

*Dr. Kettel &  
Dr. Hummel & Staff  
Wish You  
Happy Holidays!*

#### Upcoming Events:

**Embryology Lab Evening**  
**December 2, 2003, 6pm**  
"Mystery Behind the Microscope"  
sponsored by La Jolla Discount  
Pharmacy

**Bagel Day**  
**December 3, 2002, 7:30am-12pm**  
Topic: Infertility Counseling—  
sponsored by Organon Stop by in the  
morning to enjoy complementary Starbucks  
coffee and bagels.

**Free Group Injection Instructions**  
**On Monday Evenings**  
Call for more information and to RSVP.

#### Tip of the Month:

When undergoing fertility treatment, try to avoid exposure to chemicals. That includes hair treatments such as perms, permanent and semi-permanent hair coloring. The chemicals from those treatments can get into the bloodstream through the scalp and possibly effect your treatment.

#### Quote of the Month:

"Thank you for always being so patient and caring. I know I wasn't the easiest patient, with my million questions and endless phone calls. But, you guys never once treated me unkindly. You are all such wonderful and supportive people." Thank you note from an expecting SDFC patient

#### Newsletter Subscription:

Receive our monthly newsletter per email and stay informed about fertility issues! Subscribe by sending an email to [newsletter@sdfertility.com](mailto:newsletter@sdfertility.com) and read missed issues in our archive at [www.sdfertility.com/newsletterarchive.htm](http://www.sdfertility.com/newsletterarchive.htm).

## Temecula Patients Enjoy Convenience of New Satellite Program

SDFC has always been concerned with IVF patients who do not live in the San Diego area. With the fast growing population in Temecula Valley, Dr. Kettel and Dr. Hummel created a new program called Satellite IVF Program (SIP) to accommodate SDFC's patients in Riverside County. Local physicians in Riverside were approached to participate in the program with Dr. Hummel and Kettel to orient the local OB/Gyn to the infertility monitoring procedure. The program allows their patients to complete most of their IVF monitoring in the local OB/Gyn office.

One office participating in this program is Temecula Valley OB/Gyn on Medical Center Drive. "Our patients love the convenience of having Dr. Yang monitor their progress during their IVF cycle," comments Diana Monahan, office administrator at Temecula Valley OB/Gyn, "This reduces a lot of stress for our patients, an issue that is so important during IVF."

Riverside patients still benefit from the top patient services offered at SDFC and are seen here for key IVF appointments, including the initial consultation with the doctor and the financial coordinator, egg retrieval and embryo transfer. SDFC physicians also have daily contact with the OB/Gyn office to keep close oversight during the IVF monitoring visits. For more information about the SIP program, please contact SDFC or Temecula Valley OB/Gyn.



## SDFC Patient's Privacy is Top Priority

Undergoing infertility treatment is a very personal matter. New privacy rules released under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) focus on informing each patient of their rights. This includes the right to their own health information and their rights to consent in advance for the release of that information for any purpose other than treatment or payment of services. "This has been our policy and standard at SDFC for many years," says Lisa Souza, CEO and Privacy Officer at SDFC, "We continue to focus on patient privacy as a key to delivering quality care."

The new rules may require more reading and consent forms to sign for each patient. However, the rules are designed to protect all parties in this era of easy information transmission. The new HIPAA rules aside, SDFC employs the highest of standards regarding our patients' privacy, including the waiting room, using only the first name when calling patients, or making sure that a conversation is not overheard by others. "These high standards comply with our mission to provide the best possible fertility care available."



## New Test Might Give Answer to Unexplained Infertility

Scientists at Yale School of Medicine developed a new test called the Endometrial Function Test™ (EFT®), that may explain why certain infertility treatment is unsuccessful. The test evaluates a woman's uterine lining using new biochemical markers in combination with biopsies taken once or twice during one menstrual cycle.

Drs. Hummel and Kettel believe that EFT testing, currently offered at a low cost in a few fertility clinics in the US, has great chances to eventually become a standard in evaluation of women under 35 years of age who have been trying to conceive for over one year. Unfortunately, this test doesn't yet identify treatable abnormalities.



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