

Michael JAMES Athol Mylne BVM and S . MRCVS

Qualified as Veterinary Surgeon in June 1985 from the R(D)VC, University of Edinburgh .

Following 3 years in General Practice in East Yorkshire, James moved back to Edinburgh to work permanently in the field of animal reproduction technologies - ART . First working at Cashmere Breeders Ltd at MLURI, then joining Edinburgh Genetics at SAC in 1990.

Edinburgh Genetics was the first commercial service working within small ruminant ART to be commercialised in the UK . He initially worked as a veterinary surgeon and UK Embryo Transfer team leader, and later becoming Head of Operations (1996-2000) . The service was largely commercially based but also included work within the SAC programme of reproductive physiology /genetics, providing surgical services under ASPA, and undertaking/delivering research projects .

In 2000, James and his commercial partner Jon Hunton MRCVS , set up a private company , Britbreed Ltd, that continued to provide these services .

In the devastating FMD epidemic of 2001, a working relationship with Professor Dianna Bowles and subsequently the Sheep Trust became established. Throughout the Heritage Gene Bank initiative, James was the lead vet providing emergency advice and practical collection of germplasm from regionally vulnerable minority breeds during the epidemic and from within the Infected Areas . This work necessitated close cooperation of their Vet Teams with DEFRA to maintain effective biosecurity and the efficient provision of ART. Both semen and embryos were collected from breeds including the Herdwick , Dalesbred, Rough Fell, Portland and Lonk. This collection became formally entitled The Heritage Genebank, and has since been maintained under the guardianship of The Sheep Trust. James has continued as a Director/Trustee of The Sheep Trust from 2001.

In 2005 Britbreed was sold to Innovis and subsequently to a Consortium from New Zealand and the Netherlands (ABS NZ) (Dutch CRV). James has remained in the position of Lead Vet to the Company, now entitled ABEurope Ltd, throughout all of this period and has also contributed as an active Board Member .

ABEurope remains the UKs largest provider of ART to the small ruminant sector.

In 2016, James led the establishment of an IVF /IVP lab to provide for both the cattle and the small ruminant sectors. ABEurope through James offers services throughout the world and is an established world leader in the field.

ABE's Export /import services for UK livestock germplasm and expertise in germplasm cryopreservation are also well recognised .

In addition, James continues to provide input to many UK Research Institutes, including the Roslin Institute, Universities of Edinburgh, Nottingham and Glasgow, and the SRUC . These activities and input include providing ASPA surgical skills, advice, and joint research applications, most recently including a successful application to MRC with Professors Telfer and Picton involving novel techniques to enable ovine oogenesis on demand.

James Mylne advises many companies, breed societies and breed improvement programmes across the world about the relevance and practicalities of providing ART in farm animals.