

Australian invention set to revolutionise IVF

SYDNEY, 4 September 2013: A world first Australian invention is set to revolutionise one of the key IVF processes by removing the risk of human error.

Genea Biomedx's Gavi (Genea Automated Vitrification Instrument) will be launched to Australian fertility specialists, scientists and nurses at the Fertility Society of Australia conference in Sydney today.

The world leading instrument automates vitrification - the process of freezing IVF patients' embryos for use in later cycles. It will deliver time savings through standardising what is currently a highly manual process which is subject to environment and human variation.

The use of Gavi has the potential to more than halve the time it takes scientists to vitrify embryos while still delivering world class IVF pregnancy rates.

"Gavi standardises the vitrification process, meaning that every single embryo in the lab is treated exactly the same way every time. In IVF labs across the world, vitrification is currently undertaken many times each day by embryologists, requiring a high level of manual dexterity and leading to variations in the way embryos are handled," Genea Biomedx General Manager Sam Lanyon said.

"What we've done is create an instrument, a robot, to effectively do that manual, labour intensive process automatically.

"One of the things we are very excited about is that by standardising the process of vitrification and ensuring each embryo is treated in the best way possible, we are likely to improve outcomes and increase the number of patients taking home a healthy baby."

Genea Biomedx R&D Principal Scientist and Embryologist Dr Tammie Roy today presented the outcome of early pre-clinical development work on Gavi which has been undertaken within the Genea labs over the past three years.

"Our extensive pre-clinical trials have shown that Gavi reduces processing time while ensuring the embryos remain safe. Gavi is already producing results that are equivalent to the current manual process and we are confident that the use of this instrument will lead to better outcomes for labs and therefore patients," Dr Roy said.

Press Release



Drawing on fertility group Genea's 26 years of IVF experience, Genea Biomedx is developing a suite of innovative IVF products that will improve couples' chances of achieving their dream of starting a family.

The establishment of Genea Biomedx will allow IVF clinics around the world to share the fertility advances developed through Genea's ongoing commitment to research.

"Here at Genea, we are uniquely positioned as both a world leading fertility clinic and a world leading IVF technologies lab. As the newly formed Genea Biomedx, we're powered by real world knowledge from our fertility clinics and perfectly placed to come up with innovative advances that will help make more couples' dreams come true," Genea CEO Tomas Stojanov said.

"Genea offers patients a 40 per cent greater chance of taking home a healthy baby compared to the average of all other Australian and New Zealand clinics combined*. Through the establishment of Genea Biomedx, we are giving IVF patients and clinics in other countries the chance to benefit from our world leading Australian scientific and technological know-how."

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Genea Biomedx is an IVF technologies business. Genea Biomedx's parent company Genea has been at the forefront of fertility treatment for 26 years.

* Data based on the Assisted Reproductive Technology in Australia and New Zealand 2011 publication and Genea's 2011 submission to ANZARD. Genea's 40 per cent greater chance is calculated based on live birth rates per embryo transfer at Genea compared to the average of all other clinics in Australia and New Zealand.