

fertility matters @ wesley

May 2009

Research Leads the Way - Dr John Allan, Medical Director, Wesley Monash IVF

Wesley Monash IVF is dedicated to research, clinical teaching and most importantly excellence in patient care.



Dr John Allan

In 1988 when I commenced the IVF program at the Wesley Hospital (Queensland IVF Services) I realised that the provision of the best quality care in Reproductive Medicine to our patients could only be achieved with the assistance of a well educated team of professionals; Clinicians, Scientists, Nurses and Secretarial staff.

A considerable amount of time and effort at Wesley Monash IVF is therefore invested in the training of new staff and keeping current staff up to date in the rapidly changing science of reproductive medicine.

EDUCATING DOCTORS OF THE FUTURE

Queensland IVF Services in 1990 was the first IVF unit in Brisbane to incorporate a medical student education program into its services whereby final year students from the University of Queensland attend the Wesley campus for one day's education in reproductive medicine during their Obstetric / Gynae term. This teaching program has now been extended to include students from Bond and Griffith Universities.

The clinicians, nurses and scientists at Wesley Monash IVF give of their time freely to assist in this very important training for our doctors of the future.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Wesley Monash IVF runs education programs in reproductive medicine for the general public through our community education nights. These nights are held bi monthly on the Wesley Hospital campus with members of staff and also patients contributing to the program.

STAFF TRAINING

Continuing education for doctors, nurses and scientists is organised through fertility conferences in Australia and overseas. Attending a number of these conferences is compulsory for all medical, scientific and nursing staff who report back to the unit on significant topics discussed at these meetings.

Each month our clinicians, senior scientist and senior nurse attend the units' Scientific Review and Clinical Audit meeting. This meeting reviews all clinical protocols and patient outcomes and makes appropriate changes to clinical protocols where necessary. The meeting also reviews results of new research within the unit and in Australia and overseas. If deemed important, research results are then conveyed to all members of the unit and to our patients. It is compulsory for the units Clinicians to attend 50% of these meetings.

Since 1992, the unit has also organised regular scientific meetings at the Wesley campus where overseas speakers are invited as well as our Australian and New Zealand colleagues.

Scientific Research has been paramount to the success of the Wesley Monash IVF unit.

I commenced a research program when the unit was established as Queensland IVF Services in 1988. Initial studies

(presented at meetings in Australia and USA) included the effect of endometriosis on fallopian tube function and work on minimally stimulated IVF cycles. In 1997 our research into freezing of sperm aspirated from the human testis and used in IVF treatment achieved the first 3 pregnancies in the world and was published in the American Journal of Reproductive Medicine. This was a significant breakthrough to assist men suffering from azoospermia (no sperm in the ejaculate) to have a family.

In recent years the IVF unit at the Wesley, in collaboration with researchers from Queensland University of Technology (QUT) and with the assistance from the Wesley Research Institute (WRI) have made very important discoveries relating to bacteria both in the female and male genital tracts and in the fluid surrounding the oocyte. These bacteria appear to have an adverse effect on fertility outcomes in IVF treatment. Further research into the area of the factors that facilitate embryo implantation at the time of IVF treatment and embryo transfer is planned to commence later this year.



The IVF unit at the Wesley Hospital is dedicated to maintaining the best quality of care for its patients and this can only be achieved by incorporating a strong education and scientific research program into our every day clinical work. All research at the Wesley Monash IVF unit is reviewed and considered for approval by the United Care Health Human Ethics Committee.

Wesley celebrates 21 years of success

Since commencing services in 1988 the Wesley IVF program has achieved success with more than 2000 children born as a result of assisted reproductive technology. In April the Wesley IVF unit celebrated 21 years of IVF success at the Wesley Hospital.

With one in six couples experiencing fertility problems, the Wesley Hospital, in collaboration with Monash IVF provide over 400 treatment cycles a year, bringing hope to many infertile couples

throughout Queensland.

Twenty one years on, Dr John Allan, founder of the Wesley IVF unit, is overwhelmed by the success of the program that continues to provide couples with a wide range of services for treatment of male and female infertility. "It is rewarding and encouraging reaching this 21 year milestone and reflecting on the worldwide technological developments that continue to provide Wesley Monash IVF with some of the



most advanced and effective fertility treatments for our patients." Dr Allan said.

SUCCESS WITH ASSISTED REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGY

The pregnancy rates for 2008 for the current accredited clinicians are detailed below.

Wesley IVF 2008 Results	Number of Transfers	Clinical Pregnancies	Pregnancy Rate/Embryo Transfer
Standard IVF & ICSI (All ages)	259	91	35.1 %
< 35 yrs	116	50	43 %
35 - 39 yrs	98	30	30.6 %
> 40	45	11	24.4 %
FET	323	120	37.1 %

Wesley Monash IVF Clinicians

Wesley Monash IVF is proud to have a dedicated team of highly skilled and experienced Fertility Specialists. All have specialist obstetrician and gynaecological qualifications and have developed their special interests in infertility areas over many years.



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Coming Events

Free Public Information Seminars are held bi monthly for patients thinking about undertaking assisted reproductive treatment. Dates for 2009 are located on the Wesley Monash IVF web site at www.wesley.monashivf.com



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Our Doctors

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