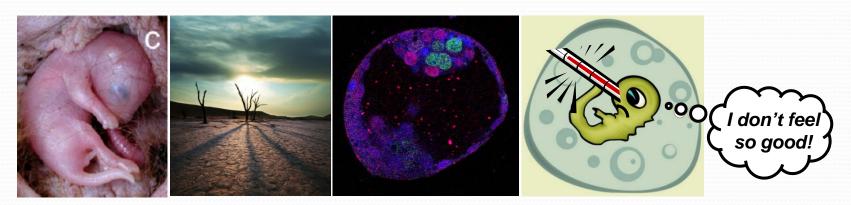
#### **GAME Lab: About Us**

#### • Research Interests:

- Assisted reproduction in wildlife (marsupials, African wild dogs & barramundi)
- Impact of adverse conditions (*IVF*, heat-stress, social-stress, disease & maternalage) on fertility (various animal models)

#### Techniques used:

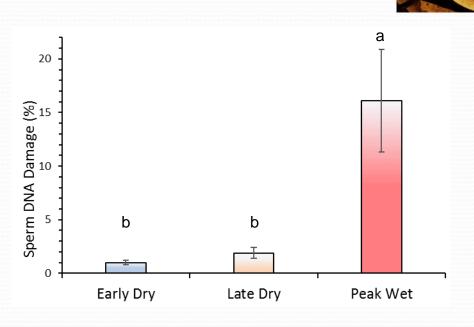
- highly sensitive molecular tools as 'barometer' to detect compromised viability in sperm & embryos:
  - CASA, TUNEL, immunofluorescent microscopy, qRT-PCR, semen collection, sperm cryopreservation, artificial insemination & IVF

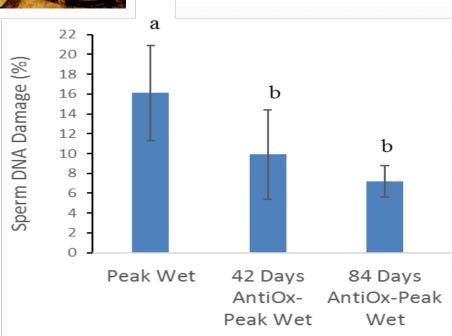


## **Current Projects**



• <u>S Peña (PhD)</u>: Impact of heat-stress on sperm DNA integrity & mitigation by antioxidants in the boar







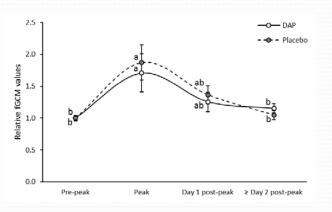
- *Sperm DNA damage*: up to <u>16-fold higher</u> in peak wet
- Antioxidant Treatment: significantly decreases sperm
   DNA damage after 42 & 84 days

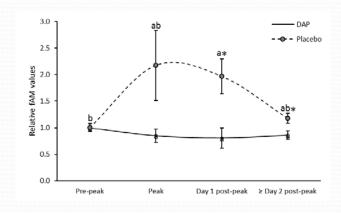
### **Current Projects**



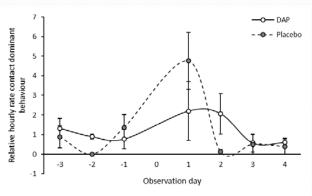
• F Van den Berghe (PhD): Developing artificial insemination & influence of appeasing pheromones on stress & aggression in endangered African wild dogs

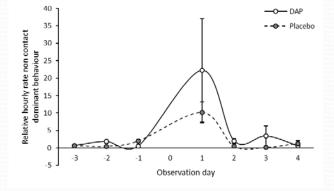














#### • DAP Treatment:

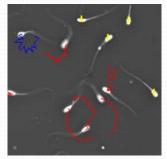
- signif decline in testosterone after intervention & reintroduction
- shift from contact to non-contact dominant behaviour

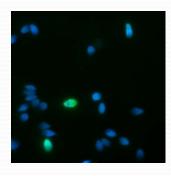
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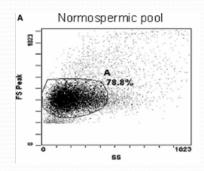


• *A Marc (PhD):* Developing advanced reproductive techniques to detect infertility & accelerate selective breeding in barramundi



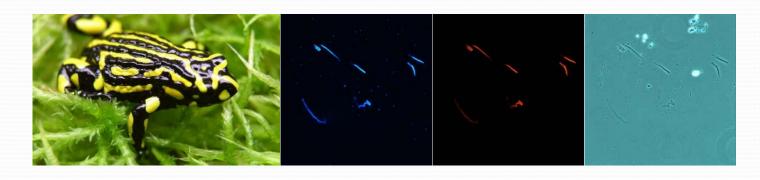








• *P Frias-Alvarez (Postdoc):* Impact of chytrid fungus on sperm quality in the endangered Corroboree frog



## **Our Expertise**



- *Sperm quality analysis tools:* CASA, TUNEL/FACS, fluorescent microscopy
- Assisted reproductive techniques: semen collection, sperm freezing, artificial insemination, IVF
- *Embryo viability & paternity testing:* DAPI, morphology, protein & gene expression, microsatellite analysis
- Mitigation strategies: nutrient, pheromone & behaviour



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Dean Jerry



**Bruce Gummow** 



**Anthony Parker** 



Monique Paris