

Genesis and Fate of the Preimplantation Embryo

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The developmental fate of the preimplantation embryo is largely dependent on intrinsic factors, such as the quality of the maternal and paternal gametes, their correct interaction at fertilization and the coordinated expression of the zygotic genome. On the other hand, extrinsic influences often resulting from controlled ovarian stimulation or in vitro manipulation, may have a decisive role in establishing the success or failure of the embryo developmental program. In order to promote a better appreciation of fundamental developmental processes, as well as stimulate the improvement of current assisted reproduction procedures, this Symposium, with the contribution of experts in developmental biology, genetics and reproductive medicine, offered a comprehensive perspective of endogenous and exogenous elements which can influence the function of gametes and embryos. Present and future strategies for preimplantation embryo selection were also discussed.

OBJECTIVES

At the conclusion of this conference the participants were able to:

- Appreciate aspects of oocyte and sperm function which are believed to be essential for the constitution of a developmentally competent embryo;
- Evaluate the implications of alternative ovarian stimulation regimens in relation to oocyte quality;
- Recognize the critical importance of the correct expression of the zygotic genome;
- Gain a better understanding of the effects of in vitro manipulation on gamete function and embryo development; and,
- Demonstrate increased knowledge relevant to embryological and clinical approaches for embryo selection, to the aim of improving IVF success rates.

ACCREDITATION

Serono Symposia International is accredited by the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME) to provide the following CME activity for medical specialists. The EACCME is an institution of the European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS), www.uems.be.

Genesis and Fate of the Preimplantation Embryo - Intrinsic and Extrinsic Influences is designated for a maximum of 17 hours of European external CME credits. Each medical specialist should claim only those hours of credit that he/she actually spent in the educational activity.

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