

Education Program in Reproduction and Development News

May 2013

This year is the 25th Anniversary of the inauguration of the Education Program in Reproduction and Development postgraduate programs, the Master of Clinical Embryology (MCE) is in its 14th year and the 5th year of operation of the Master of Clinical Embryology (off-campus), with record number of students in both on-campus (29) and off-campus (7). The Master (MRS) & Graduate Diploma (GRS) courses in Reproductive Science also continue to flourish, now attracting larger numbers of both local and overseas students. The Graduate Diploma has become particularly popular as it offers research pathways by way of honours equivalence for those achieving distinction or higher.

The Master of Clinical Embryology (MCE) course has the largest practical training program in ART techniques compared to any other course worldwide. The cost to run such a program is very high and does not fit with the university models and thus we cannot continue this intensive practical and theoretical training without the continuous and kind donations of our local, and international suppliers. This year, two companies, Origio (from Denmark) and Planer (from England), made a joint donation of their Planer BT37, also known as the PLINC. This is a small incubator, specially designed for embryo growth. Incubators such as these have alone, improved IVF results worldwide by greater than 10%, due to their stability and the use of reduced oxygen, making it very similar to the in vivo conditions. This fits in perfectly with our course mantra 'think like an embryo'. The designers of this incubator, and others like it, were doing just that! We are also very grateful that companies recognise the need for training programs such as ours, with our aim to produce 'thinking embryologists and leaders in the field'.

We would also like to thank the following companies for their unconditional support of our training programmes: Cook Medical (pipettes, media, and previously a MINC),

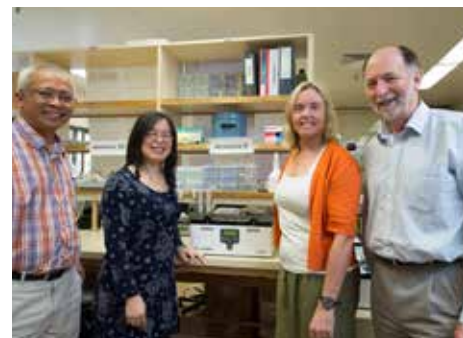


Class of 2012

Research Instruments (local supplier, Key IVF) for their very generous reduced price on a laser and ICSI rig, Cryologic for vitrification equipment and devices, TPC for pipettes, Gytech (pipettes, kits and media), Vitrolife (media and vitrification kits), again to Origio (pipettes, media, PICSI plates and support for student conference attendance), Tekevent (media and research support), Life Global for media, Kitazato for media and vitrification devices and Ferring, for their support in our educational short courses and conference attendance support and finally to MSD and Serono for their partnerships in workshops for International doctors.

The introduction of research projects into our MCE and GRS programs has proved highly successful, improving student satisfaction and outcomes. The GRS has honours equivalence and it is hoped, with the new structure, that the MCE will gain approval this year. The last few years' projects have proved extremely fruitful, resulting in many conference abstracts, posters and orals, and this year the EPRD team is presenting two orals at the upcoming ESHRE meeting in London. This is one of the two biggest IVF meetings in the world and only 20% of submissions are accepted as orals, so we are very proud of our team and our students efforts.

Also, last year, we were pleased to see so many students gain their first embryology positions in all parts of the world and in some



EPRD team: Dr Mulyoto Pangestu, Penny Chen, Dr Sally Catt, A/Prof Peter Temple-Smith

in well renowned labs: 3 were employed by Monash IVF, 1 by Melbourne IVF and other students headed interstate and overseas to Adelaide and Brisbane City Fertility Clinics, Genea Hollywood (Perth), Flinders (Adelaide), National University Hospital, Singapore, CRM London, a large clinic in GuiLin, China, Nova IVI Fertility in Bangalore, India and finally 1 student has just headed to the US to take up a position at Boston IVF. While others returned to their clinics in Kuwait, Egypt and Mexico.



MONASH University