

No longer a new journal

Welcome to our 4th issue and our 2nd year of publication!

This month, we introduce a new section, entitled, “Mini-Reviews.” As the name implies, these are brief reviews intended to fit neatly into the ensemble of reviews available at the *Fertility and Sterility* sister journals. Whereas *F&S Reviews* is focused on delivering comprehensive reviews and meta-analyses and *Fertility and Sterility* continues to publish “Views and Reviews” that present several different views on a single topic, our “Mini-Reviews” are designed to offer brief, practical overviews of single interesting topics in clinical reproductive medicine. We are delighted that our first Mini-Review takes this approach and addresses the topic of “Pyospermia: background and controversies.” Here, Dr. Velez and colleagues present a succinct summary of this controversial topic and provide some helpful and practical suggestions for its clinical management (1).

Our Featured Article addresses the “Real world experience with intravaginal culture using InVoCell: an alternative model for infertility treatment (2).” I have a distinct memory of the 1987 World Congress on In Vitro Fertilization in Norfolk, Virginia where Claude Ranoux presented the concept of intravaginal in vitro fertilization culture in his prize-winning poster (3). I was taken by the simplicity of the method and felt certain that this brilliant innovation would surely take over as the dominant approach to embryonic culture, especially in the low-resource areas of the world. Clearly, that did not happen, and it is interesting that 35 years later, we are still presenting data on this method that can be seen as “preliminary.” In spite of this, I have not lost my fascination with the concept of intravaginal culture. If we are to expand access to fertility care, we must address the reality of the cost of the current standard practice of in vitro fertilization. Low-resource areas simply cannot accommodate laboratories with 24-hour access to electricity, air filtration systems, and multiple incubators. Even though we generally consider these low-resource areas to be overseas, there are many of us who practice very close to neighborhoods that qualify as “low-resource.” We believe that focusing on intravaginal

culture will spark the development of cheaper in vitro fertilization programs that will increase access to care in all parts of the world, including in our own country (4).

There are many other offerings in this issue. Readers may want to explore the predictive value of sperm morphology in the actual inseminated sample on the probability of pregnancy, the cost-effectiveness of preimplantation genetic testing for aneuploidies in an egg donation model, and the ploidy analysis of ectopic pregnancies. Finally, do not miss this month’s “Short Communication,” which demonstrates the images of fused blastocysts that form as a consequence of group embryo culture (5). There are several non-intuitive aspects of group culture, including the fact that humans generally only have 1 blastocyst in the fallopian tube at a time. However, that does not imply that group culture is not beneficial. Who would have expected fused blastocysts in vitro? Do those occur in vivo, maybe among polyovular species? How would we know?

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