

# Ho'ohanau\*



Volume 1, Issue 4

August 2015

## E Komo Mai

**\* Ho'ohanau  
Means to  
reproduce &  
fertile**

**Hale Pawa'a  
1401 S. Beretania St. Ste  
250  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814**

**Inside this  
issue:**

**Staying ahead of 2  
the Curve**

**2015 SART Data 3**

**March of Dimes 3**

**NIAW 3**

**Resolve Support 4  
Groups**

**Research Study 1 4**

**Research Study 2 4**

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to Dr. Anatte Karmon, who joins our team in August, 2015. Dr. Karmon joins us from the Massachusetts General Hospital (voted the Best Hospital in the Country by *US News* for 2015), where she practiced infertility medicine. Dr. Karmon is fellowship-trained in Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility at the Harvard Medical School in Boston, MA. Dr. Karmon brings years of experience and expertise in her field, and we are very excited to have her expertise and compassion here at FIH.

Dr. Karmon was born and raised in New York City. She comes from a multicultural home, her dad and mom both being of Hungarian and Israeli decent. Her passion to learn has taken her all over the world; she did her undergraduate studies at Bennington College in Vermont, where she studied biology and anthropology. She was inspired to go to medical school from her studies in anthropology, which were focused in reproductive health. Her passions again took her to Israel where she attended the Medical School for International Health, a joint program between Columbia University in New York and Ben Gurion University. While attending medical school, she spent time treating

Bedouins in the Israeli desert, as well as a few months in a hospital in rural India. She then



moved back to New York to complete her residency at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Her influential research in medical school was focused on how nutrition, obesity, and ethnicity relate to reproduction and fertility.

Dr. Karmon and her husband Assaf have one daughter named Kalanit, whose name comes from a flower that blooms in the Israeli desert in March; the month she was born.

Dr. Karmon is well-respected in the infertility world and brings valuable expertise to our team. We are quite honored to have such a talented REI join our institute. Our goal at the Fertility Institute of Hawaii is always to provide the highest degree of individualized, compassionate care to our patients, and that's what Dr. Karmon brings to FIH. ALOHA and welcome to Hawaii!

## Staying Ahead of the Curve



**"In order to maintain our center's excellence we must continually stay abreast of the newest research data and trends within the infertility world."**

In order to maintain our center's excellence, we must continually stay abreast of the newest research data and trends within the infertility world. To this end, Dr. Frattarelli has a network of national and international colleagues that he works with on a daily basis when questions arise in our institute or other centers.

In April, Dr. Frattarelli attended the PCRS (Pacific Coast Reproductive Society) Meeting held in Palm Springs. In addition to networking with his colleagues and attending research presentations, Dr. Frattarelli presented a lecture "What's Happening in Genetics Testing in the Fertility Clinic," for one of the Genetics companies with which we work.

In May, Dr. Frattarelli was asked to teach a Fertility Preservation and Oocyte Freezing course at the National ACOG (American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologist) Meeting in San Francisco. This was a 4-hour course that focused on the history, current technology/ techniques, indications, and success associated with vitrifying oocytes for fertility preservation.

In May, Dr. Frattarelli and our Senior Embryologist (Amber Brewer) attended the AAB (American Association of Bioanalysts). AAB is a national professional association whose members are clinical laboratory directors, owners, supervisors, managers, medical technologists, etc. Dr. Frattarelli and Amber were

able to network with members from different national and international IVF laboratories in order to ensure that we continue to be one of the leading IVF institutes in the world.

Dr. Frattarelli is one of the Scientific Advisors for the FEC (Foundation for Evaluating and Assessing Embryonic Competence). In May, Dr. Frattarelli attended the FEC Scientific Advisory and Board of Directors meeting. As part of this foundation, Dr. Frattarelli reviews and awards research grants for REI physicians doing research in their fellowship. During this meeting, the foundation awarded almost \$500K in research awards.

As you can see, the past few months (especially May), were very busy for Dr. Frattarelli. We realize that travelling to these meetings is sometimes an inconvenience for our patients when Dr. Frattarelli is not available for certain procedures. Luckily, in this age of technology, Dr. Frattarelli is always available electronically if needed. With the addition of Dr. Karmon to the office, this inconvenience should be mitigated. We certainly hope that our patients understand that this is needed in order to maintain our excellence.



## 2015 SART Data

Here at the Fertility Institute of Hawaii, we pride ourselves in upholding only the highest of standards when it comes to providing our patients with excellent care and treatment. Not only does this apply when interacting with patients, but it also translates to our pregnancy rates. Due to our novel cutting-edge protocols, highly trained staff, and state-of-the-art technology, we are able to have some of the highest pregnancy rates in the world. We are consistently ranked in the top 10% in the nation. Pregnancy rates are reported to the Society for Assisted Repro-

ductive Technologies (SART) and can be viewed by going to their website at <http://www.sart.org/>. Last year's SART data has just been released, and we are very proud to announce that ***we are ranked third in the nation as a clinic for live birth rates with women under 35 and ranked first in the nation for donor egg cycles.*** We are also ranked well above the national average in all age categories for live birth rates. We always strive to provide our patients with individualized, compassionate care and our superior pregnancy rates certainly can attest to this.

**“FIH is ranked third in the nation as a clinic for live birth rates with women under 35 and ranked first in the nation for donor egg cycles.”**



## March of Dimes Walk

On Saturday April 25<sup>th</sup> 2015, FIH had the opportunity to participate in the March of Dimes Walk for the second consecutive year, a benefit for the improvement of the health of babies. It is the nation's oldest walking fundraiser honoring babies born healthy and those that need help to survive and thrive. We are honored and privileged to be able to participate in such an impactful event. The walk was a huge success; it was a gorgeous morning filled with

hundreds of families and business leaders of all ages, all walking for a great cause. The Fertility Institute of Hawaii team was able to raise more than \$800 dollars in donations! Funds raised by March for Babies in Hawaii help support prenatal wellness programs, research grants, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) Family Support Programs, and advocacy efforts for stronger, healthier babies. Thank you to all who participated and we look forward to next year's event!

## National Infertility Awareness Week

FIH recognized National Infertility Awareness week from April 19<sup>th</sup> – April 25<sup>th</sup>. The theme for this year was “you are not alone”, a message to patients out there who are silently dealing with infertility. 1 in 8 couples of reproductive age experience some sort of infertility problems and this year's theme was a battle cry for the millions out there to unite for a common cause and to stand

up to infertility. We had different blue and pink treats each day for our patients to enjoy and wrist bands to show support for infertility awareness. We also had a gift card giveaway to Ho'ala Salon & Spa and a gift basket raffle of FIH goodies. Thank you to all who participated and to those who continue to spread the word about infertility awareness.





## Resolve Peer Support Group in Honolulu, HI

Resolve is pleased to announce a new peer support group in Honolulu, HI. Meetings will be held on the first Thursday of every month from 6:30pm to 8:00pm in the Bingham Room at Kapiolani Medical Center for Women & Children. For more information, please email your questions or comments to: [Resolvehawaii@outlook.com](mailto:Resolvehawaii@outlook.com).

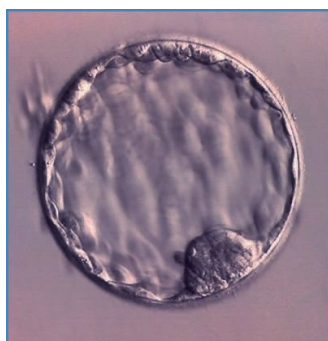


## Gonadotropin Research Study

The *Fertility Institute of Hawaii* will be participating in a research study where if patients meet the qualifications, they can receive IVF treatment at a greatly reduced total cost of \$3,000. To be eligible, patients must be between the ages of 21-35 years, trying to conceive for over a year, a healthy BMI of 19-30, AMH level greater than 5, and a regular menses for 21-45 days (not on birth control).

The purpose of this study is to compare the efficacy between different medications currently used in the treatment for infertility. This study is a great opportunity for patients who do not have IVF coverage through their insurance, or have exhausted their IVF benefit. Compliance and the ability to follow detailed instructions are requirements for involvement in this study!

If you have any questions, know someone who may want to participate, or would like to inquire about participation, please contact your IVF-coordinator who can give you further details or [joycelyn@armghawaii.com](mailto:joycelyn@armghawaii.com)



## PGD Research Study

As some of our patients may know, we have been participating in an ongoing research study where patients (if they qualify) can receive a complimentary genetic analysis of their embryos (usual cost is \$5000). To be eligible, patients need to meet the following criteria: be healthy and between the ages of 25-40, currently undergoing or about to begin an IVF cycle, no history of repeated IVF failures, and no history of multiple miscarriages or genetic disorders. Also unique to this study, patients have the option to receive complimentary noninvasive prenatal testing at 10 weeks gestation. This test is done through a simple blood draw.

The purpose of the study is to compare the effectiveness between pre-implantation screening (PGS) and the standard embryology grading scale which looks at the morphology of an embryo. The goal for us is to always see improvements in the rates of embryo implantation and healthy live births after IVF treatment. Genetic abnormalities contribute to a high percentage of unsuccessful pregnancies. PGS is a powerful tool for us to utilize in fertility treatments.

This study will be running through the end of the summer or until further notice. If you have any questions or would like to inquire about participation, please contact your IVF coordinator who can give you further details.



Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter for daily/ weekly practice updates and tips...

Send us your baby photos!!

Comments or suggestions for our newsletter? Let Us Know at [www.ivfcenterhawaii.com/contact\\_us.html](http://www.ivfcenterhawaii.com/contact_us.html)