

Genea Biomedx launches world first automated vitrification instrument

LONDON, 9 July 2013: A world first automated vitrification instrument launched today by Genea Biomedx at the 2013 European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology (ESHRE) conference in London is set to more than halve the time it takes scientists to vitrify embryos while still delivering world class IVF pregnancy rates.

Drawing on fertility group Genea's 26 years of IVF experience, Genea Biomedx has developed Gavi (Genea Automated Vitrification Instrument), an instrument which automates vitrification, the process of freezing IVF patients' embryos for use in later cycles.

Genea Biomedx General Manager Sam Lanyon said the automation will deliver time savings and will standardise a highly manual process that is currently subject to human variation.

"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," Mr Lanyon said.

"What we've done is create an instrument, a robot, to 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 of Gavi are already showing results equivalent to the current manual process in far less time and we are confident that the use of this instrument will eventually lead to better outcomes for labs and therefore patients," Mr Lanyon said of Dr Roy's presentation.

Press Release



Dr Roy told ESHRE congress delegates that more than 5,000 mouse embryos had been tested through the instrument, returning results equivalent to those achieved with the current manual vitrification process.

She explained that a limited trial using donated human research embryos also showed equivalent results to the existing manual process.

Gavi is the first of Genea Biomedx's new products to be introduced to the IVF market.

The second innovation, due to be released in 2014, is a new affordable, innovative IVF incubator which incorporates time-lapse image capture and remote monitoring for every embryo, not just a few.

Also in 2014, Genea Biomedx will release a new generation of its world leading embryo culture media. The first and second generations of Genea's embryo culture media are in use in more than 600 clinics across 60 countries under the name Sydney IVF Media Suite.

As Sydney IVF, Genea developed the first triple sequential media system and produced the first embryo culture media under a ready to use philosophy - no additional preparatory steps need to be taken by the user.

The third generation of Genea's world leading embryo culture media is currently undergoing final stages of registration in relevant countries. It will be manufactured and distributed by Genea Biomedx in 2014.

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.

Genea was the first IVF clinic in the world to develop and routinely conduct blastocyst biopsy, the first clinic in Australia to introduce routine Day 5 embryo transfers, the first to introduce routine single embryo transfer and the first to develop and routinely replace the old slow freezing method for embryos, eggs and sperm with a more efficient and successful vitrification process.

"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.

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“Genea offers patients a 30 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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For further information or interview requests, please contact:

Elizabeth Gosch - elizabeth.gosch@genea.com.au Ph: +61 414 319 775

Alice Ross - alice.ross@genea.com.au Ph: +61 421 741 737

Genea Biomedx is an IVF technologies business. Genea Biomedx's parent company Genea has been at the forefront of fertility treatment for 26 years. Genea is a private, unlisted company owned by its employees and associated fertility specialists.

* Data based on the Assisted Reproductive Technology in Australia and New Zealand 2010 publication and Genea's 2010 submission to ANZARD. Genea's 30 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.