ISSUE

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YOUR QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER
KEEPING YOU UP-TO-DATE WITH
CURRENT RESEARCH IN THE WORLD
OF FERTILTIY

# In Fertility News

# Upcoming Events

### **Fertility Group Meeting**

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May

#### 'Smart Choices' Event

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> Ma 6:30-9:00pm

### **Open Evening**

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June 6:30-7:30pm



## Welcome

Welcome and thank you for subscribing to the new IVF London quarterly newsletter. We hope you find it helpful and informative.

## PATIENT PLEDGE

IVF London is very proud to be taking the Fertility Network UK Patient Pledge (pictured), which is our commitment to delivering exceptional emotional support to all our patients. We are delighted to be working with this amazing charity to ensure that the support we provide helps to reduce the stress and isolation that many experience while going through treatment. Together with our Patient Pledge, we are also launching 'Fertility Groups' that will act as a safe-space to provide patients access to ongoing peer support. They will enable patients to share ideas and experiences in a safe and supportive environment.

# Blog of the month

**PGS - The future of fertility?** 

Find out in our latest blog post





Director Alpesh Doshi often travels abroad as a guest speaker at fertility conferences around the world. Pictured above right is an image of Alpesh at the 8<sup>th</sup> International Congress of the Jordanian Society for Fertility and Genetics where he gave a talk on genetic testing of embryos. He also met HRH Princess Rahma of Jordan (Pictured above left)



### **TESTIMONIALS**

for making the whole process so enjoyable. It has been a very smooth and well organised process and you all were very professional and caring. It has been a pleasure being at IVF London and I'm

I am very proud to review my experience I have had with IVF London in Elstree. the professionalism and genuine care we with Alpesh, we felt totally at ease, with any questions we had answered in detail.

Our nurse, Abby, was so patient, grateful for Alpesh and Abby answering my calls in the first ring, for always and feeding us with all the knowledge we needed. Dr Shipra and Dr Alex treated me with the incredible expertise. Their years of experience in fertility was evident. Thanks to this amazing team that lead to a successful pregnancy with the very first try! I am eternally grateful to over again always.

Thank you for everything. Your charming, confident face and detailed follow ups made the "drama queen" feel relaxed

# 3-parent babies; revolutionary or unethical?

The UK has become the first country to legalise mitochondrial replacement therapy (MRT)

The novel technique, which involves using genetic material from three individuals, can help children prevent from inheriting certain severe disorders.

Mitochondria are small sections inside cells that are responsible for producing energy inside the body. They also contain small amounts of their own DNA, which is different from all other DNA in the body. Women that faulty carry mitochondria can pass on mitochondria-related disorders to their children, and these disorders can often be fatal.

The new technique involves the removal of the nucleus (structure

information) from the egg of the mother. The nucleus of the donor egg is removed and discarded. The nucleus from the mother is then injected into the donor egg. This egg contains the healthy mitochondria from the donor and the nucleus from the mother. The sperm of the father is then injected into the egg for fertilisation. The resulting embryos will then contain the genetic information of 3 individuals.

There are, however, scientists in the UK that are concerned about the long-term health of children born using this technique. Moving the nucleus from one egg to another can cause damage to the cell, and the effects of this damage have not been studied well enough.

Ethics plays a prominent role in the world of IVF. Certain individuals have deemed MRT irresponsible and another way in which scientists are trying to play God. While the UK have legalised this treatment, many other countries have deemed it illegal because of the ethical implications.

MRT may become an effective way for women with mitochondrial diseases to have healthy children, but considering the long-term implications of the methods used, precautions will still be necessary.

inside cells that contains the genetic

Mother's egg with faulty The nucleus from the mother's egg is removed mitochondria and placed inside the donor egg. This egg is then fertilised with sperm from the father. The resulting Nucleus removed from mother's egg embryo will have healthy mitochondria (from the and transferred into donor) and DNA from both the mother and father. donor's egg Sperm from father injected into egg for fertilisation Embryo developed for 3-5 days before being transferred Embryo free of Egg containing healthy mitochondrial disease is mitochondria from donor transferred back into the and nucleus from mother mother's uterus Nucleus removed from donor egg and Donor's egg with healthy discarded mitochondria



