

ESHRE 2021 Virtual (26 June – 1 July 2021)

Questions for the speakers

PCC08: Nurse- or midwife-led care for parents from the 21st century

The role of the midwife in a uterus transplantation program - Yasmine Van Den Branden (Belgium) / Els Decoster (Belgium)

No questions from Participants.

A same sex male couple share their fertility journey to become parents - Michael Johnson Ellis (United Kingdom)

Q: Did you discuss the fact that you might want more than one child with your surrogate before starting treatment for the first child?

A: Yes, we always made it clear that we'd be creating embryos for a sibling journey. Luckily our surrogate always wanted to complete a family by way of a sibling journey

Q: What is the difference between TwoDadsUK and My Surrogacy Journey?

A: TwoDadsUK supports intended fathers by offering signposted support. It also works to raise awareness of same sex families and collaborates with brands to achieve this. It also supports UK fertility clinics in attracting independent Intended Fathers. My Surrogacy Journey is a non profit organisation which supports everyone on a journey to parenthood. MSJ is vastly different by the size and scope of the organisation when compared to TDUK. MSJ has a team of 15 and an Advisory Board of 21, compared to TDUK which just has Michael and Wes. MSJ is also the only non profit UK Surrogacy organisation offering the amount of membership and professional support. There isn't a global surrogacy organisation that rivals it.

Q: Why weren't new IP's accepted in September 2013?

A: In balance of IP's vs Surrogates

Q: What does postpartum care for surrogates entail? how was the pregnancy, did she have also a Cesar section at the first pregnancy?

A: An extensive program supported by The Doula Association, Mindful Birth Group and Born Human. Providing post birth recovery support for surrogates as well as post birth counselling and emotional support via our partners at Born Human.

Outcomes of retrospective donor legislation introduced in Victoria, Australia in 2017 - Karin Hammarberg (Australia)

Q: What kind of funding does VARTA have? How/who provides the counseling?

A: VARTA is a statutory authority in the state of Victoria and is funded by the Victorian Government. The counselling is provided by fertility counsellors who have expertise in donor conception and donor linking. They are employed by VARTA and counselling is free for people who want it when they apply for information from the donor register about a related party.

Q: Indeed offspring never consented to anonymous donation. May I ask, what the reasoning was, behind allowing donor/receptors to initiate contact?

A: I think the lawmakers wanted to give donors something in return for taking their anonymity away retrospectively. The difference is that a donor's identity can be released to a donor-conceived person without his consent but if a donor applies for identifying information about a person born as a result of his donation, the donor-conceived person can veto this. However, once a donor applies for information, VARTA is obliged to contact that person to ascertain their willingness to let the donor know their identity and this is often when they first learn about their donor conception. This can of course come as a shock for some but going forward this is less and less likely to happen as donor anonymity has been banned in Australia since the 1990s and parents are now much more inclined to tell their children about how they were conceived than they used to be.

Q: Norway very recently implemented a national donor registry for sperm and egg donation. What can I expect to experience when the children start to be of age?

A: Providing parents are honest with their children and let them know about the way they were conceived when they are young, I think you will find that most people who apply for information about the donor will just be happy that they have the option of knowing who the person is who contributed to their birth. Most problems arise when people find out that they are donor-conceived when they are in their teens or older, or find out in difficult circumstances, e.g. when parents divorce or during an argument (or when they have a DNA test!). Honesty and openness avoid many potential problems and we have found that most people who apply for information about a related party are just curious about the person (or persons as some want information about half-siblings) they are biologically related to.

