



CFAS West Coast Regional Meeting

Program



May 2nd, 2025 8:00am - 5:00pm

The Sutton Place Hotel

845 Burrard Street,
Vancouver, BC. V6Z 2K6

“Maintaining High Quality Fertility Care When Demand Exceeds Supply: Lessons Learned from Funding and High-Volume Practices.”



CFAS West Coast Regional Meeting 2025

7:30 am - 5:00 pm PST

Exhibit Hall Open

8:00 am - 8:15 am PST

Introduction & Welcome

8:20 am - 8:50 am PST Moderated by:

Utilizing Existing and Novel Technologies to Enhance Efficiency and the Patient Experience

Dr. Eduardo Hariton



Dr. Eduardo Hariton received his medical degree from Harvard Medical School in Boston and completed his residency in obstetrics and gynecology at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. He completed his fellowship in reproductive endocrinology & infertility at the University of California San Francisco. He also obtained a master's in business administration from Harvard Business School. Dr. Hariton has earned many honors and awards throughout his educational career, including a seminal contribution for Fertility and Sterility for his thesis research using artificial intelligence in IVF. He served on multiple clinical leadership committees during his residency and fellowship, with a focus on clinical quality improvement and diversity and inclusion. He has authored more than 70 high impact research publications, abstracts and presentations. He is a member of the American College of Obstetrics & Gynecology, the American Society for Reproductive Medicine and the Pacific Coast Reproductive Society.

Learning Objectives:

- Understand the impetus behind a critical need for focus on increased efficiency and the patient experience
- Understand the lens through which innovation can help improve the patient experience
- Review discrete examples across a patient's fertility journey in which technology can improve the patient experience



8:55 am - 9:25 am PST

Scaling Without Sacrificing: Delivering Excellence in High-Volume Fertility Care

Dr. Roohi Jeelani



Roohi Jeelani, MD, FACOG, is a double board certified Reproductive Endocrinologist and Infertility Specialist (REI). A graduate of Ross University School of Medicine, she completed both her residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology and her fellowship in Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility at Wayne State University – Detroit Medical Center. During her medical training, Dr. Jeelani received numerous awards in the areas of fetal medicine and reproductive medicine. In addition, she has authored a variety of publications and book chapters in well known journals highlighting cutting-edge REI advancement and has presented at national/international conferences and symposiums focused on advancements in women's health. Dr. Jeelani is an active member of many medical associations. A highly-skilled reproductive endocrinologist and infertility specialist focusing on all areas of reproductive health, Dr. Jeelani has a special interest in oncofertility, toxins' impact on reproductive function, chemotherapy, and oocyte cryopreservation.

Learning Objectives:

- Identify key operational strategies that support high-volume IVF practices while maintaining individualized, patient-centered care.
- Evaluate the role of staffing, technology, and workflow optimization in preserving quality outcomes amid rising demand.
- Recognize the importance of patient satisfaction and identify critical drop-out points in the fertility journey to improve retention and outcomes.

9:30 am - 10:00 am PST

Health Break

10:05 am - 10:35 am PST

Is REI ready for change? The convergence of an expanded care model and access improvements enabled by technology.

Dr. Gerard Letterie



Gerard is a partner at Seattle Reproductive Medicine, Seattle, Washington, and the Pinnacle Network. He is a board-certified reproductive endocrinologist and fellow in the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the American College of Physicians.

Gerard completed his training in obstetrics and gynecology at Walter Reed Hospital in Washington DC and a fellowship in REI at National Institutes of Health. He has served on various educational committees including a position as an oral examiner for the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology. He has conducted research in artificial intelligence and its application to fertility since 2012. Gerard publishes in peer reviewed journals on AI, malpractice and ethical issues surrounding ART/REI. He is editor of JARG and RBMO. His interests include risk management and medical liability and computers/AI in clinical care and image analysis.

Learning Objectives:

- Understand what change means
- Discuss our evolving understanding of access needs among un and underserved/vulnerable population
- Describe emerging and almost right for prime time AI based tools
- How to leverage these tools to meet a new definition of REI care



10:40 am - 11:10 am PST

Benefits of publicly funded fertility programs: lessons from Quebec & Ontario

Maria Velez



Dr. Maria Velez is an Associate Professor and Clinician Scientist in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at McGill University. She completed her fellowship in Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility at Université de Montréal in 2013, followed by a PhD in Epidemiology in 2015 at the same institution. Afterward, she joined Queen's University's Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology as a clinician scientist, where she successfully developed a research program funded by CIHR. Dr. Velez is an active member of the CFAS clinical practice guidelines committee. Since September 2024, Dr. Velez has returned to Montreal as a faculty member at the McGill University Reproductive Centre.

Learning Objectives:

- To describe the role of publicly funded fertility programs on demographics and access to IVF
- To determine the impact of publicly funded fertility programs on the numbers of embryos transferred and cumulative pregnancy rates
- To quantify the impact of publicly funded fertility programs on multifetal pregnancy rates

11:15 am - 11:45 am PST

Experience on Adapting to The Onset of The Ontario Funding Program

Michael Neal



Michael Neal is the Scientific Director and co-founder of ONE Fertility (www.onefertility.com). He is also the GREI Fellowship Research Coordinator and an Adjunct Assistant Clinical Professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at McMaster University. Mike enjoys being involved in teaching and mentoring students at McMaster as well as the University of Guelph and Toronto. With over 2 decades of experience in clinical Assisted Reproductive Technologies Mike has numerous peer-reviewed publications and is a frequent reviewer for many major scientific journals related to reproduction. He is a recipient of the Laboratory Innovation in Fertility and Embryology (LIFE) Award and other honors such as: Best Basic Science Paper, Best Clinical Paper, Alpha Exchange, and the R.T. Weaver Award. In addition to his clinical responsibilities, Mike has research interests in: (a) the effect of environmental contaminants on fertility, (b) non-invasive measurements of embryo quality, and (c) fertility preservation for oncology and transgender patients.

Learning Objectives:

- Compare Ontario Funding Program (OFP) with proposed BC Funding Model
- How Ontario clinics prepared for funding
- Ongoing management of the OFP



12:00 pm - 1:00 pm PST

Lunch

1:05 pm - 1:35 pm PST

Guidelines vs practice: Are we managing recurrent early pregnancy loss effectively?

Sony Sierra



Dr. Sierra is an Associate Physician at Women's College Hospital and an Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology in the Division of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility at the University of Toronto. She has been published in peer-reviewed journals and authored chapters in prestigious textbooks, as well as presented papers at national and international conferences. Her current research interests include infertility, recurrent pregnancy loss, implantation failure, and PCOS. Dr. Sierra is the immediate Past President of the Canadian Fertility & Andrology Society (CFAS) 2022-2023, and a founding member of the Guidelines for Practice Committee. She is also an active member of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ARSM), previous chair of the Early Pregnancy Special Interest Group (2016-2017); and the European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology (ESHRE). Dr. Sierra believes that involvement and participation in these established and well-respected societies will ensure expertise and up-to-date knowledge that she can pass on to her patients. Dr. Sierra is committed to providing excellence in the management of infertility and pregnancy loss with a gentle and compassionate approach.

1:40 pm - 2:10 pm PST

3D-modeling of placenta development highlights the requirement for low oxygen levels in driving invasive trophoblast expansion

Alexander Beristain



Dr. Alexander G. Beristain is an Assistant Professor in the Division of Maternal Fetal Medicine. He received his Ph.D. in Reproductive and Developmental Sciences from UBC in 2007 and completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the Ontario Cancer Institute in 2012. His research focuses on maternal immune function and placental biology, aiming to understand and improve pregnancy outcomes, especially in the context of complications like pre-eclampsia and miscarriage. Dr. Beristain is a Principal Investigator on grants from CIHR, NSERC, and BCCHR, and a Co-Investigator on an NIH grant with Wendy Robinson. He has received the New Investigator grant from Sick Kids Foundation and the John R. Evans Leaders Fund from the Canadian Foundation for Innovation.

Learning Objectives:

- To understand the cellular composition of the first trimester placenta
- To gain insight into dynamic cellular processes leading to maternal-fetal interface establishment
- To understand how different levels of oxygen control the development of invasive trophoblast cells



2:15 pm - 2:45 pm PST

Health Break

2:50 pm - 3:20 pm PST

ERA: a postmortem analysis

Neal Mahutte



Dr. Mahutte is board certified by both the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and the American Board of Obstetrics & Gynecology and Reproductive Endocrinology & Infertility. He did his undergraduate studies at Stanford University and then completed his medical degree and residency training in Obstetrics & Gynecology at McGill University. He then did a 3-year fellowship in Reproductive Endocrinology & Infertility (REI) at Yale University. Upon completing his fellowship in 2003, Dr. Mahutte was appointed Assistant Professor of Obstetrics & Gynecology at Dartmouth Medical School. Dr. Mahutte returned to Montreal in 2007 to become the Medical Director of the Montreal Fertility Centre. From 2014 to 2015 Dr. Mahutte served as President of the Canadian Fertility and Andrology Society (CFAS), and from 2012-2019 he served on their Board of Directors. In 2016 Dr. Mahutte became the Chair of the Clinical Practice Guideline Committee for the CFAS, and in 2018 he became the Chair of the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) Reproductive Tissues Subcommittee.

Learning Objectives:

- To understand how ERA was introduced into the market
- To understand why ERA failed to improve outcomes
- To recognize why similar failures may recur in the future



3:25 pm - 4:25 pm PST

Beyond the REI: Are Advanced Care Providers the Future of IVF?

Gary Nakhuda



Dr. Nakhuda is a board-certified specialist in obstetrics, gynecology, and reproductive endocrinology. He co-founded and co-directs the Olive Fertility Centre in Vancouver. His clinical expertise includes polycystic ovarian syndrome, fertility preservation, recurrent pregnancy loss, and preimplantation genetic testing (PGT). He is actively researching causes of implantation failure in normal embryos and has led multiple clinical trials focused on improving fertility care through research and data analysis.

Dr. Nakhuda earned his medical degree from New York Medical College and spent 12 years at Columbia University Medical Center, completing his residency and fellowship while serving on the faculty. He published over 20 research articles and book chapters and was a multiple-time recipient of the "Patients Choice Award" for outstanding care. He relocated to Vancouver in 2011 with his wife, a BC native.

Dr. Timothy Rowe

Dr. Timothy Rowe is an emeritus Associate Professor in the UBC Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, where he served until his retirement in 2019. He was Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Canada from 2004 and led the Division of Reproductive Endocrinology & Infertility from 2003 to 2013.

Dr. Rowe received his medical degree from the University of Adelaide in 1971, followed by residency training in Australia and Canada, and a research fellowship in reproductive medicine at the University of Sydney. He joined Dalhousie University's faculty in 1979 and moved to Vancouver in 1981, where he has remained affiliated with UBC. A pioneer in IVF, Dr. Rowe was part of the team responsible for Canada's first IVF pregnancy in 1983. He has served on the editorial boards of four journals and contributed to national consensus reports on endometriosis, contraception, menopause, and osteoporosis.

4:25 pm - 4:40 pm PST

Closing Remarks

4:40 pm - 5:40 pm PST

Cocktail and Social Networking



This event is accredited for MOC Section 1 Group Learning credits

Accredited by UBC CPD



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Continuing Professional Development

Faculty of Medicine

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.



**THANK YOU TO OUR
CHAMPION SPONSORS**

FERRING

PHARMACEUTICALS

**EMD
SERONO**

**TO OUR
PLATINUM SPONSOR**

 **ORGANON**

**TO OUR
EXHIBITORS**



XYTEX
Corporation

VITROLIFE GROUP™

EXCELLENCE IN REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Igenomix®

Vitrolife 