

Spring 2009



Southeastern Fertility Center Perspectives

About Southeastern Fertility Center

Southeastern Fertility Center, founded in 1982, is home to the first IVF conception and birth in South Carolina. Since the first IVF baby was born in 1985, the team at SEFC has also introduced blastocyst transfer, frozen embryo transfers, micromanipulation techniques, genetic testing, oocyte tissue cryopreservation and an active donor oocyte program. Grant W. Patton Jr. MD and John A. Schnorr MD are dedicated to providing the most personalized, effective treatment available for couples who are experiencing infertility. In addition to clinical expertise, SEFC also offers the IntegraMed® Shared Risk® Refund Program which was developed to reduce a couple's financial anxiety by fixing the costs associated with multiple IVF cycles. SEFC has offices in Mt. Pleasant, Columbia, and Myrtle Beach along with additional monitoring sites in Savannah and Wilmington, to conveniently serve patients across the region. To learn more about SEFC, visit www.sefertility.com.

Octuplets! Irresponsible at Best

John Schnorr, MD • jschnorr@sefertility.com

It seems that over the last several weeks, the big new stories throughout the country have been a combination of the economy and the octuplets. Frequently at times the octuplet story has been the leading story

showing the magnitude of the octuplet problem and public interest.

We at Southeastern Fertility Center have been concerned about Ms. Suleman's octuplet pregnancy and our concerns were heightened by the announcement she conceived her children through in-vitro fertilization (IVF) with six embryos



this case, we cannot conceive of a situation in which it would be appropriate to transfer six embryos in an IVF cycle. The octuplet pregnancy appears to be the result of an irresponsible physician providing care for

a patient so desperate to conceive that she is willing to undergo treatment at any risk.

While this story is fascinating in many ways, what it is not is typical of ethical fertility treatment. This case represents a vast departure from the norm and is certainly not typical of treatment your

We at Southeastern Fertility Center have been concerned about Ms. Suleman's octuplet pregnancy and our concerns were heightened by the announcement she conceived her children through in-vitro fertilization (IVF) with six embryos being transferred.

being transferred. We are pleased that the California Medical Board has announced they will be investigating this matter.

While we have yet to hear from the physician regarding the medical facts of

patients receive at Southeastern Fertility Center. As one of our trusted referring physicians and colleagues, we wanted to share our thoughts on how something like this could happen and, most importantly,

*Once again, we appreciate
your continued referrals
and support.*

how Southeastern Fertility Center is working to reduce the frequency of multiple pregnancies, particularly high order multiple pregnancies.

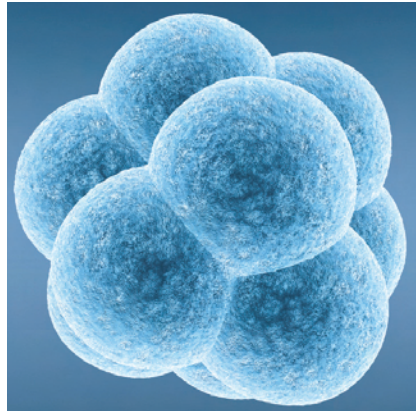
As physicians we have known for many years the dangers of multiple pregnancies including twin gestations. Accordingly, Southeastern Fertility Center has worked closely with the American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM) to follow the national guidelines which are based upon evidence-based medicine. We are proud that progress has been made since the first national guidelines were established; the number of IVF cycles resulting in triplets and higher order births nationwide has decreased from 7% in 1996 to 2% in 2005.

More specifically, Southeastern Fertility Center has been focusing on lowering multiple pregnancy rates regionally by lowering the number of embryos transferred in both in-vitro fertilization cycles and donor egg cycles. The core component of our effort to reduce the number of embryos transferred includes:

1. Patient education regarding the risk of multiple pregnancies
2. Use of elective single embryo transfer
3. Extensive research and development of a blastocyst culture system
4. Refinement of embryo cryopreservation protocols

The efficacy of this approach is demonstrated in our 2007 pregnancy rates recently published by the Society for Assisted Reproductive technology (SART) which demonstrates that Southeastern Fertility Center transferred an average of only 2.1 embryos for women less than 35

years of age which did not result in any pregnancies complicated by triplets or more and resulted in a live birth rate per embryo transfer of 52.7%! In fact, a review of the last five years of statistics from Southeastern Fertility Center shows that 520 treatment cycles resulted in a live birth of which only 11 had triplets or greater, resulting in a triplet pregnancy



rate of 0.19%.

We pride ourselves at Southeastern Fertility Center in helping couples resolve their quest to complete their reproductive

goals through pregnancy rates which are among the top in the country in a compassionate and nurturing environment. We feel that the doctor is more than merely a technician carrying out patient wishes, but more importantly a moral agent with responsibility for the results of the medical care. If we participated in the cycle resulting in the octuplets, we would feel a significant responsibility for the outcome. Accordingly, we will continue to lead the charge emphasizing blastocyst embryo transfer, embryo cryopreservation, oocyte cryopreservation, patient education, and elective single embryo transfer to help lower the chances of multiple pregnancies and improve the reproductive potential of each and every treatment cycle. Once again, we appreciate your continued referrals and support. I look forward to your thoughts regarding the octuplet pregnancy and this article. Please feel free to contact me at any time regarding your thoughts, questions or concerns at jschnorr@sefertility.com

SEFC Wins with Leaders

Grant W. Patton Jr., MD

A leading infertility specialist is moving to Mount Pleasant with his family, including three children. Doctor Michael Slowey will join SEFC in early May. He has practiced with Reproductive Medical

Associates of N.J., for eight years, one of the country's leading IVF programs.

Established by Dr. Richard Scott, RMA has led the movement toward better evaluation of ovarian function resulting in improved IVF pregnancy outcome.

Dr. Slowey's research interests include egg development and embryo implantation. He has won many awards as an outstanding physician.



Dr. Slowey, board certified in Reproductive Endocrinology, and Obstetrics and Gynecology, began his career as a Naval physician, reaching the position of Director of the Division of RE and

Infertility in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Naval Medical Center, in Portsmouth, V.A., a position he held for eight years. In addition to private practice at RMA, Dr. Slowey held an academic appointment in the department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Reproductive Science at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, in New Jersey.



Dr. Michael Slowey

Dr. Slowey's background has prepared him to continue in the tradition combining private practice and academic medicine we have established at SEFC. He will join Dr. Schnorr in the Division of Reproductive Medicine at MUSC interacting with residents and medical students, many of whom rotate through the private center. Dr. Slowey will also actively participate in the busy private infertility program and see patients at the Charleston, Columbia, and Myrtle Beach offices.

The integration of teaching and medical practice has been a cornerstone of the SEFC success. It begins with resident and medical student teaching, but is equally important in patient care, as patients begin to understand their specific diagnosis and treatment plan. Dr. Slowey's communication skills have been especially appreciated by staff and physicians with whom he interacts, which is an approach we cherish at SEFC. We are excited to welcome Dr. Michael Slowey to SEFC and hope you will take a few minutes to get to know him.

Grant W. Patton, Jr. MD
Grant.Patton@integrated.com

Attain™ IVF Program

Thousands of people have made their dream of having a family come true through In-Vitro Fertilization (IVF) treatment. But the reality is that many people will require more than one IVF cycle to be successful. And patients who commit to three cycles almost double their chances of having a baby. Southeastern Fertility Center is the exclusive provider of the Attain IVF patient financing program, here in southern and central South Carolina.

The Attain IVF Program, formerly known as the IntegraMed® Shared Risk® Refund Program, is designed to increase your opportunity to get the outcome you want—a baby—while managing the cost of IVF treatment.

- You pay a single, discounted fee.
- You receive up to 6 cycles (3 IVF and 3 frozen embryo transfers). If you are a donor egg recipient, you receive unlimited frozen embryo transfers.
- If you don't take a baby home from the hospital, you're guaranteed a refund—70% for IVF treatment plans and 100% for treatment plans including donor eggs.

Is the Attain IVF Program a guarantee?

We do not guarantee a successful outcome. But we do guarantee that the majority of your money will be refunded if you don't take home a baby. So you can still afford to pursue other options to build a family if IVF treatment doesn't work for you.

Who qualifies for the program?

Once IVF is recommended by one of our participating physicians, IntegraMed's clinical staff will review the following information to determine if a patient is an appropriate candidate for the Program:

- Women's age - Ability to complete all three IVF cycles prior to the woman's 38th birthday (unless donor eggs are being used)

- Day 3 hormone tests - FSH and E2 within normal limits
- Semen analysis
- Evaluation of fallopian tubes and uterine cavity
- Body Mass Index (BMI)
- Need for Preimplantation Genetic Diagnosis Testing (PGD)
- Medical history, including highest FSH, prior IUI and IVF cycles, and pregnancy lost history (miscarriage)

New Practice Development Manager

Hello, I am Narda Ray-Hentges. I am the new Practice Development Manager here at SEFC, with 24 years of Medical Sales and Practice Administration as well as a B.S. and M.S. in Psychology. I look forward to getting to know you, working with you, the physicians, as well as your offices. By now I hope that all of you have received my introduction letter sharing with you a little about myself. Please let me know if there is anything we can do to enhance your experience with us.

Ms. Narda Ray-Hentges
Narda.Ray-Hentes@integrated.com





*Southeastern
Fertility
Center*

1375 Hospital Drive
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464
Charleston, Columbia, Myrtle Beach
www.sefertility.com

— — — — —
✦
— — — — —
Southeastern Fertility Center just hosted the 11th annual
Art of Donor Oocytes and Third Party Reproduction Conference
from February 26-March 1, 2009. It was a marvelous success
once again, and very informative!
— — — — —
✦
— — — — —

*If you are new to the area and would like information on our services, please contact Narda Ray-Hentges at (843) 819-3434
or narda.ray-hentges@integrated.com*