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ADVANCED REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGY

# ART *works*



### *An Introduction to Lucy Long*

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Dr. Cecil Long and his wife, Debora, on the recent birth of their daughter, Lucy. Lucy arrived on June 2, 1998 weighing in at six pounds and was 19 inches long. Dr. Long and his wife achieved pregnancy on their second cycle of in vitro fertilization with ICSI (intracytoplasmic sperm injection). We are excited to welcome Lucy as part of our IVF family.

### *E-mail and Web Page*

If you would like to reach us via e-mail, please write us:

**ART\_Program@msn.com**

We hope you will visit our WEB site at:

**www.artprogram.com**

### *IVF Successes*

#### January 1997 - June 1998 \* In Vitro Fertilization

##### **All Patients, All Protocols**

• Cycles Started	333
• Cancelled Cycles	52
• Retrievals	281
• Transfers	266
• Clinical Pregnancies	105
• Rate/cycle start	32%
• Rate/retrieval	37%
• Rate/transfer	39%

- ❖ Excludes women 40 years of age and over and Clomid cycles.
- ❖ Excludes egg recipient cycles.
- ❖ Excludes cryobanking and TESA cycles.

#### *TESA (Testicular Epididymal Sperm Aspiration) Successes*

#### January 1997 - July 1998 \*

##### **All Patients, All Protocols**

• Cycles Started	17
• Cancelled Cycles	4
• Retrievals	13
• Transfers	13
• Clinical Pregnancies	4
• Rate/cycle start	24%
• Rate/retrieval	31%
• Rate/transfer	31%

- ❖ Excludes Clomid cycles.
- ❖ Excludes egg recipient cycles.
- ❖ Excludes cryobanking.

#### *New Program Executive Director*

We are pleased to welcome our new Executive Director, Karen Doss. Karen began employment with the ART Program on April 1, 1998. As a former patient of the ART Program, and mother of an IVF daughter, Karen has a unique commitment to our Program and our patients. In addition, Karen has an MBA degree from Samford University and a twenty-year career in medical practice management. Welcome Karen!!

#### *Additions to Staff*

We are pleased to announce that former employees, Beth Hide and Melissa Nelson, have re-joined the ART Program of Alabama. Both Beth and Melissa have held nurse practitioner and nursing positions, respectively, at UAB for the past several years. Beth comes back in the capacity of Clinical Nurse Liaison and Melissa returns as ART Department Team Leader.

We are extremely pleased to welcome them back!!

We have also added a new scheduling coordinator to the front business office. Toni Faulkner comes to us from a similar position with HealthSouth.

Barbara Wheeler, our new medical secretary, has spent the last 10 years at UAB in many capacities.

We are extremely pleased that Toni and Barbara have joined us.

### *ART Program Service Awards*

Two of our employees have recently reached the 10-year mark with the ART Program. Angela (Carter) Brazzill began employment on August 1, 1988. Angie has worked with the physicians as a nursing assistant and is currently our Phlebotomist in the blood lab. Thanks Angie for your outstanding dedication!!!

Ellen Stringfellow, Cryobiology Coordinator, became a part of the Embryology Lab on October 31, 1988. Ellen received her B.S. from the University of Alabama in Cellular Biology and worked in cryobiology research before joining the ART Program. We appreciate your ten wonderful years of service and hope for another 10!!!

Thank you to both Angie and Ellen for jobs well done.

### *The Earnie Golding Building Families Foundation*

The first fund raiser event held for the Earnie Golding Building Families Foundation on Saturday, May 9, 1998 at the Wynfrey hotel was a huge success! The format for the evening was cocktails, heavy hors d'oeuvres, dance band, live auction, silent auction and photography exhibit.

Janet Hall, Anchor with FOX 6, was our Mistress of Ceremonies. Ms. Hall and her husband were also our auctioneers for the evening.

The planning committee included Dr. Kathryn Honea, Monica Hawk, Elizabeth Cornay, Michele Calvin and Tina Lacey. Donated goods and services from many local merchants were presented in the live and silent auctions. The exhibit photographs were taken by Earnie Golding, Dr. Honea's late husband. Attendees were able to purchase the photographs, as well as bid on items such

as a vacation in Vail, Colorado, vacations in Florida, antique jewelry, paintings, portraits and many more wonderful items.

Ms. Melissa Springer, who printed the photography of Mr. Golding, is an internationally recognized photographer who offered instant portraits of attendees at the event.

The Earnie Golding Building Families Foundation is an Alabama non-profit foundation dedicated to helping infertile couples in Alabama. The initial foundation planning began many years ago by Dr. Kathryn Honea and her late husband, Earnie Golding. Incorporated in July 1997, the foundation is named in honor of Earnie.

This event raised approximately \$13,000 from the auctions and exhibit. One hundred percent of the money raised will stay in Alabama. It will be used for education of the public regarding the medical, emotional and financial aspects of infertility; providing financial assistance to couples seeking infertility treatment through any SART-approved program in Alabama; and supporting couples with high-risk multiple births or poor outcomes through financial and emotional resources. We hope to begin disbursements of funds by first quarter of 1999.

If you were not able to attend this year's event, we will begin the planning of next year's event soon. For additional information regarding the Foundation or next year's event, please call Monica Hawk at (205) 803-1939.



*Southern Women's Show*®  
*October 1-4, 1998*

The ART Program of Alabama, providing infertility and in vitro fertilization (IVF) services since 1986, sponsors an Egg Donor Program that will be our focus at the Southern Women's Show in Birmingham. The Show will be held at the Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex October 1-4, 1998.

Egg donation offers infertile women of any age another option in fertility treatment. As the number of infertile women increases, so will the need for young healthy women to provide donated eggs to help them achieve pregnancy.

We invite you to visit the ART Program of Alabama at **Booth #330/332** at the Southern Women's Show. Show hours are: Thursday, 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.; Friday and Saturday: 10:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. and Sunday, Noon-6:00 p.m. Discount tickets are available at the Motel Desk at Brookwood Medical Center.

### *Egg Donor Program*

The ART Program of Alabama is proud to offer an Egg Donation Program. This program is designed to allow a woman with healthy eggs to donate some of her eggs to an infertile couple who might otherwise be unable to have a family.

The first egg donor pregnancy occurred in 1984. Since then, over 5,000 babies have been born in the U.S. as a result of donor eggs. Experience and studies have shown that offspring of donor eggs are generally healthy children with no greater risk of birth defect than all children in the general population.

### **Who Can Be an Egg Donor?**

The criteria for egg donation are understandably strict. In order to donate, a woman must be between the ages of 19 and 30. She must have two normal ovaries and regular menstrual cycles. She must not smoke or use other drugs. The donor must be comfortable with injections, because the ovulation medications are by injection. The donor must agree to physical and psychological screening provided at no cost to her.

There are two types of egg donors, anonymous and known or related.

- Anonymous egg donors wish to keep their identity confidential. The anonymous egg donor is comfortable with the understanding that her donation is totally anonymous. She will not know the outcome of her donation nor will she meet or learn the names of the recipients of her eggs.
- Known donors are women known by or related to the recipient. This type of egg donation involves free exchange of information between the donor and the recipient couple. A psychological consultation is required due to the emotional issues that may arise when donor and recipient are acquainted.

**Who Would Want Donated Eggs?**

The recipients of donated eggs are married couples with little or no chance of having their own child. The most common reason a couple seeks an egg donor is because the woman's ovaries have stopped producing eggs too soon. She may have had her ovaries removed as a result of disease like endometriosis, cancer, benign tumors or pain. The recipient woman may carry a genetic trait that she does not want to risk passing on to a child.

Male factor infertility does not rule out the use of an egg donor. Testicular Epididymal Sperm Aspiration (TESA) and Intracytoplasmic Sperm Injection (ICSI), two of the newest treatments for male infertility may be used in combination with a donated egg. TESA involves taking sperm from the epididymis or testicle of the man and injecting the sperm (ICSI) into the egg of the woman. This procedure is done in the laboratory. Even when donated sperm is required, an egg donor may be used. In t le pa st, cm

high-risk multiple births or poor outcomes through financial and emotional resources. We hope to begin disbursements of funds by first quarter of 1999.

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TESA (testicular epididymal sperm aspiration) is used for men who have a low or absent sperm count due to obstructive causes like unsuccessful vasectomy reversal, absence of vas deferens or scar tissue in their outlet track. This procedure may also benefit some men who produce low levels of sperm due to problems in the testicles.

Since the number of sperm retrieved is so small, it is necessary to combine this technique of sperm recovery with ICSI and in vitro embryo culture. This procedure of sperm retrieval is performed non-surgically with conscious sedation.