

## **For Immediate Release**

### **News Release**

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#### **WHY ARE IVF PREGNANCY RATES LOWER IN CERTAIN ETHNICITIES?**

Studies have suggested that in vitro fertilization (IVF) pregnancy rates are lower in Chinese and African American patients than in Caucasian women. Why these differences are observed, has remained unknown.

Investigators from New York's *Center for Human Reproduction (CHR)* now report a likely explanation, today posted electronically by the prestigious medical journal *Human Reproduction* [ahead of print] (2007; doi: 10.1093/humrep/dem289)

Egg donors in IVF programs are usually young, healthy and presumed to have normal ovarian function. In investigating ovarian function of Chinese and Caucasian egg donors, CHR investigators, therefore, expected similar results in both ethnic groups. Surprisingly, Chinese egg donors demonstrated significantly more ovarian function abnormalities and an approximately 30-times higher prevalence of laboratory indicators, suggestive of premature ovarian aging.

These findings suggest that Chinese ovaries may be aging differently from Caucasian ovaries. The findings, however, have much wider implications: By demonstrating that ovarian function varies between Caucasian and Chinese women, the widely held belief that infertility treatments should be administered identically to all ethnicities, may have to be reconsidered. Like in other areas of medicine, the time for individualization of medical care, based on specific genetic markers, may have arrived.

The study's lead author, *Norbert Gleicher MD*, CHR's Medical Director, Vis. Professor at the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences at Yale University Medical School in New Haven, CT, and Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Assisted Reproduction and Genetics*, is available for further comments until Saturday, September 15, 2007, at Noon.

New York's *Center for Human Reproduction* is one of the nation's leading research centers in infertility, clinically specializing in the treatment of complex fertility problems in females and males. For more information on CHR's clinical and research activities, please visit

<http://CenterforHumanReprod.com>