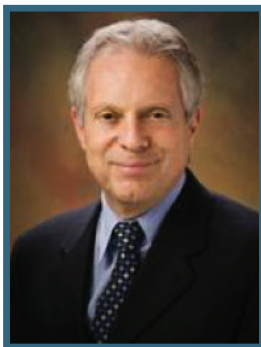




AUGUST 2019



President's Greeting

Jay S. Schinfeld, M.D.
President 2019-20

Welcome all to a very exciting schedule of PARES meetings!

Also exciting are other changes I hope we can accomplish this year...

Alex Travis, VMD, PhD, from Cornell will discuss male infertility testing at our September meeting. We have invited the Philadelphia Urological Society to join us for Dr. Travis' talk at the Cornithian Yacht Club, a beautiful venue with a reputation for excellent food. Make sure you contact your own referring urologists to come!

Philadelphia will host the ASRM Annual Meeting in October. As Co-Chair of the Sessions Management Committee, I ask you to encourage fellows and residents applying for REI fellowships to contact me about helping the society manage the meeting. Yes, I am recruiting Redcoats but we are not invading Philly! We are at every ASRM meeting to help attendees navigate the conference.

In November will be our joint meeting with the Delaware Valley Reproductive Biologist Group. Sharon Anderson, PhD, will be lining up the speaker, perhaps even a debate by two experts similar to what we have recently read about in Fertility Sterility. More information to come.

Fady Sharara MD, a great lecturer and consistent researcher over the years will be speaking at our January meeting on the topic of Modern Management of Thin Lining in ART.

Marc Fritz, MD from Chapel Hill, will be speaking about Surgery in the Practice of REI and Infertility: Before and After the Advent of IVF.

Last year we started publication in the newsletter of current research, abstracts and recent publications with excellent feedback and many email questions. We invite PARES members, their nurses, embryologists, fellows and residents and students to submit articles and subjects directly to the PARES office to share with our local Reproductive Endocrinologists.

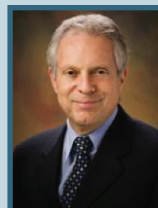
Finally, I will be asking the local OB Chairs, Embryologists through the DVRBG, Fellows and Division Directors, and Residency Coordinators to encourage their residents, fellows, and rotating students to work with their REI physicians to compete for the Luigi Mastroianni Prize. The Mastroianni Award is a funded prestigious award that can lead to further research and publications.

I invite any suggestions on topics, functions, and sponsorship to help keep our meeting costs down.

Yours,

Jay S Schinfeld, MD
President 2019-20

Meet the Board (2019-2020)



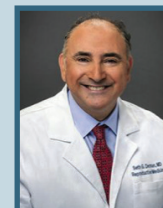
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Emelia A. Bachman, M.D.
Immediate Past President



Sharon Anderson, MS, PhD, ELD, HCLD
Liaison, Delaware Valley Reproductive Biologists Group

Thursday, September 19, 2019

The CapScore™ Male Fertility Assay

VENUE: The Corinthian Yacht Club of Philadelphia

Alexander J. Travis, V.M.D., Ph.D.

Professor of Reproductive Biology

Director, Cornell University

Master of Public Health Program

*The Philadelphia Area Reproductive Endocrine Society
cordially invites you to our next meeting*



***“The CapScore™ Male Fertility Assay:
Applications for Understanding the Continuum of Male Fertility?”***

Alexander J. Travis, VMD, PhD

Professor of Reproductive Biology
Director, Cornell University Master of Public Health Program

Thursday, September 19, 2019

Cocktails 6:00 – 7:00 PM

Dinner followed Lecture and Q/A – 7:00 PM

VENUE: The Corinthian Yacht Club of Philadelphia

300 West 2nd Street, Essington, PA 19029

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Reservation Form

Payment by check or *online* at www.paresociety.org

We cannot accept payments at the door.

(If paying by check, please detach and return to our office with your check.)

P.A.R.E.S. & P.U.S. Members & Staff - \$70.00 ____ number attending x \$70.00 = \$_____

Non-Members - \$80.00 ____ number attending x \$80.00 = \$_____

***** RSVP's are due no later than Friday, August 30th. *****

Please make your check payable to P.A.R.E.S. and mail it to:

308 Rolling Creek Road, Swarthmore, PA 19081.

I will attend the program featuring Alexander Travis, VMD, PhD. on Thursday, September 19, 2019.

Attendee names _____

Endometrial Evaluation For All? Christos Coutifaris, MD, PhD

March 21, 2019



(L-R) The evening's speaker, Christos Coutifaris, MD, PhD, Divya Shah, MD, The Mastroianni Award Winner, Brent Monseur, M.D. and Emelia Bachman, MD



Welcome new Board Member, Seth Derman, M.D.

Endometrial Evaluation For All? Christos Coutifaris, MD, PhD

March 21, 2019



Endometrial Evaluation For All? Christos Coutifaris, MD, PhD

March 21, 2019



P.A.R.E.S.

Endometrial Evaluation For All? Christos Coutifaris, MD, PhD

March 21, 2019



ASRM Ethics Committee Updates Two Opinions

Apr 24, 2019

By: ASRM

Origin: ASRM Press Release

- Fertility treatment when the prognosis is very poor or futile
- Interests, obligations, and rights in gamete and embryo donation

The Ethics Committee of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine has updated two of its opinions: “Fertility treatment when the prognosis is very poor or futile” and “Interests, obligations, and rights in gamete and embryo donation.”

In [“Fertility treatment when the prognosis is very poor or futile.”](#) ASRM’s Ethics Committee advises on the way patients should be treated when their prospect of achieving a live birth is less than 1% (futile), or when they have a very poor prognosis, when the odds of a live birth are less than 5% per cycle. The Committee sets out the applicable ethical precepts, examines situations in which success is a remote prospect and clinicians may refuse treatment, and discusses ways to communicate bad news, minimize confusion and prevent conflicts.

The Committee recommends that clinics develop patient-centered policies to protect patients’ interests in doing everything they can to have a child and in making their own decisions, while also facilitating evidence-based assessments to support clinicians’ duty to provide beneficial care. This duty includes a responsibility to refrain from providing treatment which is almost certain to fail.

Patient-centered decision-making means that refusing treatment to protect a fertility center’s success rates is never justifiable, just as providing treatment that will not help the patient, but will result in financial gain for the provider, is never justified.

All decisions to refuse to initiate, or to continue, treatment should be made as part of a shared-decision-making process including physician and patients. This process of shared decision-making calls for the physician to periodically review the treatment plan with the patients.

While the provision of futile therapies is usually not considered ethical, the Committee notes that in some circumstances a patient may seek treatment for psychological benefit. In such cases, treatment may be provided after explicit education and discussion of values. When a treatment’s prospect of success is very poor, it is imperative that physicians clearly present the risks, benefits, and alternatives to their patients.

Egg donation, sperm donation, and embryo donation are widely-used in treatment for infertility and as a means for people who do not have an opposite-sex partner to have children. In “Interests, obligations, and rights in gamete and embryo donation,” ASRM’s Ethics Committee highlights the need for shared information in the consent process and identifies many of the medical, ethical, and social conflicts that may arise between and among the various participants and discusses possible resolutions.

The Committee finds that donors, recipients and clinic programs have ongoing moral relationships with each other that extend into the future, beyond the time of provision of gametes or embryos. As medical knowledge and technology, social norms, and the legal landscape evolve through the lifetimes of participants and their children, these relationships will likely need to be reevaluated. Clinics should make it clear, at the time of the donation, that promises of anonymity or future contact cannot be assured.

ASRM Ethics Committee Updates Two Opinions

Because the foundational interests of all parties relate to health- physical and psychological- donors and recipients have, at minimum, an obligation to authorize the appropriate disclosure of non-identifying medical information.

In discussing the duties and information various parties owe, or choose to share with one another, the Committee advises that “open disclosure of medically relevant information to minimize the risk of serious adverse outcomes to all parties” is ethically required. They address the possibility that there is an ongoing responsibility of the donor to offspring to update his or her health history- recommending that donors continue to provide health information either to the clinic program or to another entity that can communicate it to the recipient family- and recognizing the possibility that, in some cases, the offspring’s health information may be of value to the donor and/or other recipient families and should be shared.

The Committee also discusses participants’ differing needs and preferences for information disclosure or privacy in matters apart from health information. They recommend that donors be encouraged to share other non-identifying information and allow for personal contact in the future if all parties agree. The Committee notes that perceptions of gamete and embryo donation and the relationships formed through the practice will continue to evolve and produce new ethical challenges. “Gamete and embryo donation is more than a transfer of gametes/embryos from one party to another. It is part of a method of family building that involves a complex interchange of emotions and psychological needs of donor, recipient, children, and, potentially, the participants’ extended family.”

ASRM President, Dr. Peter Schlegel remarked, “Both of these documents from the Ethics Committee emphasize the imperative of a patient-centered focus in reproductive medicine. Providing the best care for our patients requires more than coming up with the correct diagnosis of their disease states. We create a treatment path that addresses their infertility and, we hope, leads to a successful birth, but that also supports their personal vision of family.”

Ethics Committee of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine, Fertility treatment when the prognosis is very poor or futile: an Ethics Committee opinion, Fertility and Sterility, April 2019

Ethics Committee of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine, Interests, obligations, and rights in gamete and embryo donation: an Ethics Committee opinion, Fertility and Sterility, April 2019

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