



Canadian Fertility and Andrology Society
Société canadienne de fertilité et d'andrologie

CFAS Embryology Summit

AGENDA

Eggs and Embryos: Everything from Quality to Transportation

The Canadian Fertility and Andrology Society (CFAS) is pleased to introduce the 2022 Embryology Summit Program! The 2022 Summit will be held at the Westin Toronto Airport Hotel, in Toronto, Ontario on Saturday March 26th, 2022.

7:30 am – 5:30 pm	Exhibit Hall Open
8:30 - 9:30 am	Breakfast
9:30 – 9:45 am	Welcome and Summit Introduction
9:45 – 10:45 am	<i>Cellular and Molecular Markers of Oocyte Quality</i> Dr. Helen Picton Moderated by: Ms. Pauline Saunders and Dr. James Meriano



Professor Helen M Picton, BSc Ph.D, FRSB

Prof Helen Picton is a biomedical scientist and a specialist in ovarian physiology, oogenesis, folliculogenesis and the applied science of female oncofertility. She currently holds a Chair of Reproduction and Early Development in the Leeds Institute of Cardiovascular and Metabolic Medicine within the School of Medicine at the University of Leeds, UK. She is the Director of the two masters' programs in Clinical Embryology and Assisted Reproduction Technology hosted by the University of Leeds. From 1999-2021, she was the Scientific Director of Leeds Fertility within the Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust. She is the former Chair of the Society for Reproduction and Fertility and the joint executive committee of the British Fertility Societies, as well as and a previous coordinator of the ESHRE Task Force on fertility preservation in severe diseases. Her research is focused on developing an in depth understanding of the cell and molecular biology of oocyte, follicle and embryo development in large animals and humans. Insights provided by the study of the fundamental biology of these different cells is then used to help explore the aetiology of female infertility, to design and improve infertility treatments, and to develop methods to preserve and restore the fertility of young female cancer patients. She has published over 100 research papers, reviews and book chapters in the field of female reproduction



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and fertility.

Cellular and Molecular Markers of Oocyte Quality

Learning Objectives:

- Define and understand of the concept of oocyte quality and its importance to infertility treatment.
- Identify morphological, cellular, subcellular, metabolic and molecular indices of oocyte quality.
- Explore how measurements of markers of oocyte quality can be used to improve treatment outcome

10:45 – 11:15 am

Health Break

11:15 am – 12:15 pm

Transport of Gametes and Embryos: In, Out and Around the UK

Dr. Rachel Gregoire

Moderated by: Ms. Pauline Saunders and Dr. James Meriano



Dr. Rachel Gregoire, Ph.D

Rachel has worked in the field of embryology for 23 years, starting her clinical training at Ninewells Hospital, Dundee Scotland where she completed a PhD in Developmental Science focusing on glucose metabolism in late human embryonic and fetal development. In 2008 she moved to the Hewitt Fertility Centre Liverpool, one of the UK's largest assisted conception providers, as Senior and then Lead Clinical Embryologist. In 2014 she worked with Glasgow Royal Infirmary as a Consultant Embryologist and HFEA Person Responsible where she led the scientific service in delivering cutting edge techniques and achieved a significant improvement in clinical and laboratory success rates. In 2017 Rachel returned to the Hewitt Fertility Centres in Liverpool and Knutsford as the Scientific Director and HFEA Person Responsible, where she continues to strive for excellence in laboratory techniques, and in clinical and laboratory success rates. The Hewitt Centres are leaders in the provision of training for future Reproductive Scientists and currently support both Andrology and Embryology students through their clinical training. Rachel is passionate about the training and professional development of Reproductive Scientists, supporting the academic and clinical Reproductive Scientists of the future, and is Co-Chair for the Association of Reproductive and Clinical Scientists (ARCS) Education SIG who develop and provide all training opportunities available for the ARCS membership. Rachel is also



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Deputy Chair of ARCS and a mentor for Laboratory Directors and HFEA Persons Responsible in the UK.

Transport of Gametes and Embryos: In, Out and Around the UK

Learning Objectives:

- Human Fertilization and Embryology Authority (HFEA) Code of Practice edition 9 - revised October 2021: Guidance Note 16 Imports and Exports
- HFEA General Direction 0006 version 9: Import and Export of Gametes and Embryos (evidence)
- HFEA General Direction 0001 version 4: Gamete and Embryo Donation (to consider the impact of laws governing donation in countries outside of the UK)

12:15 – 1:30 pm

Lunch

1:30 – 2:30 pm

Lions, Tigers and Bears, Oh My! Learning from Comparative Embryology

Dr. Gabriela Mastromonaco

Moderated by: Ms. Pat Chronis-Brown and Dr. Scot Hamilton



Gabriela Mastromonaco, BSc, MSc, PhD

Gabriela Mastromonaco has spent more than 25 years working with assisted reproductive technologies in livestock and wildlife species. Her interest in comparative reproductive biology inspired her to complete a PhD at the University of Guelph in the department of Biomedical Sciences. As Manager of Reproductive Sciences at the Toronto Zoo, she has implemented research projects to investigate fundamental questions on the reproductive biology of non-domestic species with the goal of integrating results into conservation management programs. With the recent additional role of Director of Conservation Science, she hopes to build multi-disciplinary collaborations to support species recovery strategies ex situ and in situ. Gabriela currently maintains adjunct professor positions at four Canadian universities as part of her commitment to the training of future scientists and conservationists, and a research program that involves the full spectrum of reproductive technologies.



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Lions, Tigers and Bears, Oh My! Learning from Comparative Embryology

Learning Objectives:

- Understanding morphokinetic differences for successful embryo production
- Influence of seasonality on embryo developmental potential
- Impact of global environmental changes on gamete/embryo quality

2:30 – 3:00 pm

Health Break

3:00 – 3:45 pm

Ethical Concerns Involving Abandoned Embryos and Gametes

Ms. Nipa Chauhan

Moderated by: Ms. Pat Chronis-Brown and Dr. Scot Hamilton



Nipa Chauhan, BSc, MHSc

Nipa Chauhan is a bioethicist at Sinai Health in Toronto, Ontario, and teaches undergraduate and graduate bioethics courses at the University of Toronto. Nipa is a graduate of the Master of Health Sciences in Bioethics program from the Dalla Lana School of Public Health. She specializes in fertility ethics and is deeply fascinated by the ethics and economics behind public policy. Starting off with ethics-based research on the Ontario Fertility Program,

Nipa has also investigated publicly funded fertility programs from around the world, namely the United Kingdom, Israel, and New Zealand.

Nipa is also the advisory chair of missINFORMED, an initiative that answers common health questions for women in a scientifically backed and accessible way. She is also the founder and president of Café Bioethics, an award-winning international bioethics literacy initiative.

Ethical Concerns Involving Abandoned Embryos and Gametes

Learning Objectives:

- Understand the ethical and legal landscape of abandoned embryos in Canada
- Navigate the tenuous position of fertility clinics in this context
- Review cases and literature from this context

3:45 – 4:10 pm

Question and Answer Panel

Ms. Pat Chronis-Brown, Dr. Scot Hamilton, Dr. Jim Meriano, and Ms. Pauline Saunders



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4:10 – 4:15 pm

Closing Remarks

Dr. Goldi Gill

4:15 – 5:30 pm

Cocktail and Networking

This event is worth 4 CFAS Continuing Professional Development Credits.

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