

CFAS GATEKEEPERS' DILEMMA 2025



PROGRAM

FRIDAY APRIL 11TH, 2025

DOUBLE TREE BY HILTON, TORONTO
108 CHESNUT STREET, TORONTO

"Just because we can, does it mean we should"



CFAS GATEKEEPERS' DILEMMA

Moderated by: Eileen McMahon RN.

7:30 AM - 5:00 PM EST

Exhibit Hall Open

8:00 AM - 8:10 AM EST

Introduction & Welcome

Dr. Carl Laskin

8:15 AM - 8:25 AM EST

Case Presentation: How Old is Too OLD for ART

8:30 AM - 9:10 AM EST

Discussion



Dr. Nigel Pereira

Dr. Nigel Pereira is a Clinician-Investigator and Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Mount Sinai Fertility/University of Toronto, Canada. He is a Diplomate of the American Board of Obstetrics & Gynaecology (ABOG) and holds ABOG sub-specialty certification in Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility. Dr. Pereira completed his sub-specialty fellowship training in Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility at Weill Cornell Medicine's Center for Reproductive Medicine in New York City. He holds additional qualifications within the domains of embryology and andrology, which has helped him formulate novel clinical and laboratory treatment protocols for IVF.

Lecture Learning Objectives:

To define advanced reproductive age (ARA) in the context of assisted reproductive technologies (ART).

To summarize success rates of autologous and donor ART in women with ARA.

To determine an age cut-off, if any, for ART in women with ARA.



9:15 AM - 9:45 AM EST

Ethical Considerations

Dr. Rebecca Greenberg



Dr. Rebecca Greenberg is the Principle Consultant at Greenberg Consulting. She has been working in healthcare for the past two decades as a nurse and bioethicist with a particular focus on pediatrics and women's health. She is committed to helping people navigate difficult decisions pertaining to health. Dr. Greenberg is an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Paediatrics at the University of Toronto. She has a PhD and Post-doctorate Fellowship in medical ethics from the University of Toronto. Dr. Greenberg has worked at The Hospital for Sick Children and Mount Sinai Hospital as a Bioethicist. Regarded as a leader in the field, Rebecca sits on the Bioethics Committees of the Canadian Paediatric Society and the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada. Rebecca developed and directs the Fellowship in Neonatal-Perinatal Ethics at the Toronto Centre for Neonatal Health at the University of Toronto- the first of its kind in Canada. Rebecca is committed to education and sharing her research through speaking internationally, publishing research papers and being featured in the media.

Lecture Learning Objectives:

Identify ethical considerations in setting age limits for ART.

Explore provider and patient considerations related to provisions of ART at an advanced age.

Review practical considerations for developing policies in setting age limits for ART.

9:50 AM - 10:20 AM EST

Obstetric Considerations

Dr. Andrea Lausman



Dr. Andrea Lausman an Associate Professor at the University of Toronto is currently appointed as a Maternal-Fetal Medicine Specialist at St. Michael's Hospital, in Toronto, Canada, where she is also the Deputy Chief of Obstetrics. She has recently been appointed as the Obstetrical Lead for the Toronto Regional Maternal and Child Health Network. Dr. Lausman has a keen interest in caring for pregnant people with a variety of pre-existing conditions who are at risk of placental insufficiency and the development of fetal growth restriction. Her research interests are varied and include developing tools and strategies to assist in the diagnosis and treatment options for Iron Deficiency and Iron Deficiency Anemia in Pregnancy, including advocating for equal access to intravenous therapies.

Lecture Learning Objectives:

Enhance your understanding of the role of the placenta in mediating the health of the mother and fetus (Scholar)

Update your understanding of obstetrical monitoring and management of placental mediated diseases (Medical expert)

Apply new key concepts to work through two cases (Collaborator)



10:25 AM - 10:55 AM EST

Communication Challenges

Dara Roth Edney, MSW, RSW



Dara Roth Edney (MSW, RSW) is a social worker, psychotherapist, and the founder and Clinical Director of Informed Fertility, a group counselling practice specializing in family building, supporting people through infertility and loss, and those accessing care due to sexual orientation, gender identity, relationship, or medical status. In practice for more than 20 years, Dara has counselled thousands of Intended Parents, conducted assessments for countless donors and surrogates, provided supports through pregnancy and parenting, and to donor conceived adults. She facilitates various patient support groups and is a sought-after community and conference speaker. Dara is Past Chair of the Canadian Fertility and Andrology Society's Counselling Special Interest Group, a Board member of Donor Conception Canada, and an instructor at Wilfred Laurier.

Lecture Learning Objectives:

Enhance Communication: Understand strategies for delivering difficult news with clarity, consistency, and empathy to ensure patients process information accurately and feel supported.

Manage Patient Expectations and Emotional Responses: Recognize common unrealistic expectations among older fertility patients and develop approaches to set and reinforce realistic treatment expectations throughout the fertility journey.

Balance Ethical Responsibility with Patient Autonomy: Explore psycho-social considerations surrounding age limitations in ART, including responsibility to patients, future children, and clinic staff, while maintaining compassionate and evidence-based communication.

10:55 AM - 11:25 AM EST

Health Break

11:25 AM - 11:55 AM EST

Panel Discussion: How Old is Too OLD for ART

Dr. Nigel Pereira

Rebecca Greenberg

Dr. Andrea Lausman

Dara Roth Edney

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM EST

Lunch



1:05 PM - 1:35 PM EST

As REIs, why do we do what we do? ICSI or no ICSI in non-male factor infertility?

Dr. Tom Hannam



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.

Lecture Learning Objectives:

To right-size our understanding of direct clinical risks and benefits of ICSI in the absence of known male factor.

To define all the value(s) and all the (true) costs of ICSI.

To incorporate the patient journey as a central variable when considering risks and outcome for any clinical decision.

1:35 PM - 2:10 PM EST

As REIs, why do we do what we do? ICSI or no ICSI in non-male factor infertility?

Dr. Crystal Chan



Dr. Crystal Chan is the Scientific Director of Markham Fertility Centre. She is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology (OB/GYN) and the Department of Lab Medicine and Pathology (LMP) at the University of Toronto. She trained at University of Toronto for residency, and Mt Sinai Fertility for fellowship. She started as an academic REI at Mt Sinai Fertility, and moved to Markham Fertility 3+ years ago, where she now practices "privademics". She has received national and international accolades for research, including awards from the American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM) and the Canadian Society for Clinical Investigation (CSCI).

Andrea Brough



Andrea Brough is a CFAS-certified clinical embryologist with 16 years of experience in the human IVF laboratory. She obtained her bachelor's degree in microbiology and immunology from Western University in Ontario and her master's degree in Clinical Embryology from the University of Leeds in the UK. Over the past 16 years, Andrea has played a key role in the growth of Markham Fertility Centre and its laboratory as the field of embryology and practice of assisted reproduction have evolved. Andrea serves as Markham's Laboratory Co-Director and is a lead member of the Quality Program, including the Accreditation Canada and Health Canada compliance teams. She passionately advocates for andrologists and embryologists as they navigate changing demands and technologies, while ensuring delivery of safe, high-quality patient care.



Lecture Learning Objectives:

To review the “epidemiology” of ICSI.

To review the literature that shows ICSI is non beneficial compared to standard IVF for non-male factor.

To outline the potential risks and costs of unnecessary ICSI.

2:15 PM - 2:45 PM EST

Panel Discussion: As REIs, why do we do what we do? ICSI or no ICSI in non-male factor infertility?

Dr. Tom Hannam

Dr. Crystal Chan

Andrea Brough

Kevin Lambrese



Kevin C. Lambrese performed his graduate studies at the Eastern Virginia Medical School, obtaining a Ph.D. degree majoring in reproductive clinical science. Kevin is a member of the American Society of Reproductive Medicine and The American Board of Bioanalysts. He has over 20 years of experience in the IVF laboratory and has been involved in research leading to numerous publications. Kevin currently oversees and supports all IVIRMA North America clinic laboratories on the east coast of the United States as well directing the laboratories at Trio Fertility Center in Toronto.

2:50 PM - 3:45 PM EST

When does PGT-A make sense? What about aneuploid embryo transfers?

Dr. Clifford Librach



Dr Clifford Librach completed his Medical School and Obstetrics and Gynecology Residency training at the University of Toronto, followed by fellowship subspecialty training in Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility (REI) at the University of California, San Francisco. Dr. Librach is the founder and Director of the CReATe Fertility Centre in Toronto. He is a Full Professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Toronto. Dr Librach has made significant contributions to current fertility practice in Canada and Internationally. He has served on provincial and national committees for the development of standards for the practice of REI in Canada. Dr Librach is a past president of the Canadian Fertility and Andrology Society (CFAS).



Nikki Logan

Nikki Logan is a skilled genetic counsellor currently working at CReATe Fertility. Nikki's academic journey began at Queen's University, where she earned her undergraduate degree in Biology. Following her time there, she continued her studies at McGill University, obtaining a Master of Science degree focused on the pituitary gland of the chicken. Eager to pivot her research to human genetics, she pursued a Master's in Genetic Counselling at the University of Toronto. After completing her master's at U of T, Nikki took on a role at the renowned SickKids Hospital in Toronto, working in both the Clinical Genetics department and the Genome Diagnostics Laboratory. These roles provided her with invaluable experience in genetic conditions and dysmorphology as well as counselling, preparing her for her next chapter in the field. In 2019, Nikki joined CReATe Fertility as the in-house genetic counsellor, where she now specializes in helping patients navigate the complexities of genetic testing in the context of fertility. Nikki is particularly focused on PGT-M and PGT-SR patients and those considering the transfer of mosaic embryos, guiding them through both the scientific and emotional aspects of their decisions. With a passion for genetics and its impact on human health, Nikki has built an extensive career in the field of genetic counselling.

3:45 PM - 4:00 PM EST

Q&A

Dr. Clifford Librach

Nikki Logan

4:05 PM - 4:15 PM EST

Closing Remarks

Dr. Carl Laskin

4:30 PM - 5:30 PM EST

Cocktail & Social Networking



This event is accredited for MOC Section 1 Group Learning credits

Accredited by UBC CPD



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Continuing Professional Development
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Accreditation Statement

The Division of Continuing Professional Development, University of British Columbia Faculty of Medicine (UBC CPD) is fully accredited by the Continuing Medical Education Accreditation Committee (CACME) to provide CPD credits for physicians. This activity is an Accredited Group Learning Activity (Section 1) as defined by the Maintenance of Certification Program of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, and approved by UBC CPD. You may claim a maximum of 6.5 hours (credits are automatically calculated). Each physician should claim only those credits accrued through participation in the activity.



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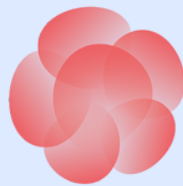
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