

**THE
OVIDUCT
AND ITS
FUNCTIONS**

**Edited by
A.D. Johnson & C.W. Foley**

The Oviduct and its Functions

Edited By

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Sponsored by the College of Agriculture
and the College of Veterinary Medicine,
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under the auspices of the Southern Regional
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October 16, 1972*

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Preface

The oviduct has a unique position in reproduction. It is in the oviduct that the ova are first exposed to conditions outside of the ovary. It is here where the sperm cells await the arrival of the ova. Within the oviduct fertilization takes place, syngamy occurs, and the initial stages of cleavage and development begin. While it has been shown that many of these functions may occur under specialized conditions *in vitro*, the oviduct combines the essential components—environment, hormonal balances, and biochemical constituents—which make it possible for all of these functions to take place normally and in orderly fashion, thus making the process of reproduction possible. Thus, essential steps in the reproductive process take place within this small, delicate, highly adaptable system we refer to as the oviduct.

We sincerely express our thanks to those who have contributed articles to this volume and those who presented material at the symposium on The Oviduct and Its Functions, sponsored by the College of Agriculture and the College of Veterinary Medicine, the University of Georgia, in association with the Southeastern Regional Study Group on Reproductive Problems in Cattle. Our sincere thanks are extended also to those individuals who attended and participated in the symposium. Appreciation is extended to the administration of the College of Agriculture and the College of Veterinary Medicine for their financial support and encouragement for the symposium. Particular thanks are expressed to Dr. R. H. Dutt, Chairman of the Southeastern Regional Study Group for the Study of Reproductive Problems in Cattle as well as other members of the group who allowed

PREFACE

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