



PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

THURSDAY 16 APRIL	
12.30 – 13.00	Registration
13.00 – 18.00	<p>Vitrolife Sponsored Pre-conference Workshop</p> <div style="text-align: right;">  </div> <p>From Bench to Success: Optimizing Quality Control in IVF The program features expert-led sessions on QC in the IVF lab and moderated round-table discussions with leading international KOL's. Participants will engage in quality topics ranging from KPI monitoring, laboratory and environmental control, embryo evaluation and testing of IVF consumables. The workshop is followed by a networking dinner. The event brings together a mixed audience of operational embryologists and KOLs to focus on quality impacts now – and for the future.</p> <p><i>Facilitators:</i> <i>Robbie Kerr, PhD, Research Manager Media; Romualdo Sciorio, Advance Clinical Support; Luis Navarro Sánchez, PhD, Embryo Research Manager; Vitrolife Group</i></p> <p>13.00 Lunch</p> <p>13.55 Welcome <i>Björn Österlind</i></p> <p>14.00 QC in the IVF lab – critical success parameters <i>Jason Swain, Chief Laboratory Officer and President of Laboratory Operations, CCRM Fertility, USA</i></p> <p>14.30 Round table discussions #1</p> <p>15.00 Inter laboratory standardisation: PGT-A + Time-lapse <i>Marta Sikora-Polaczek, Bocian Poland</i></p> <p>15.30 Round table discussions #2</p> <p>16.00 Refreshment break</p> <p>16.30 Mouse Embryo Assay – critical aspects of a sensitive quality tool <i>Robbie Kerr, PhD, Research Manager Media</i></p> <p>17.00 Round table discussions #3</p> <p>17.30 Quality control in the lab – temperature & pH demo <i>Romualdo Sciorio, Advance Clinical Support;</i></p> <p>18.00 Improving Quality control of embryo evaluation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AI (iDAScore) <i>Robbie Kerr, PhD, Research Manager Media</i> • Non invasive PGT-A (Embrace) <i>Luis Navarro Sánchez, PhD, Embryo Research Manager</i> <p>18.30 Summary and closing <i>Björn Österlind</i></p>



FRIDAY 17 APRIL	
08.00	Registration, welcome refreshments, exhibition and posters
08.45	Welcome remarks and introduction <i>Mina Alikani, President, Alpha Scientists</i>
Session 1	Beginnings and Beyond <i>Chair: Jacques Cohen, Founding Member, Alpha Scientists; Chief Scientific Officer, Conceiveable Life Sciences, New York, USA</i>
09.00 – 09.45	Embryology research: From discovery to delivery <i>Basic and applied research</i> <i>Laura Rienzi, Associate Professor, Department of Biomolecular Sciences, University of Urbino, Italy</i>
09.45 – 10.15	Discard or discover: Rethinking the fate of unused embryos <i>Mina Popovic, Professor, Department of Reproductive Medicine, Ghent University Hospital, Ghent, Belgium</i>
10.15 – 10.30	Discussion
10.30 – 11.15	Refreshments, exhibition and posters
Session 2	Culture and Quality: Evolving Standards, Emerging Models <i>Chair: Jason Swain, Chief Laboratory Officer and President of Laboratory Operations, CCRM Fertility, USA</i>
11.15 – 11.35	The evolution of culture media for IVF <i>Dean Morbeck, Executive Committee Member, Alpha Scientists; Chief Scientific Officer, Genea Fertility, Australia</i>
11.35 – 11.55	Redefining quality control in IVF <i>Kelly Tilleman, Director, IVF Laboratory, University Hospital Ghent, Belgium</i>
11.55 – 12.15	Blastoids: Next-gen modelling platform of embryogenesis and implantation for drug discovery <i>Julieta Del Valle, Senior Scientist, dawn-bio</i>
12.15 – 12.30	Discussion
12.30 – 13.45	Lunch, exhibition and posters
12.45 – 13.30	Kitazato Sponsored Lunchtime Symposium Best practices in ultra-fast vitrification and embryo culture <i>Moderator: Andreu Vives, Senior Embryologist, Scientific Advisor & MSL of KITAZATO</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changing the paradigm: Clinical experience and outcomes applying ultra-fast protocols <i>Víctor Montalvo, Lab Director, Instituto Marqués Future Life Group</i> • Optimizing embryo culture conditions: Eugin experience using Kitazato HyPure Heavy Oil <i>Marc Torra-Massana, Senior Embryologist, Eugin Barcelona, Eugin Group, Spain</i> • Greasing the wheels of success in the IVF lab: the importance of oil in embryo culture <i>Jason Swain, Chief Laboratory Officer and President of Laboratory Operations, CCRM Fertility, USA</i>
Session 3	Oral Abstract Presentations <i>Chairs: Francesca Farlie and Sasha Sadowy, Alpha Scientists Ambassadors</i>
13.45 – 13.50	Welcome and introduction
13.50 – 14.00	Identifying morphological features of AI-based oocyte quality assessments and developmental predictions: preliminary work towards more explainable AI <i>Jullin</i>



	<i>Fjeldstad, Head of Clinical Embryology and Scientific Operations, Future Fertility, Canada</i>
14.00 – 14.10	Deep learning AI “co-pilot” for accelerated rare sperm identification in poor-prognosis non-obstructive azoospermia <i>Dale Goss, PhD Student, University of Technology Sydney, Australia</i>
14.10 – 14.20	Effect of Gx-IVF vs HEPES buffer during ICSI procedure: A sibling oocyte study on embryological outcomes <i>Matija Krunic, PhD, Uz Brussel, Brussels IVF, Belgium</i>
14.20 – 14.30	Testicular responses to caloric restriction and GLP-1 treatment: sirtuins, acetylation, and beyond <i>Diana André, PhD Student, University of Aveiro, Portugal</i>
14.30 – 14.40	Why human embryos are mosaic: the role of the spindle assembly checkpoint in chromosome segregation in the zygote <i>Franka de Jong, PhD Candidate, Erasmus MC, Netherlands</i>
14.40-15.00	Discussion
15.00 – 15.45	Afternoon refreshments, exhibition and posters
Session 4	Reproductive Biomedicine Online (RBMO) Session <i>Chairs: Mina Alikani and Alison Campbell, Alpha Scientists</i>
15.45 – 15.55	Introduction <i>Mina Alikani, President, Alpha Scientists; Editor, RBMO</i>
15.55 – 16.25	Robert G Edwards prize paper presentations A digitally controlled, remotely operated ICSI system: case report of the first live birth <i>Gerardo Mendizabal-Ruiz, Universidad de Guadalajara, Guadalajara, Jalisco, México & Conceiveable Life Sciences, New York, USA</i>
	A biomimetic sperm selection device for routine sperm selection <i>Majid Ebrahimi Warkiani, University of Technology Sydney, Sydney, Australia</i>
	Global Voices: The Challenges and Opportunities of IVF
16.25 – 16.45	Perspectives from India <i>Sujatha Ramakrishnan, President, ACE India</i>
16.45 – 17.05	Perspectives from Croatia <i>Dejan Ljiljak, President, Croatian Society of Clinical Embryologists</i>
17.05 – 17.20	Discussion
17.20 – 18.10	Gedeon Richter Sponsored Evening Symposium The genome sequencing revolution in embryo testing <i>Chair: Christophe Blockeel, Medical Director, Brussels IVF, Centre for Reproductive Medicine, University Hospital Brussels, Belgium</i>
 GEDEON RICHTER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What clinical-grade genome sequencing can bring to embryo testing <i>Antonio Capalbo, Chief Scientific Officer, Juno Genetics</i> • Challenges, limitations, and ethical considerations on the path to clinical implementation <i>Francesca Forzano, Consultant Clinical Geneticist, Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust</i>
18.10	Alpha Scientists General Assembly
18.30	ALPHA 15th Biennial Conference Welcome Reception in Exhibition



SATURDAY 18 APRIL

08.00	Registration, welcome refreshments, exhibition and posters
08.00 – 08.45	<p>Nexpring Health Sponsored Breakfast Symposium Standardization for individualisation – Redefining the future of IVF together <i>Chair: Jennifer Ferrandiz Ward, Clinical Science and Education Manager, Nexpring Health, Spain</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beyond concentration and motility: CASA standardization as a key to smarter ART decisions <i>Wioletta Nowicka, PhD Senior Embryologist and ESHRE Clinical Embryologist, InviMed, Poland</i> Reducing variables, increasing potential: Media standardization to minimize embryo stress <i>Irene Cuevas-Sáiz, Senior Clinical Embryologist and Director, Embryology Laboratory, Hospital General Universitario de Valencia, Spain</i>
	
09.00	<p>Introduction to day two <i>Alison Campbell, Vice President, Alpha Scientists</i></p>
Session 5	<p>Clinical Insights <i>Chair: Irene Cuevas-Sáiz, Executive Committee Member, Alpha Scientists</i></p>
09.05 – 09.40	<p>Clinical case management explained <i>Christophe Blockeel, Executive Committee Member, Alpha Scientists; Medical Director, Brussels IVF, Centre for Reproductive Medicine, University Hospital Brussels, Belgium</i></p>
09.40 – 10.15	<p>Embryo transfer: Evidence-based or empirical? <i>Georgios Lainas, Scientific Director, Eugonia IVF, Athens, Greece</i></p>
10.15 – 10.30	Discussion
10.30 – 11.15	Refreshments, exhibition and posters
Session 6	<p>Embryologists to the Rescue <i>Chair: Alison Campbell, Vice President, Alpha Scientists</i></p>
11.15 – 11.35	<p>Can we prevent meiotic aneuploidies in Oocytes? <i>Eirini Bellou, Senior Applications Scientist, U-Ploid Biotechnologies, Oxford, UK</i></p>
11.35 – 11.55	<p>Can we prevent mitotic aneuploidies in embryos? <i>Cerys Currie, Post Doc, University of Warwick, UK</i></p>
11.55 – 12.15	<p>Strategies for optimising embryo utilisation <i>Giovanni Coticchio, Science and Research Manager, IVIRMA Global Research Alliance, IVIRMA ITALIA, Italy</i></p>
12.15 – 12.30	Discussion
12.30 – 13.45	Lunch, exhibition and posters
Session 7	<p>Oral Abstract Presentations <i>Chairs: Laura Rienzi and Keshav Malhotra, Executive Committee Members, Alpha Scientists</i></p>
13.45 – 13.50	Welcome and introduction
13.50 – 14.00	<p>Bi-phasic CAPA In Vitro Maturation (IVM) improves embryo availability in PCOS women with prior IVF failure: A prospective observational pilot study <i>Krishna Chaitanya Mantravadi, Oasis Fertility, India</i></p>
14.00 – 14.10	<p>Evaluating the necessity of semen treatment in ICSI procedures <i>Marco Reschini, Researcher, Fondazione Irccs Ca' Granda Ospedale Maggiore Policlinico, Milan, Italy</i></p>
14.10 – 14.20	<p>Artificial oocyte activation: A rescue approach for patients with no blastocyst formation <i>Mary Karagianni, Senior Clinical Embryologist, Embryolab Fertility Clinic, Greece</i></p>
14.20 – 14.30	<p>Embryo abandonment patterns and patient disposition choices with automated digital billing: a single-centre study <i>Amy Ji, Embryologist, Markham Fertility Centre, Canada</i></p>



14.30 – 14.40	A high phytochemical diet positively impacts markers of fertility in adult males <i>Joanne Wilson, Fertility Exeter (NHS), UK</i>
14.40-15.00	Discussion
15.00 – 15.45	Afternoon refreshments, exhibition and posters
Session 8	One in a Million: Sperm in the Spotlight <i>Chair: Christophe Blockeel, Executive Committee Member, Alpha Scientists</i>
15.45 – 16.10	Sperm selection techniques <i>Xavier Pollet-Villard, Lab Director and Person Responsible, Nataliance ART and Andrology Center, MLab Group, France</i>
16.10 – 16.35	Sperm quality: New diagnostics and therapies <i>Jackson Kirkman-Brown, Professor of Human Reproductive Science, University of Birmingham, UK</i>
16.35 – 16.45	Discussion
	Special Presentation
16.45 – 17.20	Coral reproduction and the development of predictable spawning protocols <i>Hartley George, Senior Aquarium Curator, Project Coral, Horniman Museum and Gardens, UK</i>
18.45 – 23.00	ALPHA 15th Biennial Conference Party - Sunset Terrace, The President Hotel



SUNDAY 19 APRIL	
09.00	Registration, welcome refreshments, exhibition and posters
09.30	Introduction to day three <i>Mina Alikani, President Ex-Officio, Alpha Scientists</i>
Session 9	The Path to Predictable Outcomes <i>Chair: Laura Rienzi, Executive Committee Member, Alpha Scientists</i>
09.45 – 10.05	Environmental monitoring in IVF <i>Jayesh Shinde, Head of Embryology - Quality Improvement and Quality Control, Indira IVF, India</i>
10.05 – 10.25	KPI monitoring and benchmarking <i>Jason Swain, Chief Laboratory Officer and President of Laboratory Operations, CCRM Fertility, USA</i>
10.25 – 10.55	How to manage 18k IVF cycles per year at one site <i>Tadashi Okimura, Chief Laboratory Director, Kato Ladies Clinic, Tokyo, Japan</i>
10.55 – 11.15	Leading from the bench: Building high-quality IVF teams <i>Keshav Malhotra, Laboratory Director, Rainbow IVF, Agra, India</i>
11.15 – 11.35	Discussion
11.35 – 12.10	Refreshments, Exhibition and Posters
Session 10	What Awaits? <i>Chair: Mina Alikani and Alison Campbell, Alpha Scientists</i>
12.10 – 12.40	Fear not: AI and automation in IVF <i>Jacques Cohen, Founding Member, Alpha Scientists; Chief Scientific Officer, Conceivable Life Sciences, New York, USA</i>
12.40 – 12.55	Closing remarks <i>Alison Campbell, President, Alpha Scientists in Reproductive Medicine</i>
12.55	Close of 15 th Biennial Conference

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