

Ho'ohanau*

Winter 2020

Volume 3, Issue 1



RECAP OF THE YEAR??

2019 was a very busy year at FIH. We had an increase in staff, expanded our technology and options for family-building, participated in a ground-breaking study, and more. Our hopes of delivering our newsletter to you quarterly did not happen, and for that, we do sincerely apologize. However, it is our goal in 2020 to get this news out to you twice a year, so as to keep you updated and informed of the many events, opportunities, and happenings at our facility. Thank you for being a patient and for allowing us to continue to do what we do best, *Helping to Create New Beginnings..*”

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

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FIH/ARMG HOLIDAY PARTY

Our annual holiday event this year was held again at the Halekulani Hotel on December 7th. Our staff has grown so much throughout the years that we outgrew our “regular” room and moved to the second floor Hau Terrance with beautiful ocean views and live music below. Many of our staff gathered to make this night a memorable one with delicious food, good company, cocktails, a raffle, and a photo booth. This annual gathering is held to thank every employee for their hard work, dedication, and for providing excellent patient care. We hope your holiday season and festivities, as well as the beginning of the year 2020 have been filled with fun, laughter, and love. Cheers to what 2020 has in store!



ACCESSIBLE IVF with INVOcell™



Accessible IVF is a modified In Vitro Fertilization procedure which utilizes an intravaginal incubator. It is simple, safe, natural, and less expensive than traditional IVF. After eggs are harvested, eggs and sperm are loaded into the INVOcell, a small medical-grade plastic device. The device is then placed into the patient’s vagina, allowing for a more natural ‘in vivo’ fertilization and embryo culture. The patient then returns to the office, the device is removed, and embryos are retrieved from the device, evaluated, and placed into the patient’s uterus. *At the Fertility Institute of Hawaii, success rate of an INVOcell cycle per egg retrieval is approximately 50%.*

ASRM

Drs. Frattarelli and Karmon and Tricia our PA-C, travelled to Philadelphia, PA on October 12th – 16th, for the ASRM annual meeting. The American Society for Reproductive Medicine is a multidisciplinary organization dedicated to the advancement of the science and practice of reproductive medicine. It provides a forum for lay public, researchers, physicians and affiliated health workers through education, publications, and meetings.



ACOG HAWAII SECTION

Our FIH team, including Dr. Frattarelli, Dr. Karmon, Tricia (PA-C), Embryologist Laila, as well as our Marketing & Business Manager Robyn, attended the 32nd Annual Hawai'i Section of the American Congress of Obstetricians & Gynecologists. The meeting was held from November 9th – 11th at Turtle Bay Resort on Oahu's North Shore. It was a great opportunity for FIH to educate the local OB/GYNs on novel therapies, like the INVOcell device, and to share one of our most sought after personalizations FIH giveaways, the rainbow unicorn.



RITA STUDY RECAP

In October of 2018, FIH was selected as 1 out of 25 centers across the country to participate in a phase III clinical research trial with a leading IVF pharmaceutical company. This randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study aims to investigate the efficacy of a new recombinant FSH injection for IVF patients that is expected to be available in the US in the coming years. Eligible participants were provided with an entire IVF cycle, along with subsequent frozen transfer cycles and medications free of charge. To date, we are excited to share that we have provided IVF cycles to 54 patients. For many, this opportunity has allowed them a chance at IVF that they may not have otherwise realized. This study has resulted in numerous ongoing pregnancies. Recruitment for the study has now closed, but we thank our patients for their interest and look forward to helping our currently enrolled participants achieve their goals of starting or building their families.



BABY OF THE MONTH

We are currently looking for individuals to participate in our Baby of the Month Photography Storytelling Project, in partnership with Rita Coury Photography, Inc. If you've had a successful cycle with us and are interested in this unique photo opportunity, please let us know. By sharing your inspirational stories, you provide hope and determination to many that are on the journey to building a family. In order to participate, we do ask that you be comfortable with sharing your first name, as well as that of the baby. To find out more about this beautiful project, contact our Marketing Manager Robyn at 808-380-8237 or by email robyn@armghawaii.com

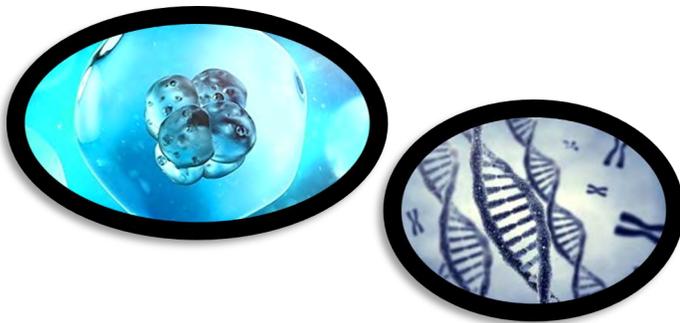
To see current "Baby of the Month" photos, please visit our website, at <https://www.ivfcenterhawaii.com/category/baby-of-the-month/>.



OPTIONS FOR YOUR FROZEN EMBRYOS

FIH uses a national online embryo service, Embryo Options, for its fertility patients who have frozen eggs, sperm, and/or embryos stored in our facility. Those who wish to cryopreserve eggs, sperm and/or embryos for potential use in assisted reproductive treatment (ART) procedures are given access to a secure online portal. With Embryo Options, patients are able to make auto-payments for storage, research disposition options and resources when the timing is appropriate, and have access to download complete informed consents or any other necessary paperwork.

To get more information about embryo options or if you have questions, contact your IVF coordinator or email us at fih@armghawaii.com.



FIH EMPLOYEE OUTINGS



DONATING EMBRYOS



When couples go through in vitro fertilization and have decided that their family is complete, they sometimes have remaining embryos that are cryopreserved (frozen) in storage. Couples have a choice of:

- Donating for the purpose of embryo adoption.
- Donating for the purpose of quality assurance/ research.
- Discarding in accordance with our policies.

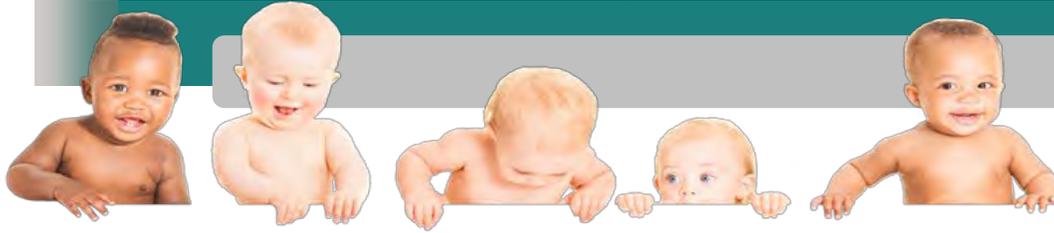
The Fertility Institute of Hawaii is excited to be able to offer embryo donation for our patients. Donating embryos allows another fertility patient(s) the opportunity to be a parent(s).

To find out how you can donate your unused embryo(s), contact your IVF coordinator or email us at fih@armghawaii.com.



Our FIH team works very hard each and every day in helping all of our patients to achieve their family-building goals. When you work hard, you sometimes get to “play” hard too. In March, many of our staff and a “plus one” enjoyed an afternoon channeling their inner Picasso at Painting with a Twist. With guided step-by-step instructions, everyone was able to create their own masterpiece!

In July, our employees and their families enjoyed an evening at Aiea Bowling Alley, for our annual summer gathering. With lots of good food, goodie bags for the kids, and a lot of glow in the dark paraphernalia, it was a great time had by all ages. It's always fun to see the competitive side of people outside of the office, over a little friendly game of bowling!



FIH AT HNL PRIDE FESTIVAL

The month of June is known as Pride Month, it's a time when the world's LGBTQ communities come together and celebrate the freedom to be themselves. The month of June was chosen to pay homage to the Stonewall riots of June 1969, which started the gay rights movement. This year marks the 50th anniversary of this event. On October 19th, some of our FIH staff volunteered at the 2019 Honolulu Pride Festival, for the second consecutive year. Thousands gathered at this event to show their support for the LGBTQ community. Honolulu Pride is Hawaii's largest and most colorful festival, it is a true celebration of diversity and inclusiveness. It was beyond rewarding to see so many current and past patients come to the booth to visit us with their families. The Fertility Institute of Hawaii offers treatment options to same-sex couples here locally, as well as internationally. Until next year...



IN THE SEASON OF GIVING

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

Send us your baby photos!!

On Yelp? Write a review about us!



TAG US! We have our own hashtag!

#FertilityIofHI

It has been an annual FIH tradition for many years now, to participate in the Helping Hands "Adopt" a Family Program. In December, one family's story of struggle truly touched our hearts. With four young boys to buy for and two teenage girls, plus caregivers, we were able to donate a plethora of Paw Patrol, Mickey Mouse, and Cars toys, clothes, shoes, and gift cards for staples like food and gas. It is always our hope that we can contribute to the community, for sometimes the best gift is that of giving back to others. As Winston S. Churchill said, "We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give."



Comments or suggestions for our newsletter? Let Us Know at www.ivfcenterhawaii.com/