

Events This Month:

**Embryology Lab Presentation
Online at www.sdfertility.com**
"Mystery Behind the Microscope"
Request login info by email at
seminar@sdfertility.com

Free Internet Seminar Online
**An educational seminar with our
fertility specialists ONLINE!**
More info on our website or by
email at seminar@sdfertility.com

**Free Group Injection Instructions
On Thursday Evenings at SDFC**
Call for more information and to RSVP.

Education Topic of the Month:
Refer a friend and get rewarded!
Visit our display in our patient education room

Tip of the Month

Green tea has many health benefits, but you may want to switch to another herbal tea, when trying to get pregnant. Green tea contains caffeine and tannin, which may have an adverse affect on your chances to conceive.

Quote of the Month:

"We want to extend a special thank you to each and everyone of you for your kindness and special gifts. Frankie & Erin for always answering the phone in a cheery manner and for always greeting us with a smile. Carrie & Sam for being in good spirits and patient with our questions and concerns. Tammy for being so prompt in getting us test results and always being happy and positive. Cecy for doing such a great job and putting a smile on my face with your singing and your unforgettable laugh. Thank you everyone who works at SDFC who helped to make our dream come true!" Patient's thank you note.

Newsletter Subscription:

Receive our monthly email newsletter! Subscribe by sending an email to newsletter@sdfertility.com and read helpful tips and articles in issues of the past 3 years in our archive at www.sdfertility.com/newsletterarchive.htm.

Egg Freezing at San Diego Fertility Center

The San Diego Fertility Center is embarking on a "new" and exciting technology in human IVF: Oocyte Cryopreservation also known as Egg Freezing. The technique involves the freezing of eggs (female gametes) so they can be stored for future use. New freezing methods have lead to a resurgence in the desire to cryopreserve oocytes. Vitrification is a quick-freeze technique that stores the egg in a glass like capsule. Slower freeze methods used for sperm or embryo cryopreservation have proven less desirable for preserving human oocytes. Our Lab Director, Bill Venier and his staff are working in conjunction with other IVF centers and healthcare professionals to investigate different freezing technologies, with emphasis on vitrification, to cryopreserve the human egg and preserve a woman's reproductive potential.

Egg freezing is an up and coming technology, which is starting to be offered by IVF clinics worldwide. The concept has been around for decades with little success until recently. Success rates are still considerably lower than sperm or embryo freezing but have achieved consistent survival rates leading to the birth of healthy babies.

Successful egg freezing has many benefits, which include reducing the cost of egg donation cycles, preserving a woman's fertility potential until a time that is more desirable, or for women who are going through treatment such as cancer that may reduce or threaten their reproductive health. "The egg freezing technology is still considered experimental", comments Bill, "Research is ongoing to provide sufficient data on safety and which freezing method produces the best results for our patients."

Only a small number of births have been reported worldwide, however Drs. Kettel and Hummel are excitingly optimistic that egg freezing techniques will improve and provide a safe alternative for preserving a woman's reproductive options.

New Alliance Benefits Fertility Patients

The cost of fertility drugs is a significant component of the expense when undergoing fertility treatment. A recently formed alliance between Serono, a leading pharmaceutical company in Reproductive Health, and Freedom Drug, the nation's largest fertility pharmacy, will forward cost savings advantages to fertility patients and provide enhanced support programs to our staff. Egg donor recipients will also be able to benefit from the program that offers fertility drugs at a lower cost. An online "e-prescribing" program will be set up in the next few weeks that allows treating physicians to send in prescription requests and refills via the Internet.



A new alliance between the pharmaceutical company and the pharmacy make financial and service benefits possible.

The program will be offered through Serono's Fertility Lifelines program, which includes additional fertility support services for patients at no cost. For more information go to www.fertilitylifelines.com or go to www.freedomdrug.com.