

Upcoming Events:

Embryology Lab Evening

July 8, 2003, 6pm

"Mystery Behind the Microscope"
sponsored by Serono, Inc.

To RSVP call or email us.

Free Group Injection Instructions On Monday Evenings

Call for more information and to RSVP.

Bagel Day

July 9, 2003, 7:30am-12pm

Topic: Egg Donor Agencies in San
Diego —sponsored by Organon

Stop by in the morning to enjoy
complementary Starbucks coffee and bagels.

++ Telegram ++

► FertilMARQ, a male infertility test, allows men to measure their sperm count at home by indicating the sperm concentration in the semen. However, there are other factors that determine male infertility only found in tests performed by licensed laboratories. For more information on FertilMARQ, go to www.testsystemsathome.com.

► A recent Consumer Reports study found that home ovulation kits do not work for about 12% of women using them. The 12% consist of women with polycystic ovarian syndrome (PCOS) or women who have long or irregular cycles.

Quote of the Month:

"All of the staff at SDFC explained every procedure to me thoroughly and really added the personal touch. Keep doing what you're doing!" Patient's anonymous feedback on a recent satisfaction survey.

Newsletter Subscription:

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

SDFC's Participates in Numerous Research Studies

Part of being one of the leading fertility centers in the country is playing an active role in the latest research. Under the direction of Dr. Michael Kettel as primary investigator, the San Diego Fertility Center has conducted over 50 studies in the last 8 years. There are currently six active studies being conducted at SDFC. The current research studies are in the areas of adhesion prevention after laparoscopy, uterine fibroids, IVF, and IVF with PGD.



PGD has been one of the main topics in studies at SDFC.

"Not only are there clinical benefits to participating in studies, but research studies can often help patients with some of the financial burden of fertility treatments," says Tammi, "Any SDFC patient is eligible to be screened to see if they meet the entry criteria for a study." Most studies have criteria that must be met prior to being screened for participation. For more information about the research at SDFC, please visit our website at sdfertility.com/clinicalresearch.htm.

Egg Donor Program Continues to Grow

Over the past few months, SDFC's egg donor program has had an increase in inquiries about available egg donors. Program Coordinator, Chris O'Kane CNP, feels most of the patients prefer to choose a candidate from SDFC's database. "Patients know that our donors go through intense prescreening to qualify," explains Chris O'Kane CNP.

Patients can choose from about 40 egg donors, who are between 21 and 31 of age. Most of them are either college students who use the money for educational purposes or women who have had a child and who want to help other couples conceive.

Earlier this year, the database of egg donors was made available to patients on a secure web page. Patients love the convenience of going online at home to review the list, instead of looking through a binder at the doctor's office. SDFC protects the database by password to ensure privacy for the donors. For more information about the program go to our website or contact Chris O'Kane at eggdonor@sdfertility.com.

PGD Screening is Common at State-of-the-Art Fertility Clinics

Approximately 1,000 cases of preimplantation genetic diagnosis (PGD) are performed in US fertility clinics each year. Therefore, screening embryos for genetically inherited diseases has become one of the standard services frequently offered to IVF patients. The main reason for PGD screening is to help older women with a history of repeated miscarriages to carry their baby to term. Only about 25% of PGD cases are performed to detect genetic abnormalities. Drs. Hummel and Kettel recommend PGD screening to female patients over 38 years of age to limit the risk of genetic abnormalities for the baby. By performing the test, they also limit the risk of multiple births since the healthy embryos are identified and there is not need to implant several embryos to improve the odds of a pregnancy.

For many patients, the decision to have PGD screening is of financial concern. While the test is required by law to be covered by insurance in Massachusetts, New Jersey and Illinois, patients in California must cover the cost on their own.

Research in PGD continues to improve the technique. Currently, embryology labs can only screen for a single-gene defect like Huntington's disease or for the nine most common chromosome defects. Dr. Hummel and Kettel predict that it will soon be possible to test every single chromosome and thus lowering the risk of birth defects even more.



This newsletter is sponsored by Arizona Apothecary Shops. Visit www.fertilitymeds.us or email: info@fertilitymeds.us