

CURRICULUM VITAE

Melissa R. Johnson

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EDUCATION

Aug 1997 – May 2001 **Cornell University, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences**, Ithaca, New York
Cum Laude Bachelor of Science degree in Biological Sciences, GPA=3.4

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

- July 2007 – Dec. 2009 **South Florida Institute for Reproductive Medicine**, South Miami, FL
Embryologist
- Performed standard embryology lab procedures – in vitro fertilizations, testicular and epididymal sperm preparation, retrievals, cumulus removal with hyaluronidase, fertilization checks, embryo development checks, Intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI), assisted hatching, embryo and oocyte cryogenics (slow freeze and vitrification techniques), embryo transfers
 - Strengthened Quality Control and Quality Assurance programs related to the embryology laboratory through development of comprehensive tracking of lot exposure and clinical threshold databases
 - Trained junior embryologists
 - Developed and wrote new and existing embryology protocols for laboratory
 - College of American Pathologists (CAP) team member inspector
 - Management of IVF Bahamas program – responsible for overseeing and performing all functions of the clinical IVF laboratory.
- March 1-31, 2007 **Reproductive Medicine Associates of Michigan**, Troy, MI
Embryology Consultant
- Assisted in set-up of embryology laboratory
 - Helped develop and create the Quality Assurance and Quality Control Programs for the embryology laboratory
 - Calibrated embryology equipment – triple gas incubators, dry heat incubators, dry block heaters, IVF chambers, laminar flow hoods, water baths
 - Educated lab personnel in application of computer program for lab procedure documentation
 - Performed embryology lab procedures – in vitro fertilizations, retrievals, cumulus removal with hyaluronidase, fertilization checks, embryo development checks, Intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI), assisted hatching, embryo cryogenics (slow freeze), embryo transfers
 - Trained junior embryologist
 - Provided feedback to physicians regarding issues, concerns and improvements that could be made within the embryology laboratory
- July 2002 - Nov 2006 **Reproductive Medicine Associates of New York**, New York, NY
Embryology Supervisor
- Assisted in set-up of laboratory
 - Performed embryology lab procedures – in vitro fertilizations, testicular and epididymal sperm preparation, retrievals, cumulus removal with hyaluronidase, fertilization checks, embryo development checks, Intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI), assisted hatching, embryo and oocyte cryogenics (slow freeze), embryo transfers
 - Performed, scheduled and documented quarterly/yearly equipment calibrations
 - Preparation of cryopreservation/thaw medias
 - Responsible for scheduling embryologists hours, duties, vacations and training
 - Trained junior embryologists
 - Scheduled and prepared for lab shut-downs and start-ups – included scheduling of all

cleaning procedures for laboratory, media preparation and aliquot, tracking of appointments with outside vendors, scheduling of laboratory equipment start-up and calibrations

- Reviewed embryology patient charts for inconsistencies. Communicated needed changes to embryology lab personnel, nurses, physicians
- Reviewed QC forms
- Oversaw sperm and mouse QC testing of supplies and medias
- Assisted in developing and writing embryology protocols for laboratory
- Participated in research projects

June 2001 - July 2002

Reproductive Medicine Associates of New Jersey, Morristown, NJ
Junior Embryologist

- Trained and performed embryology lab procedures – procedures included daily QC, dish and chart preparation, sperm preparation, retrievals, hyaluronidase, fertilization checks, conventional inseminations, embryo cryopreservation and thawing, embryo transfers

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

June 2000 - May 2001

Cornell University, Ithaca, NY
Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics

- Independent research on rapid evolution rates of mammalian reproductive proteins
- Sequenced portion of PKDREJ in six species of mammals
- Assisted in comparison of d_N/d_S ratios in order to assess whether positive selection was occurring within the gene
- Procedures performed included DNA extraction, DNA mini-preps, restriction enzyme digests, PCR, gel electrophoresis, bacterial cloning
- *Supervisors:* William J. Swanson, Ph.D. and Charles Aquadro, Ph.D.

June 1999 - Aug 1999

Colgate University, Hamilton, NY

- NYSEP summer research program on the co-evolution of the yucca-yucca moth mutualism
- Sequenced a portion of several genes in several species of Yucca moth
- Procedures performed included DNA extraction, PCR, bacterial cloning, automated sequencing, phylogenetic data analysis
- *Supervisor:* Jim Leebens-Mack, Ph.D.

OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

1998 – 2001

Cornell University, Environmental Health and Safety, Ithaca, NY
Laboratory & Radiation Safety Assistant

- Surveying, sampling and disposal of radioactive materials, laboratory inspections, Geiger counter calibrations, and general office work.

June 1998 – Aug 1998

Carthage Area Hospital, Medical Imaging Department, Carthage, NY
Darkroom Technician

- Processed and developed all XRay films for Medical Imaging department. Acted as assistant to Radiologic Technologists.

PUBLICATIONS

Bustillo M, Collazo I, **Johnson M**, LaPalme J, et al. “Correlation between body mass index (BMI) and serum beta hCG levels post hCG with ART cycle outcomes.” *Fertility and Sterility*, 90(S). September 2008. S216-S217.

Bustillo M, Collazo I, **Johnson M**, LaPalme J, et al. “Serum beta hCG levels 12–14 hrs after triggering final follicular maturation: is there a threshold to achieve successful ART outcomes?” *Fertility and Sterility*, 90(S). September 2008. S347.

Barritt J, Duke M, Basile N, **Johnson M**, Grunfeld L, Copperman A. “Do fast embryos on day 3 of culture (≥ 10 cells) form blastocysts?” *Fertility and Sterility*. 86 (S3). September 2006. S224.

Barritt J, **Johnson M**, Duke M, Luna M, Basile N, Copperman A. "Male blastocysts exhibit improved trophodectoderm, possibly accounting for the sex-imbalance seen with blastocyst embryo births." Fertility and Sterility. 86 (S3). September 2006. S237.

Duke M, **Johnson M**, Basile N, Copperman A, Scott R, Barritt J. "The Incidence of Cohort Multinucleation Does Not Impact Implantation of Sibling Mononucleated Embryos ." Fertility and Sterility. 84 (S1). September 2005. S292-293.

Duke M, Basile N, **Johnson M**, Copperman A, Sandler B, Barritt J. "Hatched blastocysts that collapse during slow freezing have a higher post-thaw survival rate." Fertility and Sterility. 82 (S2). September 2004. S150-151.

Duke M, Basile N, **Johnson M**, Copperman A, Sandler B, Barritt J. "Transfer of embryos with even a single multinucleated blastomere significantly reduces pregnancy and implantation rates." Fertility and Sterility. 80 (S3). September 2003. 104.

AWARDS/HONORS

1999 – 2001 Richard H. Holzer Memorial Scholarship, Cornell University

1998-2001 Dean's List, Cornell University

1997-2001 New York State Merit Scholarship, New York State

1999 New York Science Education Program (NYSEP) Grant, Cornell University

1997 – 1999 Charles Roberts Scholarship, Cornell University

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS & LICENSES

2008 – 2010 State of Florida, Department of Health, Embryology Technologist License

2009 – Current State of Florida, Department of Health, Embryology Supervisor License

2008 -- Current American Association of Bioanalysts certified Medical Technologist in the discipline of Embryology

2009 American Board of Bioanalysis certified Technical Supervisor in the discipline of Embryology

2008 – Current Member of American Society for Reproductive Medicine

REFERENCES

Ineabelle Collazo, BS, ELD, Embryology Laboratory Director, South Florida Institute for Reproductive Medicine, (305) 662 – 7901, i.collazo@ivfmd.com

Marlena Duke, MSc, ELD, Embryology Laboratory Director, Reproductive Medicine Associates of New York, (212) 756 – 5777, mduke@rmaofny.com

Kathleen Miller, BSTS, ELD, Vice President MT Laboratory Solutions, (201) 360-1243, kathymiller.ivflab@yahoo.com