

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Editor's Corner -  
 Guest Editorial: "What is in the future of sperm analysis?" ..... 3  
*Ashok Agarwal, PhD, HCLD (ABB)*

Letters to the JCE Editor ..... 5

In-Vited Commentary:  
 Improving Human IVF Success Requires Basic Research with Animal Models..... 7  
*Barry Bavister, Ph.D.*

Lab Tips: Micro-Fiber and Fungus ..... 11  
*David L. Hill, Ph.D. HCLD*

Reproductive Sciences Ph.D. at the University of Kentucky ..... 13  
*Doris J. Baker, Ph.D., HCLD(ABB), MT(ASCP)*

Reduced developmental competence of immature, in-vitro matured and postovulatory aged mouse oocytes following IVF and ICSI ..... 27  
*Orly Lacham-Kaplan and Alan Trounson*

Meetings for the Embryologist..... 42

Featured Websites ..... 44

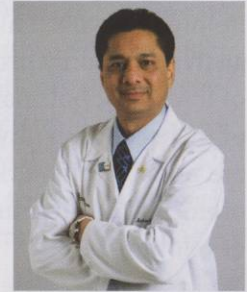
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**Editor's Corner: "EmbryoSpeak"**

*Guest Editorial*

**What is in the future of sperm analysis?**

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**T**hroughout the approximately 50 years that it has been in existence, the standard semen analysis has largely remained unchanged. Even though the value of a semen analysis has significantly eroded over this period of time ( due primarily to the subjective nature of its results and lack of standardized training for laboratory personnel as well as the presence of significant inter and intra observer variability in results) the basic test remains the mainstay of an infertility workup because it is perceived as simple, inexpensive and noninvasive. As advances are made however, other tests are being introduced, not to supplant or replace the standard semen analysis test, but rather to delve further into the specific causes of male infertility. This editorial reviews some of these new fertility tests that are emerging and which promise to provide great insight and understanding into the rapidly developing field of male infertility.

**What is in the future of sperm analysis?**

**Microarray**

This powerful method analyzes the transcriptome of cells and tissues. Comparison of transcriptomes between different stages of spermatogenesis may provide important clues into molecular mechanisms related to genetic infertility (ie, Yq microdeletions) and highlight potential biochemical markers for infertility. The primary application of this technology in the field of andrology is directed towards uncovering still unknown genes, molecular pathways, and mechanisms of sperm production. The creation of mRNA profiles may be able to distinguish between spermatogenic based infertility and other more environmental causes. The use of ICSI is generally thought to bypass the natural selection of the most healthy normal sperm and therefore allow the transmission of potentially defective genes. Clues may be provided from those men requiring ICSI treatment and who suffer from genetic based infertility to make use of treatment modalities based on the expression of genes revealed in these RNA profiles.

**Proteomics**

Body fluids composed of complex proteins are ideal candidates for proteomic studies as they have the potential to contain many unique

