

# CHR VOICE



Clinical Care - Research - Education  
www.centerforhumanreprod.com  
Twenty-One Years Leading in Fertility Care

APRIL 2002

A newsletter provided by the  
CENTER FOR HUMAN REPRODUCTION

**CLINICAL  
PREGNANCIES  
RELEASED BY CHR  
INTO OB-CARE  
DURING 2001: 495**

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Egg donor applications are kept  
completely confidential within CHR files.

## CHR PROGRAMS:

### OOCYTE (EGG) DONATION AT CHR: THE DONOR SELECTION PROCESS

CHR has one of the largest egg donation programs in the nation and conducts a few hundred such cycles every year at our Centers in Chicago and New York.

For various reasons, women may run out of eggs of their own and need donated eggs (oocytes) from another female. The most frequent reason is female age. Women are born with a certain number of eggs. These eggs, therefore, age within their ovaries as women progress through life. As these eggs age, they not only diminish in number but also in their ability to lead to normal embryos, once fertilized.

As women get older, their chances of achieving pregnancy decline, their risk of miscarriage increases and, even if a pregnancy seemingly progresses normally, the risk of a genetic (chromosomal) abnormality increases.

After age 40 ovaries very quickly, almost month to month, decline in their function. Women aged 42 and older rarely have a decent pregnancy chance left and, therefore, frequently

opt for egg donation.

One of the most commonly asked questions at CHR is, *how do we select egg donors?*

The answer is that this is a *long and very carefully conducted process*. It starts with candidates submitting a very detailed application form, usually, though not always, via our website ([http://www.centerforhumanreprod.com/egg\\_donor.html](http://www.centerforhumanreprod.com/egg_donor.html)).

This application process, is, of course, privacy protected. We principally consider women between ages 21 to 34 years, though on rare occasions exceptions are made. Only a portion of applicants will be invited for an interview with the CHR's Donor Program Coordinator.

During that interview, once again, the candidate's medical, genetic and social histories will be carefully reviewed. In addition, however, the Coordinator evaluates personality, reliability and other personality traits, which cannot be reliably assessed through a written questionnaire alone.

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## CHR Awarded 4-Year Reaccreditation by ACCME

As the only private fertility provider in the nation authorized to award Continuing Medical Education (CME) credits, The Center for Human Reproduction has recently been awarded full accreditation by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) for a 4-year term.

This accreditation is a reflection of the quality of CHR's Continuing Medical Education (CME) Program for obstetricians and gynecologists in Chicago, New York and Los Angeles.

CHR's Grandrounds Lecture Series are offered in these locations throughout the year, with short breaks during holiday and vacation seasons. Please view our current schedules on the web site at:

[http://www.centerforhumanreprod.com/professional\\_edu.html](http://www.centerforhumanreprod.com/professional_edu.html), or see page 3 of this newsletter.

### CHIR PATIENTS:

Below is an excerpt of a thank-you note we received from a patient of CHR-Illinois, Gold Coast location:

*"I would like to thank you [Dr. Gleicher] again for all the great care you've given us. And the greatest gift of all, our little miracle Alexis you've made possible. You have a wonderful and caring staff. I thank you from the bottom of my heart."*

-Nick, Karen and Alexis Liapes



*Alexis Liapes*



*Erin and Ryan Skrzypek, also thanking CHR!  
(picture acquired from CHR-Hoffman Estates)*

*Do you have a question about infertility? Are you interested in becoming a patient at CHR?*

If so, please call the following numbers for either Illinois or New York:

(312) 440 5180 (IL)

(212) 994 4400 (NY)

You may also visit our website at [www.centerforhumanreprod.com](http://www.centerforhumanreprod.com)

## CHR in the Media

**Norbert Gleicher, MD**, Founder of CHR, was recently featured in several news articles regarding the issue of gender selection.

Both *The New York Times* and the *Chicago Tribune* interviewed Dr. Gleicher on the controversial issue. His quotes also appeared in web articles, on sites such as ABCnews.com and MSNBC.com. To read any of the above articles, please check out the links below.

Kolata, Gina. "Fertility Ethics Authority Approves Sex Selection." *The New York Times*. September 28, 2001. ([www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com))

"Ethicist says picking sex of babies OK." *Chicago Tribune*. September 29, 2001. ([www.chicagotribune.com](http://www.chicagotribune.com))

"A Boy or a Girl? Fertility Clinic Says Parents Can Choose." ABC News Internet Ventures. October 1, 2001. ([www.abcnews.com](http://www.abcnews.com))

"Fertility authority OKs sex selection." MSNBC. September 28, 2001. ([www.msnbc.com](http://www.msnbc.com))

## THE HAPS:

What's New at CHR?

The Centers for Human Reproduction in New York and Illinois released **495 ongoing pregnancies** into obstetrical care during 2001. **"It takes a village..!"**

**Norbert Gleicher, MD** will be attending the *3rd International Congress on Autoimmunity* in Geneva, Switzerland, February 20-24, as an invited speaker. His lecture is entitled, *"Does Autoimmune-Reproductive Failure Have Evolutionary Implications?"*

CHR-Physicians **Norbert Gleicher, MD** and **Vishvanath Karande, MD**, will be attending the *4th World Congress of the International Association of Private Assisted Reproductive Technology Clinics and Laboratories (A PART)* in Vienna, Austria from June 28-30. Dr. Gleicher was invited to give a lecture entitled, *"Cost effective IVF."*

**Drs. Vishvanath Karande and Norbert Gleicher** will also be attending the *18th Annual Meeting of the European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology (ESHRE)*. The meeting will be held in Vienna, Austria from June 30-July 3. They will present a number of research projects conducted at CHR.

## EGG DONATION, CONT. (FROM PAGE 1)

Once again, only a portion of candidates make it to the next screening stage, an in-person meeting with a CHR physician. This is the most crucial step of the process because only a physician can approve a donor candidate for participation in the program. Despite earlier screening steps, it is not uncommon that the evaluating physician will not allow the candidate to enter the final step of the screening process which involves comprehensive medical testing.

In this stage, patients undergo physical exams, psychological evaluations (if indicated), drug screening, genetic testing, infectious disease testing and various other blood tests. The results of all of these medical tests return to a CHR physician for review and, only after they are confirmed to be normal, will a physician release the candidate to join CHR's donor pool. This final step makes the woman available for matching with a recipient couple.

Most donors choose to remain anonymous, though so-called, "open donations" can happen where donor and recipients know each other, if decided by both parties.

For more information about CHR's Egg Donation Program, please visit our website at:

[http://www.centerforhumanreprod.com/egg\\_donor.html](http://www.centerforhumanreprod.com/egg_donor.html)  
or call 630-916-1236 (Illinois) /212-994-4400 (New York).

## CHR-GRANDROUNDS

April 2002

**Topic:** The Role of the Obstetrician in Cord Blood Stem Cell Collection

**Speaker:** Manuel Alvarez, MD  
Chairman of Dept. Ob/Gyn  
Hackensack University Medical Center  
Hackensack, New Jersey

**Tuesday, April 9th 6:00 p.m.-New York:**  
*Ping Restaurant*; 22 Mott Street;  
New York, NY 10013; Chef: Ping

**Wednesday, April 10th 6:00 p.m.-Chicago:**  
*Twelve Twelve*;  
1212 North State Parkway;  
Chicago, IL 60610; Chef: David Shea

For reservations, please call  
(312) 397-8291; or visit

<http://www.centerforhumanreprod.com>

→ DR. ANDREA VIDALI ←

CHR's **Andrea Vidali, MD** has focused his career on male and female infertility, reproductive endocrinology and advanced laparoscopic surgery.

After medical school, Dr. Vidali completed a two-year postdoctoral fellowship in molecular biology at the National Institute for Cancer Research in Italy. He then served his residency in obstetrics and gynecology at Georgetown University Hospital, Washington, D.C. This was followed by a fellowship in reproductive endocrinology at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University in New York City.

Dr. Vidali is an accomplished laparoscopist and hysteroscopist and, as part of the advanced laparoscopy team at CHR, he frequently performs such operations as laparoscopic hysterectomies, laparoscopic myomectomies and the excision of severe endometriosis, involving various pelvic organs.

His research interests include endometriosis, laparoscopic aspects of female infertility and male infertility, in particular azoospermia. Collaborations with academic institutions in Europe and South America allow Dr. Vidali to share his expertise with other physicians in the world of infertility. In Italy, Dr. Vidali has collaborated with leading researchers in developing a model for oocyte freezing.

Dr. Vidali is the associate editor for Endoscopic Surgery for the *Journal of Assisted Reproduction and Genetics* and is on the board of reviewers for other scientific publications.

He is an active member of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM), American Association of Gynecological Laparoscopists (AAGL), American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), Society of Laparoendoscopic Surgeons (SLS), European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology (ESHRE), International Society of Gynecological Endoscopy (ISGE), Resolve and the InterNational Council on Infertility Information Dissemination (INCIID). He has been with CHR since 1999.



Dr. Andrea Vidali

**TALKING WITH CHILDREN ABOUT OOCYTE (EGG) DONATION: A GUIDE FOR PARENTS\***

*-While some parents choose either complete secrecy or full disclosure, most choose an option in between these two extremes. They usually provide information in a controlled way and in stages as the child ages.*

*-Parents ultimately must make their own decisions about telling children, based on their family values, the child's comprehension and comfort levels, concerns about a child's physical or emotional health, a desire to control how this information is presented, and the inter-relationships of family members and friends.*

*-Young children (age three or four) are usually able to process the fact that a baby comes from a mother's body and that people come in two genders.*

*-Most children around age seven can understand concepts such as genetic parent or donor.*

*-During adolescence, children will often want information about the motives of those involved in the donation process, and they may want information about the donor to help them better understand their own personalities and appearance.*

*-In deciding to tell others outside the family, parents must gauge each relationship and assess the impact that telling will have on the child and the family.*

*-The counsel of experienced mental health professionals and support from organizations such as the American Infertility Association can offer critical support as parents face this important decision.*

**CHR VOICE**

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The CHR Voice welcomes contributions. Please contact us at the above address. Thank you.

\*Extracted with permission from The American Infertility Association: Fact Sheet. 2001, p. 6. <http://www.americaninfertility.org>