

**Reproductive and Family Rights:
Building Parental Ties through
Assisted Reproductive Technologies**

Judith Daar

**Ambassador Patricia L. Herbold Dean
Chase College of Law**

**NKU CHASE
COLLEGE OF LAW**

Marriage Equality and Family Formation



- The 14th amendment Due Process Clause fundamental liberty interest and equal protection protects right to marry by same-sex couples
- Justice Kennedy highlights safeguarding children as a basis for protecting the right to marry
- Notes marriage “affords the permanency and stability important to children’s best interests”

Demographic Research on Same-Sex Parenting



- Survey results from 2024 study by The Williams Institute, UCLA School of Law
- About 25% of married same-sex couples under age 50 have children
- Over 40% of married same-sex couples indicate they want to have children
- Participants said marriage's stability and security a prerequisite to becoming parents

Options for Medically-Assisted Reproduction

- Therapeutic Donor Insemination (TID)
- In Vitro Fertilization (IVF)
- Egg Donation
- Embryo Donation
- Surrogacy (Traditional and Gestational)
- Intravaginal Culture (IVC)
- In Vitro Gametogenesis (IVG)



Current Usage of ART by the LGBTQ+ Community

Use of donor sperm (mostly by cis females, transmen)

- Estimated 40% sperm bank clients are lesbian couples
- About 60,000 children born via sperm donation each year

Use of surrogacy (mostly by cis male individuals and male couples)

- Estimated 20% of donor eggs secured by S/S male couples
- About 5,000 children born via surrogacy each year in U.S.
- Agencies report up to 50% of clients are S/S male couples
- Some gestational carriers prefer only male couples



Barriers to Accessing Assisted Reproductive Care

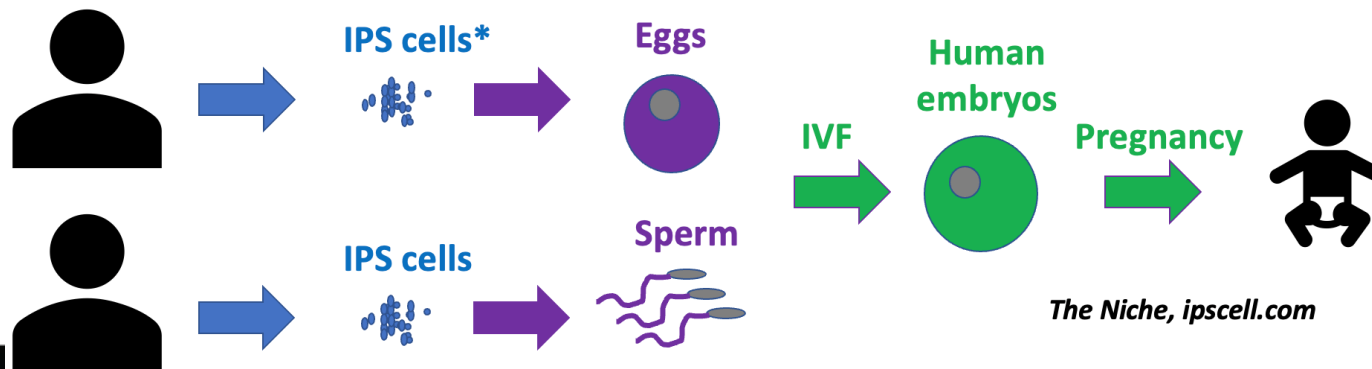
- **Cost**
 - Average cost of single IVF cycle is \$20k
 - Average cost of securing donor eggs is \$20k to 60k
 - Surrogacy costs ranges from \$100k to \$250k
 - Most insurance does not cover fertility care
 - Private health insurance market is improving
- **Provider Discretion and Discrimination**
 - 2005 study 48% ART clinics not accept S/S male couples
 - Over 53% would not accept single male as client
 - Today, many target advertising to LGBTQ+ market



Looking Ahead: Can One Person Be Both Biologic Mother and Father?

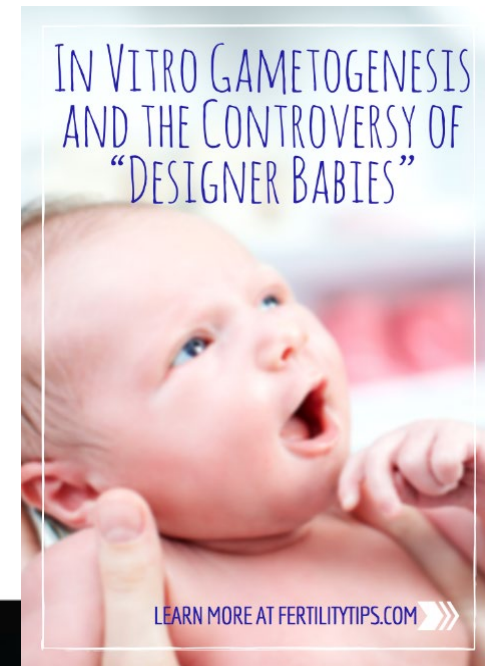
- IVG proceeds in animal models
- Success in developing opposite-sex gametes in mice
- Success in live birth using one opposite-sex gamete
- No live birth using IVG-derived gametes from one source (yet)
- Human trials not yet underway

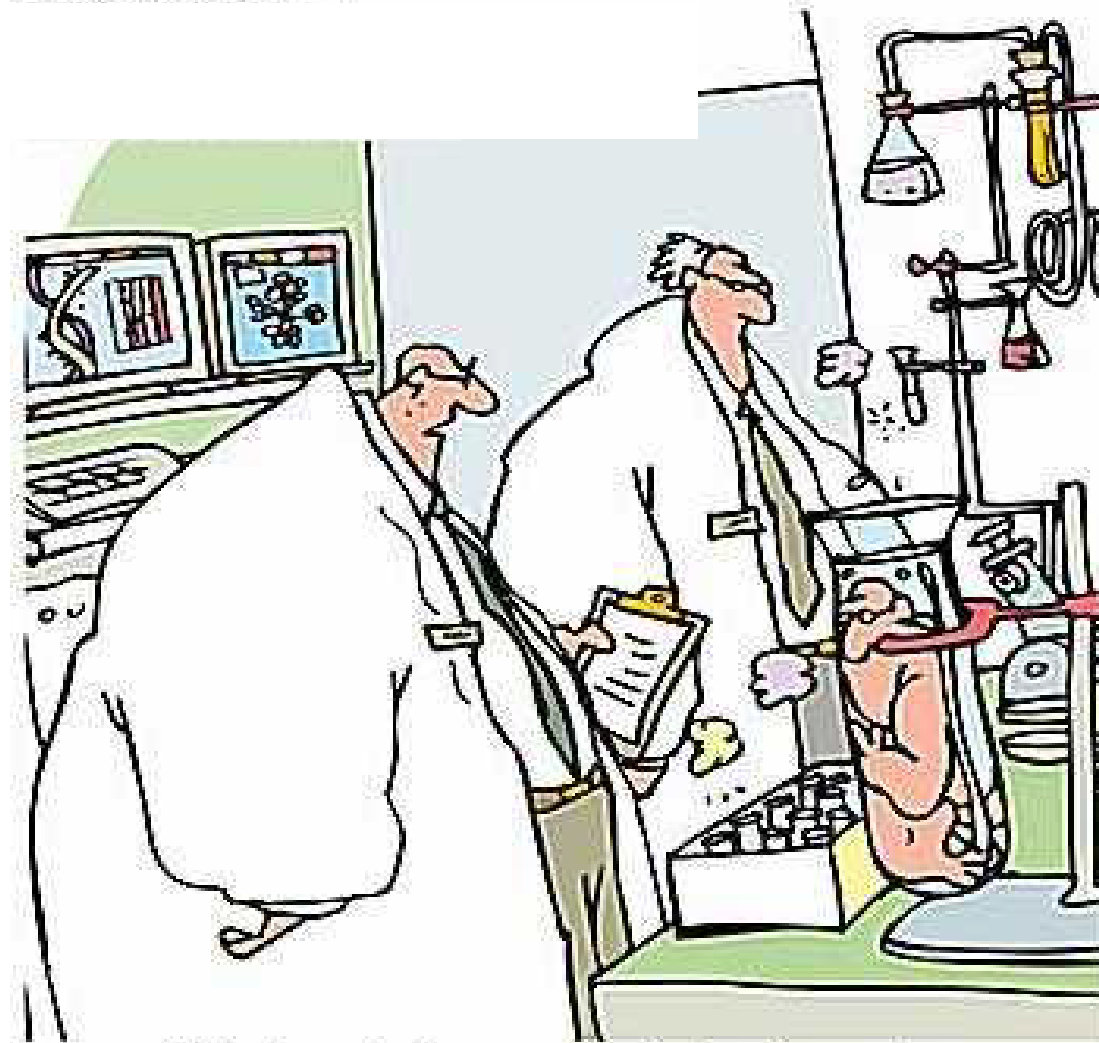
In vitro gametogenesis (IVG)



The Niche, ipscell.com

*IPS cells are pluripotent stem cells genetically identical to the donor made from adult cells like skin fibroblasts.





“Nobody’s perfect, but we’re working on it.”

Thank you for the opportunity

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