Creating Modern Families
PROGRAMME

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Alka Prakash

Consultant and Clinical Lead, Reproductive Medicine

Dr Alka Prakash MD FRCOG PG Cert has been working in the field of reproductive medicine for over 15 years. She is now leading the IVF unit at Cambridge University Hospitals NHS trust. She has done research on recurrent miscarriage as well as implantation failure and has multiple first author publications to her name.

She is involved in teaching/training and has been recognized by the RCOG as a trainer and examiner for the MRCOG exam. She is a BFS accredited trainer for the various training modules. She believes in multidisciplinary working and has promoted further training of nursing colleagues in her department to promote nurse delivered services.

Vasanti Jadva

Principal Research Associate
Centre for Research

Dr Vasanti Jadva is a Principal Research Associate and an Affiliated Lecturer at the Department of Psychology. Her research examines the psychological well-being of parents and children in families created by IVF, egg donation, sperm donation and surrogacy. She has also studied the experiences of surrogates and gamete donors.

Dr. Jadva is currently working with colleagues on a number of different studies which aim to increase understanding of new family arrangements involving non-cohabiting co-parents, transgender parents, elective single fathers and identifiable egg donors.

James Lawford Davies

Partner
Hill Dickinson

James is a regulatory lawyer and litigator in Hill Dickinson’s life sciences team. He advises companies, clinics, hospitals, universities and researchers on a wide range of regulatory frameworks governing life sciences and health tech. He has a particular expertise in advising in relation to tissue and cell based therapies and research, including IVF and embryo research, and on the regulation of medical devices and IVD’s.

James is an experienced litigator and has been involved in cases at every level in the UK courts. Much of his work concerns the judicial review of regulatory bodies and cases arising as a result of regulatory action.

In addition to private practice, James is an honorary lecturer in the department of biochemical engineering at UCL. He lectures widely on his specialist subjects, both in the UK and internationally.
Jane Stewart
Consultant in Reproductive Medicine
Newcastle-Upon-Tyne Hospitals NHS Trust

Dr Stewart is the Head of the Newcastle Fertility Centre, the largest NHS Centre in the North east of England. She has been the Centre’s PR for over 15 years and brings that experience to this course. She is in addition a Subspecialty Training Programme Director and Chair of the BFS.

Talk title: Eggs and embryos – donation and sharing

Whilst the technical processes of IVF have enabled eggs and embryos to be made available for donation for the treatment of others, there is much more involved than simply the handing over of good quality material.

This lecture will in addition to practicalities, consider the legal and ethical considerations surrounding egg and embryo donation which influence the implications both short and longer term for donors and recipients.

It will also discuss the specific factors relating to donation within same sex relationships. Whilst the legal aspects relate to treatment undertaken in the UK there are many aspects which demonstrating good practice.

Key learning points

To understand:
- The principles of egg donation and sharing including recruitment and screening
- Legal issues a round egg donation and sharing
- The specifics of egg donation including within single sex relationships

Rachel Cutting
Director of Compliance and Information
HFEA

Rachel graduated from the University of Nottingham in 1995 and completed the Association of Clinical Embryologists Post Graduate Diploma in 1998. In 2001 she gained the position of Principal Embryologist at Jessop Fertility and held the position of Person Responsible for 9 years. Rachel was Chair of ACE from 2011 to 2014. She was involved in writing the national curriculum for training embryologists and has written national guidelines for oocyte freezing and elective single embryo transfer. She has written several papers and chapters and has lectured internationally.

After being a member of the HFEA for a year and an embryologist for 24 years Rachel joined the HFEA as the Director of Compliance and Information in 2019. She was awarded an MBE in 2015 for services to infertility.

Talk title: Cross border fertility care

Over the last few years increasing number of patients are seeking treatment overseas. This globalisation phenomenon sees patients travelling to wide range of countries for diverse reasons. Many patients use the internet and make independent choices regarding their choice of clinics where as other undergo a pathway of shared care with a consultant in their own country. There are many ethical issues as well as those associated with legalities and patient safety which suggests that there should be recommendations for best practice. Regulation and assessment of quality of care is limited in many countries and centres overseas should perhaps seek some form of accreditation to reassure patients and referrers. UK centre staff should ensure they know the regulations regarding export of sperm for use in donor egg cycles especially if a special direction is being applied for export of sperm.

Key learning points

- Destinations and reasons for fertility travel
- Global aspects of regulation and quality of care
- Legal perspectives and ethical issues
Jan Grace

**Consultant Gynaecologist**

**Assisted Conception Units, Guy’s Hospital, London**

Jan Grace obtained a first degree in Biology and Chemistry then did postgraduate medicine at the Royal London Hospital. Afterwards she completed her Obstetric and Gynaecology training and sub-speciality training in reproductive medicine and surgery at Guy's and St Thomas'. Appointed as a Consultant in 2006 at Guy's and St Thomas'. She has always had a keen interest in training and education, as undergraduate lead set up GSTT O and G summer school, as RCOG SE work place behaviour champion and she has developed the GSTT bullying and harassment training programme and is RM SST programme Director. Having completed a diploma in NHS leadership with distinction she was Head of Service for gynaecology for 3 years and is now Clinical Director for Women’s Services.

Clinically her interests lie in PGD, reproductive surgery in particular management of fibroids, gamete donation having set up the GSTT donor programme and combined andrology service and fertility preservation. She was also lead of Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells Fertility Service for 2 years.

**Talk title:** **Surrogacy (reasons for and outcomes)**

Surrogacy is the agreement between a third party (commissioning couple) and a woman, that she will become pregnant with the intention of handing the child to the couple after delivery. About 50-80 births per year in UK. Host (gestational or full) IVF uses gametes from intended parents and/or donors and embryo transfer into surrogate. Straight or partial surrogacy is artificial insemination using intended fathers or donor sperm and surrogate mothers egg.

Indications include absent or anatomically abnormal uterus, recurrent miscarriage or implantation failure, a medical condition in the mother that makes pregnancy life threatening and same sex couples.

Thorough clinical management, counselling and consent by an experienced team is essential. Surrogacy is legal in the UK but the HFEA does not regulate the practice. It is imperative to seek legal advice and commissioning couple have to obtain a parental order.

**Key learning points**
- Ensure indication of the appropriate and both surrogate and intended parents are treated safely
- Seeking legal advice is vital
- As surrogacy is complex it is best managed by an experienced, dedicated multidisciplinary team of nurses, clinicians and counsellors

Louisa Gheveart

**Founder**

**Louisa Ghevaert Associates**

Louisa is the UK’s leading expert in fertility, surrogacy, donor conception and family law. She has litigated many of the most important fertility and family law cases for modern families and won numerous changes and improvements to law and policy for parents, children and families. Louisa is founder of specialist law firm Louisa Ghevaert Associates.

**www.louisaghevaertassociates.co.uk**

Louisa is a member of the National Egg Donation Stakeholder Advisory Group led by De Montfort University. She is a Fellow of the American Academy of Assisted Reproductive Technology Attorneys and member of the Assisted Reproductive Technology Section of the American Bar Association.

**Talk title:** **Legal aspects of surrogacy**

This session looks at recent developments in surrogacy law and practice including: legal and practical aspects of surrogacy arrangements during the Covid-19 pandemic, surrogacy law and policy reform in the UK, claims for damages for surrogacy and fertility treatment and the role of specialist legal advice.

**Key learning points**
- Legal and practical aspects of surrogacy arrangements during the Covid-19 pandemic
- Surrogacy law reform in the UK
- Claims for damages for surrogacy and fertility treatment
**Suzanne Dark**  
*Senior Fertility Counsellor*

**Talk title:** The role of counselling in contemporary family creation  
This talk will cover the role of fertility counselling in a multidisciplinary approach to contemporary family creation through ART. The speaker will define counselling, and outline what it offers patients planning treatment involving donor conception and/or surrogacy. The speaker will emphasise the importance of the multi-disciplinary team's understanding of 'implications counselling', and how to introduce this to patients in the pre-treatment work-up. This will be followed by an overview of the issues and topics covered in implications counselling for recipients, donors, intending parents and surrogates. Finally the speaker will cover the counsellor's role where welfare of the child issues arise.

**Key learning points**
- Definition of counselling and the role of fertility counselling in creating family through donation and/or surrogacy
- An overview of counselling for recipients, donors, and surrogacy arrangements.
- The fertility counsellor's role where welfare of the child concerns arise

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**James Barrett**  
*Lead Clinician*

**Talk title:** Fertility and gender reassignment  
People who change their social gender role do not have a psychiatric illness; their body simply very profoundly doesn't match their sense of themselves. Gender dysphoria medicine intersects with fertility medicine at two very distinct points. The first is before any hormone treatment, when gamete storage is still possible; the second is later, when a settled life (and often relationship) in a new gender role might be completed by parenthood, sometimes deploying previously stored gametes.

**Key learning points**
- People with gender dysphoria do not have a psychiatric illness; they and can and do make good parents.
- They need a sensitive gamete storage service to preserve their fertility - something that is often funded by the NHS.
Anyaa Sizer  
*Regional Co-ordinator*  
*Fertility Network UK*

Anyaa has worked in the field of Infertility for over 13 years now, including 6 at the London Women’s Clinic before joining the Fertility Network. She has written a book entitled Fertile Thinking and helped establish several courses for those facing infertility.

She is often in the media as a champion for the patient perspective on facing infertility and is currently busy lobbying MPs and speaking in Parliament regarding fair provision of IVF for all. She is the women's officer for her local Labour party branch and is on the Executive Committee for the Fabian Women’s Network. She has worked for three MPs and is currently office staff for David Lammy, MP. She has two children from IVF and one from adoption and is a champion for both Saying Goodbye and Home for Good.

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**Talk title:** Moving from fertility treatment to adoption fertility treatment

**Key learning points**

- The need to support and resource the move from treatment to adoption
- Building a strong support network
- Need for self-reflection and self-awareness
The British Fertility Society would like to thank our 2020/2021 Corporate Partners

Thank you for participating in Virtual Study Week 2020.
Should you have any questions please contact bfs@profileproductions.co.uk