

# JONES INSTITUTE FOR REPRODUCTIVE MEDICINE AT EASTERN VIRGINIA MEDICAL SCHOOL

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## Experts in Assisted Reproductive Techniques Achieve High Pregnancy Success Rates

The Jones Institute for Reproductive Medicine distinguishes itself largely as a facility that offers a comprehensive range of diagnostic and therapeutic technologies in treating infertility. We are continually refining our techniques and utilizing the most advanced equipment; thus allowing us to better streamline our processes, and consequently to offer better outcomes for our patients.

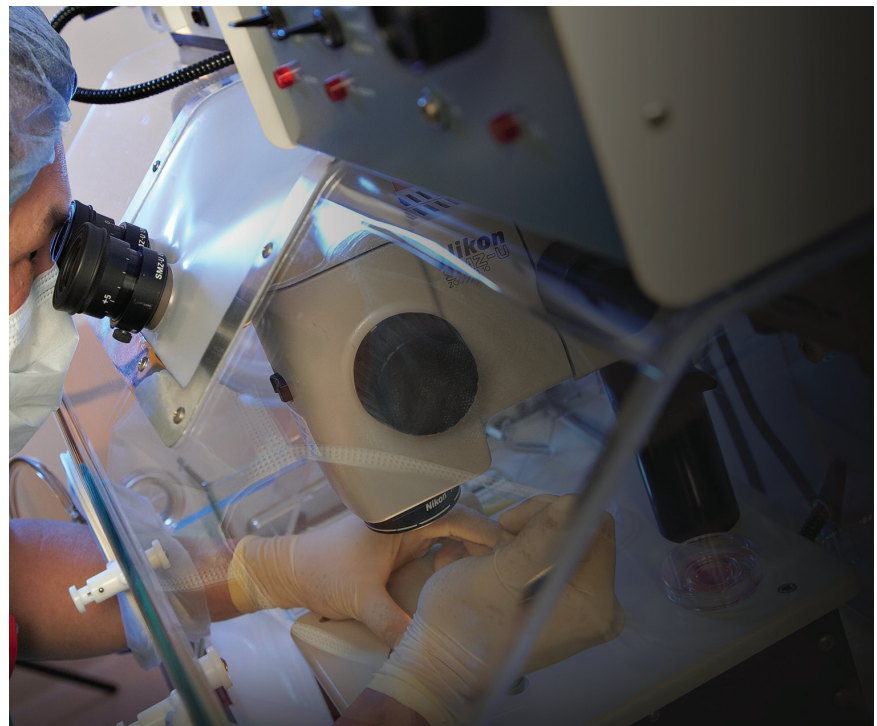
In early 2016, Gerry Celia PhD joined our team of specialists as the new Lab Director and Head of Embryology. He brings over a decade of hands-on, demonstrated expertise to the lab. Under his direction we have made our flow more seamless - from retrieval to thaw and transfer, resulting in less stress to the embryos and greater success for our patients. Some of the highlights include:

**Single Step Culture Media** – previously the fertilization process of an embryo had required refreshing its culture media twice or three times throughout the course of its development – to insure the most ideal conditions for each stage. This interruption introduced numerous instances where the embryos were disturbed and might be compromised. In recent years, a new culture system has been developed (single step culture) which reduces disturbances to the embryos, resulting in quieter, healthier embryos.

**Increased Preimplantation Genetic Screening (PGS) cycles** – the Jones Institute has secured a new working relationship with Good Start Genetics, a cutting-edge provider of genetic screening. With their collaboration, we have further improved our ability to identify genetically normal embryos which are most likely to result in a pregnancy. More exact diagnostics leads to efficiency – and translates into cost reduction for the patient. The cost

of PGS has become remarkably less than what it had been just a year ago, allowing it to play a more routine role in IVF for eligible candidates.

**100% Vitrification** – vitrification is a means of cryopreservation which greatly reduces the chance



of damage to the egg or embryo when it is frozen. The result is a survival rate which approaches 100%. We have completely moved away from the conventional slow-cooling process for cryopreservation of eggs and embryos. **The Embryoscope** is one of the most sophisticated incubators available in the field with the ability to record uninterrupted surveillance of the embryo's first few days

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of growth. This piece of equipment eliminates the possibility of disturbing the embryo until we are ready for transfer and reduces exposure of embryos to the outside environment. More importantly, it is allowing us to develop new methods of selecting the embryos most likely to result in pregnancy merely by studying their developmental patterns. Working with some of the largest centers across the country we are refining our understanding of these patterns and enjoying the positive impact it is having on our patients.

**New Bench-top incubators** – upon initial retrieval, just prior to the placement of the fertilized embryos in the Embryoscope, these transitional incubators aid in avoiding all contaminants or airborne toxins/organic compounds by reducing exposure of embryos to the outside environment. Essentially they are tiny “clean rooms” for the embryos to grow.

These advances culminate in providing the most gentle, consistent environment for the embryos, which in turn results in better outcomes for our patients. In fact, compared to where we were this time last year, we are

proud to report an upward trend in our pregnancy rates: Dr. Celia reported, *“The last quarter of 2016 we saw 55% of our fresh transfers resulting in pregnancy, which is significantly up from 35% same time last year.”*

At the Jones Institute for Reproductive Medicine, our focus is to achieve excellence for the betterment of our patients - all the while being mindful of keeping our fees for services within an affordable range. □



To schedule a consultation for your patients, please dial 757.446.7100 or contact our liaison for a referral form at 757.446.0532.

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