

We are pleased to present the inaugural issue of USC Fertility *Success News*, a newsletter we created to reach out to our patients and physician partners—to connect, communicate, and educate.

“What’s in a name?” you may ask. Well, above all, our work at USC Fertility is about achieving results. So we thought that *Success News* would be a fitting designation. We hope you agree.

This newsletter is not only the beginning of a new tradition but the culmination of an exciting, important year for all of us—staff and patients alike.

Throughout the last two decades of our providing world-class reproductive medical care, we at USC Fertility have continually worked to enhance our services and to find new ways to help our patients build their families. 2005 saw a number of positive changes for our practice.

First and foremost, to best convey our focus on your future family, we changed our name from USC-IVF to USC Fertility. We feel our new identity affirms our dedication to providing options and to finding family-building solutions for all our patients. Rest assured, we are still the fertility practice of the Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California—this has not changed.

Another major development is the addition of Dr. Karine Chung to our medical team. She joins Dr. Richard Paulson and Dr. John Jain from the prestigious University of Pennsylvania, where she completed her subspecialty training in Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility, and simultaneously earned a Master’s degree in Clinical Epidemiology. Dr. Chung has authored numerous articles, including a prize paper on fertility preservation in male patients with cancer. In addition to working with patients at USC Fertility, she serves as Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology in the Division of Reproductive

Endocrinology and Infertility at the Keck School of Medicine. You can read more about Dr. Chung—and about every facet of our practice—at our new and improved Web site, USC Fertility.org. We welcome your comments on how our site could serve your needs even better. After exploring online, please email your comments to us at reception@USCFertility.org.

We are confident that the changes we have made at USC Fertility will help to enhance your experience with us and bring you closer to your goal of having a child. Please call us at 213-975-9990 if you have any questions on our program changes or to schedule an appointment.

Warm Regards,

Richard J. Paulson, MD
John K. Jain, MD
Karine Chung, MD

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Cutting Edge: The Egg Freezing Program at USC Fertility

John K. Jain, MD



Until recently, egg freezing has been little more than a glimmer on the horizon of new technological advances in reproductive medicine. But now, it's becoming more and more of a real and viable option for women. Finally.

The ability for men to freeze their sperm has been available for many years. And the technique for freezing embryos has also been mastered. But the one missing alternative was the capacity for women to freeze their eggs to safeguard fertility for future childbearing—either out of necessity or out of personal choice. Researchers and practitioners around the country are working diligently and successfully to ensure fertility-safeguarding techniques, such as egg freezing, are reliable options for women.

As this science is new, we believe—in accordance with the American Society for Reproductive Medicine guidelines—that all egg freezing services should be offered under a research-informed consent. At USC Fertility, we work under the auspices of the University of Southern California Institutional Review Board.

This ensures patient protection through adherence to safe and responsible protocols. Some practices offer egg freezing as a service not related to a research study—and patients need to be aware of the benefits and drawbacks of this offering.

Our Experience & Success

Our preliminary egg freezing success rate—initially unveiled at the 61st Annual Meeting of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine in Montreal last October—is currently at a remarkable 50%, reflective of 9 out of 18 of our 20 clinical trial volunteers, age 35 years of age or less, achieving pregnancy. This rate is well above that of fresh embryos and twice that of frozen embryos.

While our sample is small and our data are still preliminary, we are nonetheless highly optimistic that this high rate of success will continue in the future. Our complete study findings will be published in early 2006.

If you think you might benefit from this new technology and would like to learn more, visit us online at USCFertility.org.

IN THE NEWS

National and international media regularly turn to USC Fertility for expert information and commentary on reproductive health issues. A complete list of press releases, interviews and media coverage is available at USCFertility.org. Highlights include:

November 7, 2005:

LOS ANGELES DOCTOR AWARDED TOP HONOR BY THE AMERICAN FERTILITY ASSOCIATION: Richard J. Paulson, MD receives Lifetime Achievement Award

October 17, 2005:

USC PHYSICIANS MAKE STRIDES IN PROVING EFFICACY OF OOCYTE CRYOPRESERVATION: Keck School of Medicine researchers unveil interim study data at 61st Annual Meeting of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine

July 18, 2005:

FERTILITY'S FRONTIER: Feature story on egg freezing in *The Los Angeles Times*. Dr. Jain and USC Fertility featured in this cover page story in the Southern California newspaper's Health section. To read the entire article, please visit the "Press Room" section of our Web site at USCFertility.org.

May 10, 2005:

A FERTILITY FIRST AT LOS ANGELES GAY PRIDE: USC Fertility comes out to support the gay and lesbian community of Southern California

House Call

With Karine Chung, MD



In each issue of USC Fertility Success News, we will answer a patient's question related to a specific fertility topic.

Q. I am about to undergo IVF using my husband's sperm that were frozen a number of years ago. Does the freezing process change or affect sperm?

Dr. Chung: The number of years the sperm has been frozen is not thought to make a difference in the quality of the sperm after thawing. In general, the freezing and thawing process has been shown to lead to decreased motility or movement of the sperm, but such issues can be overcome with the use of intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI). ICSI is a procedure during which a single sperm is inserted into each egg following retrieval of the eggs which is performed in the same manner as in standard IVF. With use of these techniques, success rates are very good.

If you would like to submit a question for an upcoming issue of USC Fertility Success News, please send an email to Doctor@USCFertility.org.



BIRTHS

1. **Austin Robert Wyckoff**, born November 7, 2005 to Joyce and Dale Wyckoff
2. **Vidal Alfredo Monterrosa**, born October 21, 2005 to Angelica Salazar and Vidal Monterrosa. (Pictured here with Mom, Dad, and Dr. John Jain.)
3. **Oliver and Stella Grynberg**, born January 31, 2003 to Susan Winfield and Stephen Grynberg.
4. **And one more cutie...** Born April 23, 2001.

If you would like your newest arrival to be pictured in an upcoming issue of USC Fertility Success News, please send an email to Reception@USCFertility.org.

UPCOMING ARTICLES AND INTERVIEWS:

Self Magazine

Dr. Jain interviewed on egg freezing

Best Life Magazine

Dr. Paulson interviewed on male infertility

Contemporary OB/GYN Magazine

"Is Egg Freezing Ready for Prime Time" written by Dr. Jain

EVENTS

New York, NY, November 7, 2005:

Dr. Paulson accepted the Lifetime Achievement Award at the AFA's Kokopelli Ball. *Desperate Housewives* star (and AFA spokesperson) Brenda Strong was mistress of ceremony for the soiree, which was attended by celebrity guests Jason Alexander and 2005 Media Award winner Joan Lunden.

Long Beach, CA, October 29, 2005:

USC Fertility sponsored the 14th Annual Fall Infertility and Adoption Symposium, a daylong symposium hosted by the Los Angeles, Orange County, and San Diego chapters of RESOLVE: The National Infertility Association. Dr. Paulson spoke on maternal age, and Dr. Chung hosted a luncheon roundtable.

A FRIEND OF USC FERTILITY: Jason Alexander

A Difficult Road; A Humorous Look Back; A Grateful Parent

Some years ago my wife and I embarked on the journey that most married couples dream of – the journey of lovingly, joyfully and passionately creating a baby from the coupling of our bodies and souls. We knew it would be what we always imagined – an intimate, natural affirmation of our love for each other and the perfection that was our marriage.

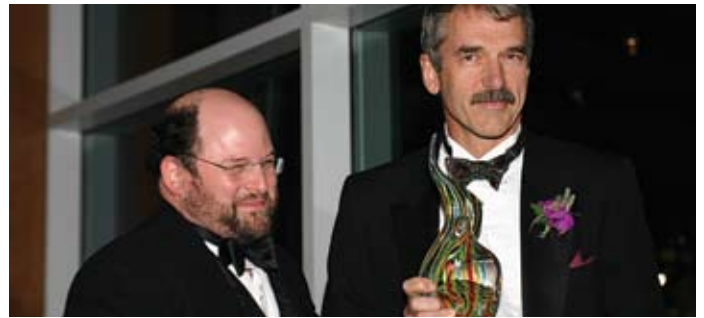
After nearly eight years of diligent birth control use, we tossed the protective barriers away and began “doing the do” the way the good lord intended. Each month we would stand in giggling anticipation watching and waiting for the little line in the pregnancy strip to turn blue. For the first six months, it was clear that we were getting defective batches of this product. After six months, we began to think that perhaps the defect lay elsewhere.

We sought out the professionals. We proceeded to answer a bevy of questions that even our parents would blush to ask. And we were subjected to a number of preliminary tests of a most intimate nature. The resulting conclusion was that we were both perfectly normal, healthy fertile beings. We were told that even healthy couples have to expect a year to two years of trying before actually conceiving. My immediate response was, “why the hell did no one mention this to me back in college?”

We were despondent and without hope that we would ever be able to conceive a child. That was when we were guided by bits of fate to the offices of Dr. Richard Paulson.

At our first consultation, my wife and I had very different reactions to Dr. Paulson. She was calmed and soothed by his gentle manner and began to embrace the possibility that he might be a real ray of hope. I just flat out hated him. Not because he didn't present himself as an extraordinary physician. Not because he wasn't sensitive or compassionate to our problem. In fact, he was sensitive and compassionate beyond imagining. No, I hated him because of his dashing movie star good looks and the rakish angle of his perfectly knotted tie. It was like Tom Selleck was playing doctor. I didn't want his hands on my woman. After four years of reproductive sex, I frankly didn't need the competition. But calmer heads prevailed and we began a new stage in artificial reproduction with Rick.

Eventually, my wife was treated to two successful unstimulated in vitro fertilizations. To this day, no one has ever been able to tell us why we were not able to conceive on our own. But it truly



Jason Alexander Presents Dr. Rick Paulson with the American Fertility Association Lifetime Achievement Award.

just doesn't matter anymore. Because in our home there resides two young men – our sons Gabriel and Noah – who wouldn't exist without Dr. Paulson.

Daena and I have always been more than grateful to Rick for this blessing he brought us. Our sons are handsome, strong, brilliant, and talented.

Rick Paulson is a remarkable physician. Not just because of his outstanding record of success in the field of reproduction and fertility. He is remarkable for the level of humanity he brings to this field and to his patients. It is one thing to be in the hands of a great doctor. It is another to be in the hands of a great man. Rick wears his compassion around his neck along with his stethoscope. He understands the pain and fear that his patients have had to deal with. He offers real insight and real comfort. He becomes the leader of an incredibly positive team that seemingly have but one purpose – to bring a child into the lives of people who have been tragically unable to conceive one for themselves. He is a hand holder. He is a hugger. He is a cheerleader. And when his work results in success, as it so often does, no one's smile is bigger or brighter than his. This is not a job to him – this is his life.

I am proud to have been asked to present the American Fertility Association Lifetime Achievement Award to Rick. But no award and no words could ever express what Daena and I and all his patients owe to him. Everyday I hold in my arms the blessed results of his beautiful work. He has given me my sons and a life I could not ever have imagined. And he will have our love and our gratitude and our friendship to our dying day.

This is a portion of Jason Alexander's comments at the American Fertility Association event as he presented the award to Dr. Paulson. These comments are reprinted with permission from Mr. Alexander.