

Experience at Cleveland Clinic during the Certificate Course in 'Clinical Embryology & ART'

The Certificate Course in 'Clinical Embryology and ART' at the Reproductive Research Centre, Cleveland Clinic and Manipal University, attended by me was an excellent experience.

The course had been ideally planned with the candidates training in basic techniques of ART at Manipal, India for a period of two months. At Manipal we got well versed with the basic techniques of oocyte embryo handling, pipetting and functioning of the micromanipulator. There were unlimited training resources and it had been ensured that we were never short of equipment or material. We had a one to one interaction with faculty members who took keen interest. Relevant theoretical lectures which cleared all queries accompanied the practical training and provided a sound theoretical base to our practical training on basic ART techniques. This was followed by training in more advanced techniques at Cleveland Clinic. We could get maximum benefit of the training in Cleveland because we had already had practical training in basic techniques on the micromanipulator. This enabled us to utilize our time directly on advanced techniques in Cleveland as we were familiar with pipetting and handling oocytes and embryos.

The lectures by the faculty at Cleveland were very informative and well organized. We had sufficient time to interact with the faculty and our queries were well solved. We got the opportunity to be taught by faculty which was internationally renowned in this field.

Our clinical IVF rotation was an extremely good experience. We were given in-depth knowledge of laboratory equipment, setting up of IVF lab with details on HEPA and carbon filters for air quality maintenance. We observed advanced techniques like assisted hatching and blastocyst culture to which we had not been exposed before. We also had the opportunity to interact with the clinicians.

Cleveland Clinic is well known for its quality. The excellent quality control and its documentation at the andrology clinical laboratory provided an insight into what

standards are needed for an ideal lab. It cleared concepts on quality control and gave me an insight on practical application of the theoretical knowledge on quality control which would be extremely helpful in my own laboratory.

The hands on training at the research embryology laboratory in Cleveland was an ideal way of learning as there was one instructor per student who guided the candidate at each step. So any mistakes being made were noticed and corrected immediately. It was a very high standard of training one was exposed to during which one learned assisted hatching, embryo biopsy, cell spreading and fixation techniques.

Although the course content was 25% new to us, as we had already been coached on many things in Manipal, it was an important 25% of ART training as it included advanced techniques we had not learned in Manipal. The knowledge acquired at Cleveland put us on a higher level than those who undergo routine ART training in India.

I sincerely hope that a combined venture like this training program continues. At Manipal, I received basic training in ART from some of the best teachers in India with the advantage of unlimited resources to work hands on in the lab. At Cleveland I got the opportunity for training under internationally renowned faculty and exposure to quality control and advanced techniques which brought me to a different platform. I would like to convey my sincere gratitude to all faculty concerned with our training and shall always fondly remember my experience at Manipal and Cleveland.

Regards and best wishes,

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