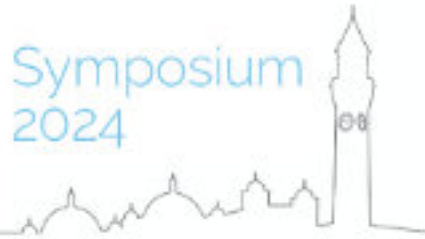




ARCS

Symposium  
2024



**The Fry Suite  
Edgbaston Park Hotel  
University of Birmingham**

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2024

## GOLD SPONSORS



CooperSurgical<sup>®</sup>  
Fertility Solutions

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Centre for Human  
Reproductive Science



A Vital Innovation for Fertility Clinics and Patients.

A GAME-CHANGER FOR YOUR LAB.

ZyMöt® Sperm Separation Device

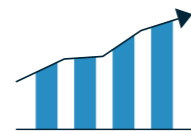
MORE THAN 50% FEWER STEPS

The ZyMöt device requires less than half the sample handling steps compared to other sperm preparation, reducing the potential for costly error.

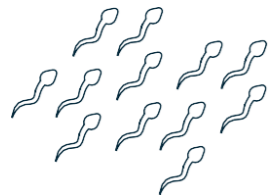
Learn more at zymotfertility.com or contact your Account Manager.



MORE EMBRYO TRANSFERS Increased euploidy rates mean more opportunities for embryo transfers.



PATIENT REQUEST Patients are starting to ask for the ZyMöt device. Having it available in your clinic can potentially help you attract more patients.



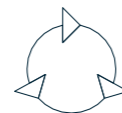
CONSISTENCY Helps get the best possible sperm sample, even with less experienced tech personnel.

UP TO 80% GREATER EFFICIENCY



Reduce the hands-on prep time by up to 80% and free up your lab technician's time for other tasks.

90% LESS WASTE



Reduce the amount of sperm preparation media, tubes, pipettes, and other equipment by up to 90%.

BENEFITS

Quality, accuracy and efficiency are central to the success of a fertility practice. Traditional sperm preparation methods are not only time consuming and laborious, but cause additional sperm DNA fragmentation<sup>1</sup> and cellular stress,<sup>2</sup> lowering the odds of success.<sup>3,4</sup> The ZyMöt Sperm Separation Device provides benefits to the users in the fertility clinic laboratory.

SCALABILITY

The ZyMöt device helps save time and users can quickly become proficient with the standardized use procedure set out in the Instructions for Use (IFU).

REFERENCES

- 1. Zini, A., et al. Urology (2000). doi: 10.1016/S0090-4295(00)00770-6
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3. Dimakopoulou A., et al. J Endocr Soc. (2019). doi: 10.1210/je.2019-OR18-5
4. Jayasena C.N., et al. Clin Chem (2019). doi: 10.1373/clinchem.2018.289348



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Welcome to the ARCS Symposium 2024

It is our great pleasure to welcome you back to Birmingham for the ARCS Symposium 2024. We are delighted to be able to have a venue where we can bring ARCS members together to celebrate yet another successful year.

The emphasis on this meeting is to provide up to date information, support and an applied approach to reproductive sciences, allowing delegates time to network and meet with exhibitors and colleagues in a relaxed, friendly environment.

ARCS is a multi-disciplinary society, bringing together all aspects of Reproductive Science. Whether you are an Andrologist, Embryologist, a Research Scientist, a Mathematician(!) or anything in-between, ARCS is here to support and promote the needs and development of our global community.

We would like to thank all our sponsors, including the Centre for Human Reproductive Science at the University of Birmingham which has a notable history in reproduction, as well as Dr Meurig Gallagher, local organiser, for hosting us, and acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the ARCS Programme Committee to put this year's scientific programme together.

We very much look forward to a fantastic day of high-quality science and the chance to meet face-to-face again with as many members as possible.



Meurig T Gallagher Symposium Organiser



Jackson C Kirkman-Brown Chair ARCS



UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM



Centre for Human Reproductive Science

# Scientific Programme

## Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2024

- 09:00 Open registration, welcome refreshments, and exhibition  
**Morning session - The Fry Suite, Edgbaston Park Hotel**
- 10:00 **Welcome and introduction**  
Chair: Meurig Gallagher
- 10:10 **20 years of fertility preservation for pre-pubertal boys**  
Rod Mitchell, University of Edinburgh
- 10:40 **Remaking Fertility**  
Manuela Perrotta, Queen Mary University of London
- 11:10 **Coffee break**
- 11:30 **Free communications**
- 12:00 **Rapid fire poster presentations**
- 12:30 **Lunch, poster session, and exhibitor breakout sessions**  
**Afternoon session - The Fry Suite, Edgbaston Park Hotel**  
Chair: Hannah Newby
- 13:30 **Free communications**
- 14:00 **Embracing Diversity: Navigating Transgender Fertility Care**  
Kelly Tilleman, UZGent
- 14:30 **Controversies and Challenges in the assessment and treatment of the infertile male**  
Suks Minhas, Imperial College
- 15:00 **Coffee break and exhibitor breakout sessions**
- 15:45 **Progress Educational Trust: Debate, Policy and Keeping up to Date**  
Sarah Norcross, Progress Educational Trust
- 16:00 **ARCS Policy & Practice Update**  
Hannah Newby, ARCS
- 16:10 **TRS Debate Live: This house believes that Add-Ons are a valuable part of patient choice in fertility care**  
For: Bryan Woodward, X&Y Fertility  
Against: Ying Cheong, University of Southampton
- 16:55 **Andy Glew People's Prize & Close**  
Jackson Kirkman-Brown, ARCS
- 17:00 - 18:00 **Networking with refreshments**
- 19:00 **Conference Dinner - The Fry Suite, Edgbaston Park Hotel**

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## Maximise success every step of the way



# Invited Speaker

## Abstracts & Profiles

### **Rod Mitchell**

Rod is Professor of Developmental Endocrinology at the Centre for Reproductive Health at the University of Edinburgh, in addition to being a Consultant Paediatric Endocrinologist at The Royal Hospital for Children and Young People in Edinburgh. His research interests are focused on the role of the germ-stem cell niche in prepubertal testis development and function. This includes research into the effects of exposure to pharmaceuticals (including chemotherapy) on germ cell development and future fertility potential. Rod is clinical and research lead for fertility preservation in prepubertal boys with cancer. His work combines the clinical service for gonadal tissue cryopreservation with research aimed at developing clinical strategies to protect or restore fertility in patients receiving gonadotoxic therapies.

### **Manuela Perrotta**

Manuela received her PhD in Sociology and Social Research in 2008 from the University of Trento (Italy), with her research intersecting Organisation Studies, Science and Technology Studies, and Medical Sociology, she is Reader in Technology and Organisation at Queen Mary University of London. Manuela is the Principal Investigator for the Remaking Fertility project, where she explores how biomedical imaging technologies and the development of professional and lay visions are involved in changing conceptions of the body.

### **Kelly Tilleman**

Kelly's research experience started in the field of proteomics, where she obtained a PhD in biomarker research in inflammatory arthritides at the University of Ghent in 2007. She combined her scientific enthusiasm with the responsibility of quality manager for an accredited DNA fingerprinting laboratory. As a post-doctoral fellow Dr Tilleman collaborated with Prof Petra De Sutter and began working at the fertility center with Prof De Sutter in 2009 where her research in the area of fertility preservation more specifically for transgender persons began.

Currently, Kelly is the director of the IVF laboratory at Ghent University Hospital where she has the privilege to work with a very dynamic and enthusiastic team. They perform all IVF laboratory processes in medical assisted reproduction, run a successful fertility preservation program and perform embryo biopsy for pre-implantation genetic testing. Kelly is still part of the quality management team, where the mission is to learn and grow as an organisation in order to perform and care better for every single patient who visits our fertility centre.

### **Suks Minhas**

Suks is Professor and Consultant Urologist and Andrologist at Imperial College, London. As a recipient of the prestigious Karl Storz Telescope, an award given to specialists who have made a significant and lasting contribution to British Urology, he is recognised as a key international opinion leader in this field.

Suks specialises in treating problems affecting the male genitals and is one of the UK's only dedicated andrological surgeons. In addition, he has published extensively on the subject (including a recent textbook on Male Sexual Dysfunction), chaired scientific meetings both nationally and internationally in the field of andrological surgery, and regularly receives invitations as an international speaker on the topic. Suks is also referee to a number of scientific journals and a member of international guideline committees, and is actively involved in the teaching and training of surgeons in the UK.

### **Sarah Norcross - Progress Educational Trust**

Sarah is Director of the Progress Educational Trust (PET) and Commissioning Editor of its flagship publication BioNews. PET provides impartial and accurate information to people affected by infertility or genetic conditions, and provides platforms for them - and relevant experts and practitioners - to discuss scientific, ethical, legal and policy developments in these areas.

Sarah serves on the European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology's Working Group on Add-Ons, on the National Infertility Group convened by the Scottish Government, and on the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority's Patient Organisation Stakeholder Group. She was previously Co-chair of the campaigning organisation Fertility Fairness, and she also chaired a group of clinicians, scientists, patient support groups and medical research charities which campaigned and advised on the content of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008 as it passed through the UK Parliament.

### **Bryan Woodward**

Bryan is a clinical embryologist at X&Y Fertility in Leicester, a clinic in the East Midlands specialising in male fertility. He trained in Sheffield and went on to read for a PhD in micromanipulation at the University of Nottingham. There he spent several years researching how to optimise the ICSI technique in various species including the mouse, cow and human. He is familiar with different types of ICSI rigs and use of polarised light imaging to observe oocyte ultrastructure.

Bryan previously served on the ExCos of ACE (as Secretary) and ABA (as Chair) and is presently the embryology representative on the ExCo of the British Fertility Society. He is a Fellow of the RCPATH and chaired the curriculum writing group for Part 1 and 2 in Reproductive Science.

### **Ying Cheong**

Ying is Professor of Reproductive Medicine at the University of Southampton, and Co-Founder and Medical Director of Complete Fertility. As a specialist in fertility treatment and surgery, Ying's key areas of clinical interests include: laparoscopic and open fertility surgery, endometriosis, recurrent miscarriage, polycystic ovarian disease and adhesions. Ying is an active researcher. She leads in the clinical research network for Reproductive Health in Hampshire and Isle of Wight and, lectures around the world disseminating her research. She has supervised and continues to train numerous PhD students and clinical fellows, and is also active in Undergraduate and Post-graduate teaching in medicine and other related biological sciences.

## Acknowledgements

ARCS and the local organisers would like to thank the following sponsors of ARCS and the Symposium who made the meeting possible, please take time to encourage their future support and find out more about them.



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Around the world clinics are working to improve outcomes for their patients. At CooperSurgical Fertility Solutions, we create lasting partnerships based on individual clinic's challenges and customized solutions tailored to optimize the chances of success.

Our innovative products and services coupled with patient-oriented communication tools and resources - such as the PGTaiSM platform, supported by our expert team of genetic counsellors and commitment to patient education (EngagedMD) - offer improved transfer and outcomes opportunities, better treatment options, and genomic (PGT-A, PGT-M and PGT-SR) and fertility education for all patients undergoing IVF. We also supply lab and theatre equipment, the RI Witness™ electronic witnessing system, culture media, pipettes, oocyte collection needles and catheters amongst our many other products.

We support and advance clinics by offering evidence-based training and solutions, designed to improve clinical performance and efficiency across the entire spectrum of ART. At CooperSurgical, we offer a unique approach within the fertility and genomics industry.

Visit our website to find out more at [fertility.coopersurgical.com](https://fertility.coopersurgical.com)

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Vitrolife has specialised in IVF since 1994. In 2021, Vitrolife acquired Igenomix, a leader in reproductive genetic testing services for fertility clinics, founded in 2011. Together we create Vitrolife Group, a global leader in reproductive health. By combining Igenomix's portfolio of reproductive genetic testing services with Vitrolife's best-in-class IVF device portfolio, we support clinics and patients across the fertility journey.

We support customers worldwide - always with sustainability in mind. Based on science and advanced research capabilities, our aim is to deliver products and services for the entire fertility journey, providing consistent performance and guaranteed quality. We are a sustainable market leader, aiming to be the preferred partner to the fertility clinics by providing superior products and services.

Our vision is to enable the dream of having a healthy baby. We achieve this by supporting our customers by improving their clinical practice and the outcome of the patient's fertility treatment.



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For over 30 years, Cook's Reproductive Health specialty has brought collaboration and experience to reproductive medicine. Cook Reproductive Health offers products for assisted reproduction including intrauterine insemination, ovum aspiration, fertilisation, incubation, biopsy and embryo transfer. In addition to creating medical devices, Cook Reproductive Health is committed to advancing education, research, and collaboration with physicians in order to enhance patient care for patients throughout their reproductive lives.



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At Genea Biomedx we aim to set new standards for success by offering innovative solutions. Our unwavering dedication to continuous innovation ensures the delivery of cutting-edge devices and technologies for optimal outcomes. Trustworthiness is fundamental to us; we prioritize building strong relationships with healthcare professionals to offer a holistic IVF solution they can rely on. At Genea Biomedx, personalized service is paramount, ensuring every customer receives the attention and support they deserve through person-to-person interaction. We are deeply committed to advancing IVF through research and development, setting industry standards and providing exceptional global customer service, contributing to the ongoing progress and success of assisted reproductive technologies worldwide. These values underpin our actions and decisions, enabling us to make a positive impact on the lives of patients and healthcare professionals globally.

**Haier Biomedical**  
Intelligent Protection of Life Science

**BRONZE  
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Haier Biomedical is a healthcare and life science cold chain expert that manufactures cryopreservation solutions for the IVF sector. We help organisations develop their cryopreservation facility and rise to the future challenges of fertility cryo storage. Haier Biomedical's liquid nitrogen product portfolio includes large-scale LN2 freezers for consolidated storage with smart controller technology, view operation data, monitor in real-time and download historical records for compliance. This is complemented by small and medium storage vessels, dry shippers for transportation, and the CryoStation - a low-temperature mobile workstation. Plus end-to-end IoT solutions for real-time monitoring for LN2 level, temperature and room conditions.

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Since 1973, Planer Ltd has been supplying hospitals, laboratories, biobanks, pharmaceutical companies, IVF clinics and the ART fields with hardware, software and systems for the safe preservation, storage, and monitoring of biological specimens such as embryos, blood products and tissue.

Planer works closely with Human IVF, Animal IVF, Transgenic Research and Stem Cell Research sectors to understand their needs and develop and source high-quality, reliable equipment. Planer products aim to provide repeatable quality results for the cryopreservation, handling, development, and monitoring of these priceless samples throughout their journey in the laboratory or medical facility.

# General Information

**Meeting Registration:** The registration desk will be situated just inside the Fry Suite at the Edgbaston Park Hotel – from the entrance to the hotel, continue straight, turning right at the end of the bar.

The desk will be open from 9am on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2024.

**Admission:** Entry to the scientific sessions and meal will be limited to badge wearers.

**Presentation format:** All oral presentations will be via PowerPoint. Any other presentation needs can only be catered for if speakers request in advance.

Speakers are asked to either email their presentations or bring a USB stick at least 20 minutes in advance of the session in which they are speaking in.

**Poster set-up:** Poster boards will be available in the Fry Suite where the meeting will be held. Please set up your poster during the open registration period, from 9am - 10am.

**Andy Glew Prize:** A judging panel selected a number of the poster abstracts for oral presentation at the meeting. The prize will be awarded for the top presentation on the day.

**Accommodation:** Accommodation booked during registration for the ARCS Symposium is located in the conference venue, the Edgbaston Park Hotel.

The address is:

53 Edgbaston Park Road,  
Birmingham. B15 2RS

<https://www.edgbastonparkhotel.com/meetings-and-events/fry>

Alternative accommodation of all types and budgets is also available for private booking within Birmingham city centre.

## Finding the conference site:

Conference activities will either take place in the Fry Suite (Scientific Programme), or the Lloyd Suite (Evening Programme), both are part of the Edgbaston Park Hotel.

**By road:** Please be aware that the centre of Birmingham now has a clean air zone ([www.shorturl.at/hvzHQ](http://www.shorturl.at/hvzHQ)). The conference venue is not within this zone, but if you are coming from the North you may pass through it.

Car parking is available in the Northeast Carpark, Pritchatts Road, B15 2SA. If your accommodation is in the Edgbaston Park Hotel, you should use this car park also.

**By rail:** The University of Birmingham has its own train station (University, see map), which is about a 10 minutes local train ride outside of the central station, Birmingham New Street, which runs almost every 15 minutes. Alternatively, a taxi from New Street Station takes around 15 minutes.

**Important Contact Numbers:** Edgbaston Park Hotel: 0121 414 8888

