



Optimizing Patient Care In Reproductive Medicine: Contemporary Approaches to Ongoing Medical, Laboratory, Ethical And Legal Challenges

Needs Assessment/Practice Gaps

PCRS uses multiple sources of data to identify practice gaps and assess needs including:

- Evaluations of previous PCRS CME activities
- Anecdotal comments from meeting participants and society members
- Expert and peer input
- New technology developments
- Pre and post activity surveys

Program Chairs for the 2010 Annual Meeting, Janice Andreyko, MD and William Kearns, PhD, and President Lori Marshall, MD, are recognized experts in the field of Reproductive Medicine. Based on their review of the data collected from the sources above, the following practice gaps have been identified:

- The rapidly advancing field of reproductive medicine is inherently exciting and challenging. Provision of optimal care for patients demands a comprehensive team approach.
- Not only must practitioners have knowledge of current medical and laboratory technologies and be cognizant of the laws regulating their application, it is essential that such technologies be applied to patient care in an ethically grounded and psychologically sensitive manner.

The practice gaps identified above will be addressed during the 2010 program by designing educational activities to meet the following needs:

- Physicians and allied healthcare workers in the field of Reproductive Medicine need educational activities that improve their knowledge, skills, and performance as interactive members of the medical team (including laboratory technicians and nurses).
- Physicians and allied healthcare workers in the field of Reproductive Medicine need educational activities related to the ethical and legal complexities of Reproductive Medicine.
- Physicians and allied healthcare workers in the field of Reproductive Medicine need educational activities related to new technologies and advancements in the areas of recurrent pregnancy loss, pre-implantation diagnosis and screening, ovarian stimulation protocols, methodologies for PGD and PGS, premature ovarian failure, sexual dysfunction, stem cell research.
- Physicians and allied healthcare workers in the field of Reproductive Medicine need educational activities that will aid them in providing improved patient care for patients of different ethnic groups, different health issues (i.e., cancer patients) and differing levels of resources.

Overall Expected Learning Outcomes

Based upon the above needs/gaps in practice, the PCRS program committee design for the 2010 Annual Meeting provides a series of postgraduate courses, interactive plenary sessions, and workshops, and round tables discussions providing the opportunity for physicians and their teams to recognize, discuss, and rectify those practices, or lack thereof, which significantly effect optimal outcomes for their patients in the everyday practice of Reproductive Medicine.

At the completion of the 2010 Annual Meeting, participants will be able to:

- Determine the scope of the ethical and legal complexities of advances in pre-implantation diagnosis and screening with regards to the impact these technologies can have on patients.
- Evaluate the role of professional society oversight.
- Identify the most current methods for evaluating ovarian responsiveness and use this information to choose appropriate ovarian stimulation protocols for the anticipated hypo and hyper-responder in IVF.
- Define the major biological underpinnings in the female and male reproductive systems required for establishment of a healthy pregnancy.
- Explore the current strategies available to clinicians and embryologists to maximize the chances for helping patients achieve healthy pregnancies.
- Recognize the most current methods of evaluating embryo competency, including the limitations of each method.
- Apply updates in methodologies for PGD and
- Identify current advances in pathophysiology and strategies for investigation and treatment of critical areas of reproductive medicine such as recurrent pregnancy loss and premature ovarian failure.
- Recognize issues facing the RE nurse in patient care.
- Explore the medical and psychological impact of sexual dysfunction in men and women and the clinician's role in treatment.

- Recognize the most current advances in stem cell research as well as directions in which the field is moving.
- Determine the scope of the ethical and legal complexities of advances in pre-implantation diagnosis and screening with regards to the impact these technologies can have on the patients for whom we care.
- Explain the different psychological stresses that infertility and its treatment can have in patients of different ethnic groups.
- Assess the methods for and importance of fertility preservation in the cancer patient, as treatments are becoming more successful.
- Identify programs providing infertility treatment in resource-poor countries and describe how some of these strategies may be applied to patients in the U.S.