March 22th, 2009

Dr. Ashok Agarwal
Director, Andrology Clinical & Research Laboratories
Glickman Urological Institute
Cleveland Clinic Foundation
9500 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44195

Dear Dr. Agarwal,

Please find the note on my experience in Cleveland Clinic Foundation below.

While I was looking for a institute in the USA where I could do research on "fertility preservation" which I have had an interest in for a long time, I found Cleveland Clinic Foundation and happened to know Dr. Falcone who later introduced Dr. Agarwal. The impression of Dr. Agarwal through e-mail correspondences was that he must be a perfectionist since the preparation of documents and whole process were so organized. However, my impression on him had been changed slightly after I arrived in Cleveland. Dr. Agarwal and his family invited my family to his home on the following day we arrived and welcomed us with their whole heart. Dr. Agarwal was not only a perfectionist, but he was also very friendly and considerate in person. He gave me and my family emotional support throughout our staying in Cleveland.

I was impressed by the systematic environment in the laboratory. Although I was unfamiliar with the procedure in the laboratory at first, I was soon able to focus on my research without hesitation. I conducted research on "Ovarian tissue cryopreservation" and "ROS in female reproduction" and the research outcomes never came out without tremendous help and support of Dr. Sharma and expert staff in the laboratory. The experience in the laboratory gave me a strong belief that if I had an idea, I could make anything possible in that laboratory.

Another amazing memory in Cleveland Clinic was that it was fun to meet wonderful people from all around the world in the laboratory. Dr. Agarwal organized various parties such as birthday parties, new-year parties, and farewell parties for informal gatherings where I could meet fellow researchers. Personally, I really appreciated Dr. Agarwal that he invited my chief in Korea to the USA and gave me "pictures of CCF" with signatures of all fellows as a farewell gift. It is hanging on the wall in my office in Korea and reminds me of an unforgettable time in Cleveland.
It is an honor to know Dr. Agarwal and have had the opportunity to do research in the Cleveland Clinic. The experience of living and studying there has widened and deepened my academic and research work. I believe that Cleveland Clinic Foundation's program will provide the best opportunity to young researchers and professionals who have dreams and goals in the reproductive medicine field.

Your sincerely,

Won Jun Choi, M.D., Ph.D.  
Associate Professor  
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology,  
Medical School, Gyeongsang National University  
Jinju, Korea

Original Manuscripts:


Presentation at Scientific Meetings:


Grants:

1. Autotransplantation of frozen-thawed whole sheep ovaries with microvascular anastomosis: assessment of oocyte maturation, fertilization and embryo development: Cleveland Clinic Research Programs Committees (RPC)

2. Alterations in the cytoskeleton of mouse oocyte induced by cryopreservation and oxidative stress: Cleveland Clinic Research Programs Committees (RPC)

Miscellaneous:

1. Fellow of the year: Centre for reproductive medicine, Cleveland Clinic Foundation, Cleveland, Ohio 2005

2. First Prize of Poster award, ASRM 2008, 64th Annual Meeting of American Society of Reproductive Medicine, San Francisco, California