



10 January 2008

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Director of Research: Reproductive Research Center
Glickman Urological & Kidney Institute
The Cleveland Clinic
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Dear dr Agarwal

As my time spent as an International Observer in Andrology/Male Infertility in the training program of your Reproductive Research Center comes to an end I would like to share some of my experiences and thoughts with you. I cannot believe three months has gone by, but as they say time flies when you work hard and have fun.

First of all I would like to thank you and your staff for your prompt responses and personal follow-ups when I initially showed interest in joining your program. This helped so much with arranging the visit as well as the transition to make Cleveland the home away from home.

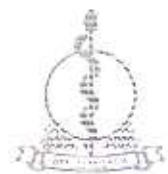
From the first day I joined right up to the final day, I was included in various aspects of research and at different levels of the program. The constant communication, planning and feedback sessions scheduled by you ensured that everything stayed on track, and that I felt included in the program not as a visitor, but as a team member. Not only did I get exposed to basic and routinely performed laboratory techniques, but was also quickly included in various research projects that employed state of the art advanced andrology techniques far exceeding any of my expectations. This program actively exposed me to all the facets of research from project planning right up to manuscript preparation. I am proud to say that during my brief period here I have been involved in the writing of 4 manuscripts which are currently in the final preparation for submission. The weekly research seminars also contributed to creating an academically stimulating environment. One of the many highlights of my visit was interacting with the different fellows and trainees from all across the world. The Reproductive Research Center definitely attracts excellent candidates and acts as a melting pot of cultures and ideas as people from various backgrounds can learn, work and enhance their career in a very accommodating environment.

I would like to conclude by saying that if you as an individual are open minded and willing to work hard then achieving success at the Reproductive Research Center of the Cleveland Clinic will follow naturally.

I wish you and your team lots of success and am looking forward to many years of future collaboration.

Regards

Dr Stefan du Plessis
(Senior Lecturer)



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