



Canadian Fertility
and Andrology Society

71ST ANNUAL MEETING

Patient-Centred Fertility Medicine: Balancing
Scientific Advancements, Best Clinical Practices
and Holistic Health



September 18th – September 20th, 2025
Centre des Congrès de Québec, Quebec City

www.cfas.ca

514-300-1333

01



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Canadian Fertility
and Andrology Society

ABOUT CFAS

The CFAS is a multidisciplinary national non-profit society that serves as the voice of reproductive specialists, scientists, and allied health professionals working in the field of assisted reproduction in Canada. Celebrating its 71st year, the mission of the CFAS is to responsibly advance reproductive science and medicine in Canada through leadership, research, and guidance.



Through its multidisciplinary membership of nearly 1000, the CFAS aims to promote excellence in the field of assisted reproduction to the benefit of Canadians and children born of this technology.



www.cfas.ca



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514-300-1333



[@cfas.scfa](https://www.instagram.com/cfas.scfa)



Canadian Fertility
and Andrology Society

CFAS TEAM

Get to know the team that works with
you to keep our Society thriving and
reaching its goals!



Emily McIntosh
Executive Director



Lorinda Jakubonis
Executive Assistant



Tanya Thibault
Communications Coordinator



Melissa Ujvari-Lebel
Events Coordinator

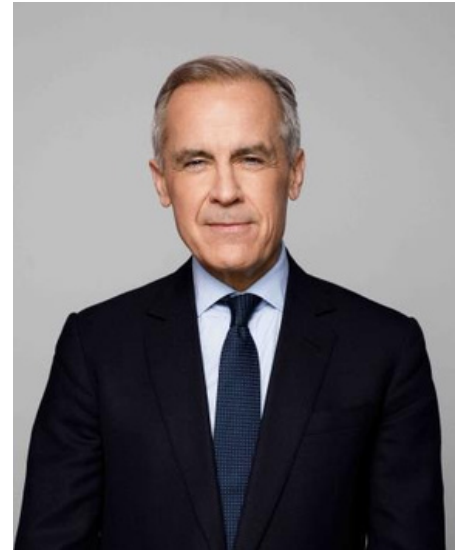


PRIME MINISTER • PREMIER MINISTRE

I would like to convey my warmest greetings to everyone taking part in the 2025 Annual Meeting of the Canadian Fertility and Andrology Society (CFAS).

This event offers experts in the field of assisted reproduction an important platform to share theories, best practices and their expertise. I am certain that delegates will make the most of this opportunity to explore the latest advancements in research and treatment options, as well as the chance to connect with colleagues and peers from across the country.

I would like to thank CFAS for hosting this event. You can take pride in your commitment to improving reproductive science and medicine in Canada.



I wish you all an insightful conference and a memorable stay in Québec City.

The Right Honourable Mark Carney, P.C., O.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada

Ottawa

2025

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR OF QUÉBEC



As a pioneer in sustainable health, Québec City is proud to host the 71st annual meeting of the Canadian Fertility and Andrology Society (CFAS).

I welcome each of you to our beautiful city.

Great strides have been made in reproduction in recent decades thanks to your expertise, perseverance and commitment to improving the well-being of Canadian families.

In your own way, you are helping to build a more equitable and healthy society.

Events like this, bringing together hundreds of experts in one place, foster the knowledge sharing and networking that are essential to progress, whether through small steps or major breakthroughs.

Like the CFAS, Québec City hopes to contribute, through its leadership and its world-renowned expertise in health, to the advancement of science and medicine by highlighting ethics and innovation.

Finally, I would like to thank the organizing team for choosing Québec City for this meeting.

May your discussions be fruitful, and may your time with us be truly memorable.

Welcome to Québec City!

Bruno Marchand
Mayor of Québec



WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENT DR. PAUL CHANG

Dear CFAS Friends and Colleagues,

As the current President of the Canadian Fertility and Andrology Society (CFAS), it is my great pleasure, together with the Scientific Planning Committee, to present the program for our 2025 Annual Meeting in the beautiful Quebec City, September 18 – 20.

With the theme of 'Patient Centred Fertility Medicine: Balancing Scientific Advancements, Best Clinical Practices, and Holistic Health' this meeting is designed to be both informative and inspiring.

We are delighted to welcome participants from across Canada and around the world to share knowledge, exchange ideas, and engage in discussions – all with the goal of improving outcomes for our patients. The program features a variety of sessions, workshops, and presentations from leading experts.

Highlights include our Opening Lecture by Dr. Donal Levy, founder of the Osher Clinical Center for Integrative Health at Brigham and Women's Hospital who will speak on 'The Art, Power and Science of Integrative Health'. His insights will encourage us to approach fertility medicine with greater compassion and perspective. Other engaging sessions will cover topics such as patient pain management during medical procedures and the pre-conference evidenced-informed guide to answering patient questions about supplements.

We also invite you to attend the Annual General Meeting, where we will provide updates on CFAS initiatives – including collaborations with our sister international societies and ongoing engagement with government partners at both provincial and federal levels. Several important announcements will also be shared.

We look forward to your active participation in what promises to be a valuable, enriching, and memorable event for all. Thank you for your continued dedication to advancing the field – together, we will ensure that patients receive the very best care across Canada.

Sincerely,
Dr. Paul Chang
CFAS President 2024-2025





Board of Directors

Dr. Paul Chang, MD *President*

Dr. Prati Sharma, MD Vice President and CPD Director

David Smithson, MD *Treasurer*

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Jason Au, MSc

Meivys Garcia, MD

Dr. Karen Buzaglo, MD, FRCSC, GREI

Alexander Lagunov, MSc *Past President*

Scientific Planning Committee

Dr. Paul Chang, President

Dr. Prati Sharma, Vice-President and CPD Director

Dr. Karen Buzaglo, Board of Director

Dr. Neal Mahutte, CPG Committee Chair and IVF Directors Group Co-Chair

Dr. Jason Hitkari, IVF Directors Group Co-Chair

Dr. Sergey I. Moskovtsev, Andrology SIG Chair

Dr. Siamak Bashar, ART Lab SIG Chair

Amrit Malhotra, Counselling SIG Co-Chair

Shawn Winsor, Ethics and Law SIG Co-Chair

Shirley Levitan, Ethics and Law SIG Co-Chair

Dr. Karen Glass, Fertility Preservation SIG Chair

Dr. Wael Jamal, Genetics SIG Chair

Dr. Alex Hartman, Imaging and Reproductive Surgery SIG Chair

Danielle Dubois, Leadership and Management SIG Chair

Zeinab Makki, Nursing SIG Chair

Alison Gilmour, Nursing SIG Co-Chair

Dr. Laine Halpem Zisman, 2SLGBTQ+ SIG Chair

Dr. Andrée Gauthier-Fisher, Research in Reproductive Science SIG Co-Chair

Emily McIntosh, Executive Director

Advisory Council

Dr. Jason Hitkari, MD

Dr. Neal Mahutte, MD

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Awarded to any individual who demonstrates
tremendous dedication to advancing the field of
Reproductive Medicine and Science.

Dr. David Mortimer

Dr. David Mortimer has been selected as the recipient of the CFAS 2025 Award of Excellence, an honor recognizing his profound and sustained impact on reproductive medicine in Canada and around the world. Dr. Mortimer's career, spanning over four decades, has been marked by exceptional leadership in the field of assisted reproduction, both through his scientific scholarship and his relentless drive to raise clinical and laboratory standards. With dual expertise as a consultant, educator, and laboratory director, he has directly shaped the landscape of reproductive medicine. Internationally recognized for his deep commitment to quality management and laboratory accreditation, Dr. Mortimer has served on several key scientific advisory boards and has been a primary architect in establishing rigorous standards for ART labs, notably through his roles as a Scientific Director and as convenor of numerous consensus workshops on quality improvement. His pioneering work has resulted in advancements that are now embedded in everyday clinical practice, benefitting both patients and professionals on a global scale.

Within the Canadian Fertility and Andrology Society (CFAS), Dr. Mortimer's contributions are unmatched. Over the past 25 years since his return to Canada, he has held numerous executive and advisory positions, including Western Provincial Director, Secretary-Treasurer, and Society President. Under his guidance, the CFAS has seen significant modernization and international recognition. Dr. Mortimer has been instrumental in developing national accreditation and standards for ART laboratories in Canada, serving tirelessly as an educator, mentor, and advocate for best practice. His influence extends internationally, having led major workshops and contributed to standard-setting with organizations such as ESHRE, Alpha Scientists in Reproductive Medicine, and the World Health Organization. Dr. Mortimer's prolific scholarly contributions include over 160 peer-reviewed publications, textbooks, and consensus reports, as well as an impressive record of more than 8,000 citations and an h-index of 46. Few individuals have blended scientific rigor, visionary leadership, and a global perspective as Dr. Mortimer has. His selection for the CFAS 2025 Award of Excellence recognizes a legacy that is not only deeply woven into Canada's reproductive medicine fabric but also resonates internationally as a benchmark for excellence and innovation.



CAROLE RHÉAUME AWARD

Given to a nurse who successfully enhances the patient experience or clinical practice or engages the public.



Nadia Rudi

The Canadian Fertility and Andrology Society (CFAS) is proud to announce Nadia Rudi as the recipient of the 2025 Carole Rhéaume Award, in recognition of her outstanding leadership, compassionate patient care, and transformative impact on fertility nursing. With a distinguished career spanning nearly two decades at Clinique ovo, Nadia has been a cornerstone of the clinic's excellence and innovation in reproductive medicine. She first worked alongside Carole Rhéaume herself, embodying and perpetuating Carole's legacy of empathy, teamwork, and dedication to patient-centered care.

Nadia's accomplishments are both broad and deep. As the lead nurse for all aspects of IVF and FET patient cycles, she coordinates interdisciplinary teams, bridges communication between nursing and medical staff, and leads weekly multidisciplinary case review meetings, ensuring optimal and collaborative patient care. Her pioneering improvements in clinical protocols have streamlined patient journeys, simplified complex procedures, and elevated standards for both patients and staff. Nadia has also been instrumental in the training and mentorship of new nurses, fostering a culture of excellence, respect, and professional growth within the team.

Her unwavering integrity and advocacy for patients have made her a trusted and reassuring presence for individuals and couples navigating fertility treatments. Nadia's ability to connect with patients, create individualized care plans, and offer relentless support exemplifies the compassion that defines exceptional nursing. Beyond her clinical contributions, Nadia has set benchmarks for quality care through her leadership in accreditation, development of best practices, and tireless pursuit of service improvement at Clinique ovo.

As the primary reference for nursing at the clinic and a respected leader in the broader field, Nadia's career honours the memory of Carole Rhéaume. Her commitment to service, mentorship, equity, and innovation makes her a truly deserving recipient of this prestigious award. The CFAS congratulates Nadia Rudi for her exemplary achievements and enduring impact on the fertility community.

CFAS COMMUNITY GRANT

The CFAS Community Grant is designed to support Canadian organizations that are driving positive change in reproductive healthcare. Applications are welcomed from non-profits, charities, academic institutions, and healthcare providers based in Canada. This grant provides funding for programs that improve access to fertility care, offer patient support, and promote education in the field of reproductive health.



Project Title:

Culturally Informed Education on
Oncofertility for Inuit Patients and
Nunavummiut Healthcare
Providers

Dr. Mehr Jain
MD

University of Ottawa

CFAS SMART GRANT

The SMART (Supporting Meaningful Analysis and Research in Technologies) Grant is designed to provide financial support for innovative research projects that explore critical issues in fertility and reproductive health—particularly those not currently funded by traditional granting agencies.



Project Title:

Risk of infant congenital anomalies in relation to maternal Polycystic Ovary Syndrome: A population-based cohort study in Ontario, Canada

Dr. Maria P. Velez
MD, PhD, FRCSC
McGill University

CFAS TRAINING GRANTS

The Training Grant is intended to support research projects conducted by fellows in Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility (REI) programs that are formally accepted by departments within recognized higher education institutions. These grants aim to help fellows initiate or advance clinical or academic projects that contribute to the field of assisted reproduction.



Project Title:

'Umbrella' Study: Uterine Microbiome and its Role in a thin Endometrial Lining
– A Prospective Study

Dr. Akanksha Kulshreshtha
MD, MBA, Other, BHSc, FRCSC
University of Toronto



Project Title:

Developing a Machine Learning Model to Predict Subsequent Pregnancy Outcomes in Patients with Idiopathic Recurrent Pregnancy Loss

Dr. Catherine Friedman
MD, BSc, BScN
McMaster University



Project Title:

The effect of protocol selection on frozen embryo transfer cycle pregnancy rates: A retrospective cohort study

Dr. Ghazal Danesh
MD, BSc, FRCSC
Ottawa Fertility Centre

CFAS SEED GRANTS

The SEED Grant program is designed to foster collaboration across diverse disciplines and provide early-stage financial support for innovative research in reproductive health. These grants are intended to help researchers initiate new projects or generate preliminary data that can serve as the foundation for larger studies and future funding opportunities through major granting agencies.



Project Title:

Recapitulating cellular defects of the thin dysfunctional endometrium in vitro

Dr. Andrea Jurisicova
MSc, PhD
Sinai Health



Project Title:

Investigation of the cell biological impacts of metaphase II egg cryopreservation

Dr. Lia Paim
PhD, BSc, MSc
Universite de Montreal



Project Title:

Supporting Fertility Preservation Decisions in Pediatric Oncology: Development and Pilot of a Patient-Centered Decision Aid

Dr. Stephanie Dufour
MD
University of Ottawa

Date: Thursday, Sept. 18th, 2025

Time: 8:00 AM - 11:30 AM EST

At the Hilton Quebec in room Villeray/De Tourny

WOMEN'S CAUCUS BREAKFAST



Jennifer Madigan

Syntax Strategic

Jennifer Madigan is a seasoned communications and media relations professional who began her career in Canada's TV news industry. Over nearly 15 years, she worked as a reporter, videographer, and producer—a path that took her to communities across Canada and to assignments in Afghanistan, Hong Kong, and Ukraine—before becoming Executive Producer of The West Block with Tom Clark on Global News. Known for her calm presence in high-pressure situations and her ability to craft clear, compelling narratives, Jennifer now advises clients ranging from Crown corporations to national associations and NGOs. She provides strategic communications counsel, crisis support, and media training grounded in deep newsroom experience and a practical understanding of how stories land.

SOCIAL MEDIA WORKSHOP

Bridging the Gap: Fertility Medicine and Social Media



Dr. Kaajal Abrol

TRIO Fertility

Dr. Kaajal Abrol is a fertility physician in Toronto, at Trio Fertility. She completed both residency in Obstetrics and Gynaecology and a fellowship in Gynecologic Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility at the University of Toronto. Dr. Abrol is dedicated to empowering individuals and couples on their journey to parenthood. In addition to helping patients with fertility challenges or early pregnancy loss, Dr. Abrol is passionate about fertility preservation, specifically egg freezing. Dr. Abrol shares her expertise via social media (@kaajalabrolmd on Instagram) and as host of the Fertility Doc Talk podcast, fostering public and professional dialogue on reproductive health. Most recently, in 2025, she delivered a TEDx talk on fertility, age and the importance of education around reproductive health.

Date: Thursday, Sept. 18th, 2025
Time: 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM EST

SCIENCE LIGHT

Environmental Impact of IVF



Anna Gorbunova

Ottawa Fertility Centre

Anna Gorbunova is a clinical embryologist with over 12 years of international experience in human assisted reproduction. She holds a Master's degree in Cell Biology, has a background in environmental science, and is a certified Sustainable Project Manager. At the Ottawa Fertility Centre, Anna contributes to the clinic's sustainability efforts as part of the Green Team, working to reduce the environmental footprint of fertility treatment.

She has completed advanced training in corporate sustainability and climate communication, and participates in global conversations on sustainable IVF, including as a panellist in the Green IVF series organized by the International IVF Initiative. In 2024, Anna presented research on patient perspectives regarding environmental responsibility in fertility care at the CFAS Annual Meeting.

Passionate about bridging clinical practice and sustainability, she is motivated by a vision of a more responsible and future-focused model of reproductive healthcare.

Date: Thursday, Sept. 18th, 2025

Time: 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM EST

OPENING CEREMONY

Keynote Speaker & Symposium I

1:00 PM - 1:15 PM EST

Opening Remarks

Introduction, Land Acknowledgement & Award Ceremony

Dr. Paul Chang

CFAS President

1:15 PM - 2:15 PM EST

Keynote Speaker

The Art, Power and Science of Integrative Health



Dr. Donald Levy

Osher Clinical Center for Integrative Health at Brigham and Women's Hospital

Dr. Levy is an assistant clinical professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School and board-certified in Internal Medicine. He had a primary care practice for 25 years before becoming the founding Medical Director in 2003 of the unique Osher Clinical Center for Integrative Health at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. He helped create and then lead a multidisciplinary team of conventional and non-conventional practitioners who practiced within the hospital outpatient system and participated in a variety of research projects. He has been actively teaching medical students, interns, residents, fellows, and fellow physicians at Harvard for the past 40 years. His professional interests have included the integration of scientific advances in modern medicine with the rediscovery and implementation of age-old therapies and principles of healing. In June 2024, he retired to walk, hike, think, read, grow, learn, listen, and savor the time with loved ones—especially his grandchildren.

Learning Objectives, After attending this talk, listeners should be better able to describe:

- The current role of science in modern Western scientific medicine
- Differences between pain and suffering and curing vs. healing
- How to practice whole person medicine in any specialty

SYMPOSIUM I

2:15 PM - 3:00 PM EST

Symposium I – Lecture 1

Integrating AI Into Your Clinic



Dr. Cristina Hickman

Avenues

With 25 years experience as a researcher & embryologist, Dr. Cristina Hickman has transformed the landscape of fertility care. As a clinical embryologist & lab director, she oversaw operations at the two largest group of fertility clinics in the UK: Care Fertility & TFP, but also in international locations like the Caribbean & Saudi Arabia. She is an HCPC certified clinical scientist (CS18756).

3:00 PM - 3:45 PM EST

Symposium I – Lecture 2

DNA Damage From Sperm to Embryo



Dr. Francis Petrella

Charles-Lemoyne Hospital

Dr. Francis Petrella is a urologist specializing in male fertility, sexual medicine, and men's health. He practices at Charles-Lemoyne Hospital and is an Assistant Professor at the Université de Sherbrooke. His clinical practice is dedicated to assisting couples facing male fertility issues and men suffering from sexual dysfunction. Originally from Montreal, Dr. Petrella completed his urological surgery training at McGill University before pursuing specialized training in andrology, microsurgery, and male fertility at the University of Miami. Dr. Petrella has been recognized with awards for leadership, teaching, and research at McGill. He is the author of more than 30 scientific publications, textbook chapters, and research articles.

Learning Objectives

- Identify clinical indications for sperm DNA fragmentation testing
- Evaluate evidence-based interventions to reduce DNA damage
- Understand oxidative stress mechanisms affecting sperm DNA integrity

Date: Friday, Sept. 19th, 2025
Time: 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM EST

SYMPOSIUM II

8:00 AM - 8:30 AM EST

Van Campenhout Lecture

Why PCOS, Likely Represents Only Two Distinct Phenotypes



Dr. Norbert Gleicher

The Center for Human Reproduction

Norbert Gleicher, MD, FACOG, FACS, Medical Director and Chief Scientist, The Center for Human Reproduction - New York, President, The Foundation for Reproductive Medicine; Visiting Researcher Laboratory for Stem Cell and Molecular Embryology, The Rockefeller University, Prof. (Adj.), Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Vienna University School of Medicine, Vienna, Austria, Founding Editor-in-Chief Emeritus, Journal of Assisted Reproduction and Genetics (JARG) and American Journal for Reproductive Immunology (AJRI), New York, N.Y., USA.

8:30 AM - 9:00 AM EST

Symposium II - Lecture 1

Unraveling the Contributors and Causes of No Calls in PGT-A: Insights From Rebiopsy Results and Clinical Outcomes



Emily Mounts

Juno Genetics

Emily is a board-certified genetic counselor who has worked in reproductive genetics for over 25 years. She currently serves as Vice President of Medical Affairs for Juno Genetics, a global preimplantation genetic testing (PGT) laboratory. Prior to joining Juno in 2023, she spent the first half of her career in maternal-fetal medicine, then joined the ART specialty and served as clinical director of the genetic testing and counseling program at ORM Fertility in Portland, Oregon. She is a former Chair of the ASRM Genetic Counseling Professional Group and is a frequent speaker and author on fertility genetics. Emily completed her Bachelor's degree at the University of Michigan and her Master's degree in genetic counseling at the Medical College of Virginia.

SYMPOSIUM II

9:00 AM - 9:30 AM EST

Symposium II - Lecture 2

From the Clinic to Cabinet: Government Relations and Advocacy



Zane Colt

Loyalist Public Affairs

With years of experience in government relations, at Queen's Park, and in non-profit political outreach, Zane comes to Loyalist from one of Canada's largest health care organizations. While in the Government of Ontario, Zane served for three years in various roles in the Office of the Minister of Energy, Northern Development and Mines and Minister of Indigenous Affairs. Before politics, Zane began his professional career embarking on a cross-Canada tour, helping people in minority communities to get involved in the electoral process.

Learning Objectives

- Gain an overview of the current legislative landscape as it pertains to fertility care across Canada
- Grasp a behind-the-scenes look at the advocacy strategy that resulted in Ontario's recent \$250M announcement expanding the OFP and Fertility Tax Credit
- Learn how you can advocate for expanded access to fertility care in your community

9:30 AM - 10:00 AM EST

Symposium II - Lecture 3

You Are More Valuable Than Ever: Optimizing the Fertility Journey in the Age of AI



Dr. Thomas Hannam

Hannam Fertility Centre

After obtaining his MD from the University of British Columbia in 1995, Dr. Hannam completed his training (FRCSC) in Obstetrics and Gynaecology at McMaster University, followed by a two-year fellowship in Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility at the University of Toronto. Dr. Hannam has sat on the board of the Canadian Fertility and Andrology Society, and is a member of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine, the Society of Obstetrics and Gynaecology of Canada, and the European Society for Human Reproduction and Endocrinology. He has presented his research findings on numerous occasions to international peer-reviewed meetings, and is a frequent guest expert on TV and radio. Dr. Hannam founded the Hannam Fertility Centre in 2006.

Learning Objectives

- Understand the clinical KPIs that matter
- Learn some practical steps to collect data regardless of EHR
- Three suggestions to optimize your pregnancy rate per patient in 2026.

Date: Friday, Sept. 19th, 2025
Time: 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM EST

CONCURRENT SESSION A

Nursing SIG

1:00 PM - 1:30 PM EST

Session A - Lecture 1

Ending Your Fertility Journey Without a Baby



Lisa Hohenadel

Family Redefined with Lisa

Lisa Hohenadel is a compassionate therapeutic coach with over 15 years of experience in the mental health field and specialized training as a Dialectical Behaviour Skills Group facilitator. She supports women who are contemplating ending their fertility journey without a baby or navigating a childless not by choice life. Drawing from her personal experience of miscarriage, failed fertility treatments, and choosing a childless life, Lisa combines professional expertise with lived experience to help women find acceptance and rediscover joy. She offers practical tools and emotional support to manage triggers, set boundaries, and heal from grief.

1:30 PM - 2:00 PM EST

Session A - Lecture 2

Key Considerations in Developing a Directed Embryo Donation Program



Courtney Anderson

Ottawa Fertility Centre

Courtney Anderson is the Nurse Practitioner at the Ottawa Fertility Centre. Her practice specializes in polycystic ovarian syndrome (PCOS), therapeutic donor insemination, and third-party reproduction. She enjoys collaborating with colleagues on quality improvement and program development to enhance the experience of both her patients and clinic family. Most recently, Courtney was one of the first Canadian Nurse Practitioners to achieve Reproductive Health and Infertility Subspecialty Certification. Courtney is dedicated to creating a safe environment where patients feel comfortable and confident accessing reproductive health care with the goal of building their family. She is motivated to make meaningful contributions to both the field of fertility and the profession of Nurse Practitioners as they continue to evolve.

CONCURRENT SESSION A

Nursing SIG

2:00 PM - 2:30 PM EST

Session A - Lecture 3

Embryo Disposition



Diane Myles-Reid

Markham Fertility Centre

Diane Myles Reid, MSc, CGC, is the Practice Lead in Genetic Counselling at Markham Fertility Centre, where she brings extensive expertise in reproductive genetics to a leading-edge specialty clinic. She holds an Honours degree in Genetics from the University of Western Ontario and a Master of Science in Genetic Counselling from Sarah Lawrence College.

Diane has a special interest in preimplantation genetic testing and is deeply committed to supporting individuals and couples on their journey to building a family. Prior to joining Markham Fertility Centre, she spent over 20 years at Mount Sinai Hospital, working in both the Prenatal Diagnosis and Medical Genetics Clinic and at Mount Sinai Fertility.

Throughout her career, Diane has provided care to thousands of families and served as a mentor to generations of students and colleagues. She continues to contribute to the field as an instructor and clinical supervisor for the University of Toronto's Master's Program in Genetic Counselling.

Date: Friday, Sept. 19th, 2025
Time: 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM EST

CONCURRENT SESSION B

Counseling SIG/2SLGBTQ+SIG

1:00 PM - 1:30 PM EST

Session B – Lecture 1

Gender-Affirming Reproductive Health Equity and Inclusion



A.J. Lowik (virtual presentation)

University of Lethbridge

Dr. A.J. Lowik is an Assistant Professor in Sociology at the University of Lethbridge, located on Blackfoot Confederacy Territory. Their qualitative, mixed-methods and arts-based research focuses on the reproductive lives and health of trans people, including menstruation, pregnancy, nursing, abortion, fertility preservation and menopause. They are also a methodological data scientist, working to ensure that health research mobilizes sex and gender concepts with accuracy, precision and inclusion. For fifteen years, Dr. Lowik has been training healthcare providers on the delivery of gender-affirming reproductive healthcare.

1:30 PM - 2:00 PM EST

Session B – Lecture 2

Towards Reproductive Justice: 2SLGBTQ+ Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour Inclusion in Fertility Care and Family Formation



Michelle Tam

LGBTQ Health Center of Excellence

Michelle Tam (she/her) is a critical public health scholar who focuses on sexual orientation, gender, and racial-ethnic inequities in population health. Currently, she is a CIHR-funded postdoctoral research fellow at the LGBTQ Health Center of Excellence (Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health) and Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto. Her research program integrates critical social theories with methodological approaches in public health to investigate LGBTQ2S+ and Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour (BIPOC) healthcare access and health outcomes.

CONCURRENT SESSION B

Counseling SIG/2SLGBTQ+SIG

2:00 PM - 2:30 PM EST

Session B – Lecture 3

Recurrent Pregnancy Loss



Dr. Julie Bindeman

Integrative Therapy of Greater Washington, LLC

Dr. Julie Bindeman graduated from George Washington University and is the co-owner of Integrative Therapy of Greater Washington, a private psychotherapy practice located in Rockville, Maryland. As a result of her own reproductive story, she pursued post-graduate training in the field of Reproductive Psychology, where she actively writes, lectures, and presents on the topic. She has been on several committees for the Mental Health Professional Group of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine and is currently serving on MHPG's Executive Committee with her Chair year being October 2024–October 2025.

Learning Objectives

- Describe the various reasons for why recurrent pregnancy loss occurs
- Identify ways in which recurrent pregnancy loss impacts the pregnant partner, the non-pregnant partner and the couple

Date: Friday, Sept. 19th, 2025

Time: 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM EST

CONCURRENT SESSION C

Genetics SIG/ART Lab SIG

1:00 PM - 1:30 PM EST

Session C - Lecture 1

PGT-A Revealed: Registry-Based Outcomes from Mosaic, Segmental, and Aneuploid Embryo Transfers



Dr. Manuel Viotti

Kindbody

Manuel Viotti is the Vice President of PGT and Clinical Laboratory Director at Kindlabs, Kindbody. He also holds an appointment as a Senior Scientist at the Zouves Foundation for Reproductive Medicine. Dr. Viotti earned a PhD in molecular and cell biology from the Weill Graduate School of Cornell University, specializing in mammalian embryology. He serves as the director of the Preimplantation Genetic Diagnosis International Society (PGDIS), a board member of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM) PGT-SIG, and is the founder and officer of the International Registry of Mosaic Embryo Transfers (IRMET).

1:30 PM - 2:00 PM EST

Session C - Lecture 2

Genetic Counseling and Carrier Screening for Infertile Couple



Chantal Morel (virtual presentation)

University Health Network

Dr. Chantal Morel is a Medical Geneticist with over 20 years of experience in adult genetics, pediatric genetics, prenatal genetics and inborn errors of metabolism. Dr. Morel has an in-depth understanding of how the genome can impact an individual's health and expertise in interpreting genetic test results. She is actively involved in teaching the next generations of Medical Geneticists, while providing ongoing care to patients with rare inborn errors of metabolism and consultations for monogenic conditions (ranging from hereditary congenital heart diseases to connective tissue disorders predisposing to aneurysms, to cancer syndromes, neurogenetic conditions and many more). Dr. Morel completed medical school at the University of Ottawa, Medical Genetics residency at McGill University, and Biochemical Genetics fellowship at the University of Toronto.

CONCURRENT SESSION C

Genetics SIG/ART Lab SIG

2:00 PM - 2:30 PM EST

Session C - Lecture 3

Oxidative Stress In Sperm: Origin And Impact On Dna-Fragmentation
And Male Fertility Potential



Jean-Pierre Allam

University Hospital Bonn

Prof. Dr. med. Jean-Pierre Allam is a distinguished clinician-scientist serving as the Director of the Clinic for Andrology at the University Hospital Bonn (UKB), with over two decades of professional experience in andrology, dermatology and immunology. He plays a pivotal role in the newly inaugurated Venuskind Fertility Center—a state-of-the-art, interdisciplinary center combining gynecological reproductive medicine and male andrology under one roof. The design of this setting enables synchronous, holistic care for couples facing infertility, reflecting his commitment to collaborative diagnostics and treatment. His clinic is one of the most active in Germany: processing over 2,000 semen analyses annually, leveraging the complete suite of WHO-recommended sperm diagnostics—an exceptional service portfolio that underscores the clinic's clinical and technical excellence. As a scientific leader, Prof. Allam published more than 150 articles and co-chaired the 35th Annual Meeting of the German Society for Andrology (DGA) in September 2023, which was hosted as part of the DVR Congress in Bonn. Under his guidance, the event placed a special emphasis on male infertility, genetic diagnostics, and age-related reproductive challenges, highlighting emerging societal and clinical concerns

Date: Friday, Sept. 19th, 2025
Time: 4:00 PM - 4:45 PM EST

STATE OF THE ART

State of the ART Lecture

Genetic Causes of Failed Fertilization



Arantxa Cardona Barberan

Ghent University Hospital

Arantxa Cardona Barberán graduated in Biotechnology from the Universitat Politècnica de València, Spain. She specialized in reproductive medicine, earning a master's degree in cytogenetics and reproductive biology from the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, after which she worked as a clinical embryologist at Clínica Eugén in Barcelona, Spain. She recently finished her doctoral degree in Medicine and Health Sciences at Ghent University Hospital, Belgium, in the Ghent-Fertility and Stem Cell Team, focusing on the development of new diagnostic tools and treatments for failed fertilization after ICSI.

Learning Objectives

- Review diagnostic approaches for identifying the responsible gamete causing failed fertilization after ICSI
- Describe male and female genetic factors contributing to failed fertilization after ICSI
- Present clinical implications and treatment strategies for failed fertilization after ICSI

Date: Saturday, Sept. 20th, 2025
Time: 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM EST

SYMPOSIUM III

8:00 AM - 8:45 AM EST

John Collins Lecture

Ovarian Rejuvenation: Myth or Reality?



Dr. Isaac Jacques Kadoch

Clinique ovo

Dr Jacques Kadoch is a highly accomplished medical professional in the field of reproductive medicine with a career spanning several decades. He completed his studies at Sorbonne University in Paris, completed an internship and worked at several prestigious Paris hospitals. He then moved to Canada in 2003 where he completed a fellowship in reproductive endocrinology and infertility at the University of Montreal.

8:45 AM - 9:15 AM EST

Symposium III – Lecture 1

Master Office- Based Sedation: Enhancing Patient Comfort & Safety for Fertility Procedures



Dr. Alia El-Mowafy

Dental Anaesthesia Services

Dr. El-Mowafy is a board certified Dental Anaesthesiologist. She practices in the GTA providing anaesthesia predominantly for specialists. She practices various anesthesia techniques and serves all patient demographics. She particularly enjoys the challenge and reward of treating pediatric patients. She also teaches at the Faculty of Dentistry, University of Toronto acting as a clinical instructor to graduate residents in the Dental Anaesthesia program. Dr. El-Mowafy is passionate about safety in the office-based environment, and she enjoys teaching and attending continuing education courses that aid clinicians in gaining confidence with airway challenges. In her spare time, Alia loves to travel and cook.

SYMPOSIUM III

9:15 AM - 10:00 AM EST

Symposium III – Lecture 2

Ultra-Rapid vs. Conventional Oocyte Vitrification: A Comparative Study of Clinical and Molecular Outcomes with Single-Cell Transcriptomic Insights



Dr. Birol Aydin

Ovogene Bank

Birol Aydin – Scientific Director at Ovogene Bank, embryologist and andrologist with over 17 years of experience across 36 countries. A leading expert in donor egg banking and cryopreservation, he developed the ultra-rapid vitrification and warming protocol for oocytes, significantly improving survival and clinical outcomes.

Winner of the Best Fertility Embryologist 2025 award and pioneer of Genetically Certified Oocytes® and the Mitochondrial Transfer Program.

Date: Saturday, Sept. 20th, 2025

Time: 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM EST

CONCURRENT SESSION D

Basic Science

1:00 PM - 1:30 PM EST

Session D - Lecture 1

Uterine-Placental Crosstalk – The Impact Of Extraembryonic Tissues On Developmental Outcome



Myriam Hemberger

University of Calgary

Myriam Hemberger trained at the University of Freiburg and Max-Planck Institute for Molecular Genetics, Berlin, Germany, and as postdoctoral fellow in Toronto and at the University of Calgary, Canada. From 2004-2018 she held a Group Leader position at the Babraham Institute in Cambridge, UK. In October 2018, she joined the University of Calgary as Full Professor in the Departments of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology and Medical Genetics. She is also Program Director of the Precision Medicine & Disease Mechanisms program at the Alberta Children's Hospital Research Institute (ACHRI).

1:30 PM - 2:00 PM EST

Session D - Lecture 2

Controlling Ovarian Activity With Anti-Müllerian Hormone



Philippe Godin

Massachusetts General Hospital

Dr. Philippe Godin is a Research Fellow at Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard University. He holds a Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine (2016) from the University of Montreal where he also completed his PhD in 2022 studying the role of the Hippo signaling pathway in oviduct development and folliculogenesis using transgenic mouse models. Dr. Godin's current research in the laboratory of Dr. David Pépin is focused on anti-Müllerian hormone (AMH) signaling in the ovary. He aims to better understand how elevated levels of AMH puts a break on ovarian follicle development using rodent and feline models, and gene delivery approaches. The Pépin laboratory also investigates the chemoprotective role of AMH on the prepubertal ovary.

CONCURRENT SESSION D

Basic Science

2:00 PM - 2:30 PM EST

Session D - Lecture 3

Reproductive Aging: Mechanisms and Impact on Fertility



Aubrey Converse

Northwestern University

Aubrey Converse is a Research Assistant Professor at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine and leads a subgroup in Francesca Duncan's laboratory focused on ovarian aging, macrophage biology, and immune dysfunction. She was trained as a reproductive scientist at the University of Texas at Austin, and her doctoral and early postdoctoral work examined steroid hormone signaling and follicle biology. After establishing a strong foundation in reproductive physiology and signaling at the University of Texas, she completed a postdoctoral fellowship in the Duncan Lab, where she gained expertise in mammalian ovarian and follicle biology, with an emphasis on ovarian aging. Her recent pilot award from the Global Consortium for Reproductive Longevity and Equality enabled application of whole-mount tissue clearing, laser capture microdissection, and RNA-seq to define the molecular signature of age-associated ovarian multinucleated giant cells (MNGCs). Her initial characterization of ovarian MNGCs revealed that these cells are enriched in degradation, phagocytic, and immune signaling, implicating their role in compensating for failed tissue homeostasis and in modulating the aging immune environment.

Learning Objectives

- What characterizes ovarian aging, and how does it compare to somatic tissue aging?
- How dysregulated debris clearance can drive tissue aging and inflammation.
- Why does the ovary accumulate giant macrophages with age?

Date: Saturday, Sept. 20th, 2025
Time: 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM EST

CONCURRENT SESSION E

Ethics and Law SIG

1:00 PM - 1:30 PM EST

Session E – Lecture 1

Who is the Patient?



Lisa Rosenthal

First Fertility

Lisa Rosenthal is a fertility advocate and strategist with over 35 years of experience, rooted in both personal experience and professional dedication. She currently serves as Manager of Content & Strategy at First Fertility, where she creates and curates educational content that empowers individuals to understand their reproductive health options and navigate their family-building journeys with clarity. For 17 years, Lisa worked at Illume Fertility as a Patient Advocate and Senior Content Strategist, helping to bridge the gap between patients and their care teams—fostering trust, communication, and emotional support during treatment.

1:30 PM - 2:00 PM EST

Session E – Lecture 2

The Clinician



Erin Nelson

University of Alberta

Professor Erin Nelson teaches Tort Law, Health Care Ethics and the Law, and Law & Medicine. She is a Fellow and member of the Advisory Board of the Health Law Institute. Professor Nelson obtained her B.Sc.P.T. in 1991 and her LL.B.. in 1995, both from the University of Alberta. After clerking for Mr. Justice John Sopinka of the Supreme Court of Canada, Professor Nelson completed her articles at Witten Binder in Edmonton. She then spent two years as Project Manager at the Health Law Institute in the Faculty of Law before leaving for Columbia University to pursue graduate work in health law.

CONCURRENT SESSION E

Ethics and Law SIG

2:00 PM - 2:30 PM EST

Session E - Lecture 3

The Child as Prospective Patient in Reproductive Healthcare



Claudia Wiesemann (virtual presentation)

Georg-August-University

Claudia Wiesemann is a medical ethicist and was from 1998 - 2024 head of the Department for Medical Ethics and History of Medicine at Goettingen University Medical Center, Germany. From 2012 to 2020, she was member of the German Ethics Council and, from 2016 to 2020, served as its vice chair. From 2010 to 2016, she was member of the Central Ethics Committee of the German Medical Association. She was president of the German Academy of Ethics in Medicine, an academic society for medical ethics, from 2002-2012. In 1995, she completed her habilitation in medical history and medical ethics at the University of Erlangen-Nuernberg, Germany. Her dissertation in medical history at Muenster University, Germany, was published in 1991. In 1985, she completed all medical exams at Muenster University, Germany, and worked as resident from 1986 to 1988.

Claudia Wiesemann is speaker of the German research network "Medicine and the Time Structure of the Good Life", funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG). She has coordinated several international research projects, e.g., on the ethics of tissue research and on information and documentation networks in ethics in medicine and biotechnology. She is serving as an editorial board member of several international journals.

Date: Saturday, Sept. 20th, 2025

Time: 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM EST

CONCURRENT SESSION F

Clinical Science

1:00 PM - 1:30 PM EST

Session F – Lecture 1

Fertility Preservation in Female Adolescents: from COS to OTC



Dr. Elias Dahdouh

CHU Sainte-Justine

Professor Elias Dahdouh is a highly accomplished Obstetrician-Gynecologist and a Reproductive Endocrinologist and Infertility (REI) Canadian doctor, with more than 16 years experience in Assisted Reproduction. He combines in his medical and academic practice the 3 essential and fundamental components for his success: clinical, teaching, and research. He founded in 2012 the ART Center at CHU Ste-Justine Montreal (Child and Mother University Hospital at Université de Montréal), and co-developed with the genetic and oncology departments a complete and comprehensive Canadian ART program, including preimplantation genetic testing (PGT) with in-house genetic analysis, and fertility preservation (FP) (e.g. sperm, oocyte and Ovarian Tissue Cryopreservation).

1:30 PM - 2:00 PM EST

Session F – Lecture 2

When Two Worlds Meet: Fertility Care and Endometriosis Surgery in Tandem



Simon Benoit Dube

CHU Sainte-Justine

After completing his medical training, Dr. Simon Benoit Dubé chose to specialize in gynecology and completed his residency at the University of Montreal. Dr. Benoit Dubé continued his training by undertaking a fellowship at McGill University in minimally invasive gynecologic surgery. During this fellowship, he also developed expertise in pelvic ultrasound. He now works at CHU Ste-Justine.

CONCURRENT SESSION F

Clinical Science

2:00 PM - 2:30 PM EST

Session F- Lecture 3

Ovarian Rejuvenation: From Research to Reality



Zahar Merhi

Rejuvenating Fertility Center

Dr. Merhi is the founder and the medical director of Rejuvenating Fertility Center (RFC). He is an internationally recognized fertility doctor, lecturer, editor, and grant reviewer. His training and faculty appointments included Albert Einstein College of Medicine/Montefiore Medical Center, NYU School of Medicine, and University of Vermont. He was a Professor at SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University and the Director of the Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility (REI) Fellowship program (ACGME accredited). He is currently a Professor at Albert Einstein College of Medicine and Maimonides Medical Center in New York. He has 3 American Board certifications in OB/GYN, Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility, and High-Complexity Laboratory Director (HCLD).

Date: Saturday, Sept. 20th, 2025
Time: 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM EST

DEBATE & CLOSING CEREMONY

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM EST

Debate

When Enough is Enough? The Fertility Futility Debate - Closure Treatment Cycle:
Yes or No?



Amira Posner (pro)

Healing Infertility

Amira Posner is a clinical social worker, specialized in supporting individuals and couples navigating infertility. Drawing from professional expertise and personal experience, Amira offers compassionate, evidence-informed care to help clients manage the complex psychological aspects of fertility.

The founder and facilitator of the Mind-Body Fertility Group, Amira leads a transformative program designed to reduce stress and promote emotional well-being throughout the fertility journey. In addition to her Master of Social Work, Amira is professionally trained in hypnotherapy, integrating mind-body approaches to support healing and resilience.



Dr. Michael Dahan (con)

McGill Univeristy

Dr. Michael Dahan is on faculty in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at McGill University. He graduated from medical school at the State University of New York, at Stonybrook in 1996, following this with a residency in obstetrics and gynecology at Long Island College Hospital of SUNY down State from 1996 to 2000. He completed a fellowship in reproductive endocrinology and infertility at the University of California at San Diego in 2003 with Jeffrey Chang and Samuel Yen. After completing his fellowship, Dr. Dahan was on faculty at Washington University in St. Louis Missouri, and Stanford University in California.

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