

focus on REPRODUCTION



FREEZE ALL EMBRYOS?

Is the evidence there yet?

- Facing up to the 'business' of IVF
- Reproductive medicine in the Nordic countries

// MAY 2016

New IT system aims to speed up EIM publications

● Technological developments in ART will also mean changes to data collection

According to its bylaws, the main objective of the European IVF Monitoring (EIM) Consortium is to collect national data on availability, efficacy and safety of IVF treatments initiated each year, including cohort data for corresponding deliveries and infants.

To this end it gathers data from European countries through the contribution of local members either representing national registries or doing their best to collect data on a voluntary basis. At present over 90% of European countries where ART is available provide data to EIM, representing 82% of all European clinics in the field.

These joint efforts have resulted in 15 annual reports (the 16th coming out soon) giving detailed information on ART activity in Europe. Despite the heterogeneity of registries in some countries, EIM reports are of great importance because they reveal real trends in practice and outcomes in Europe and provide a clear picture of the differences existing between countries. And it must be stressed that, according to the latest published ICMART report (referring to 2007 data), almost 50% of world ART treatments are now performed in Europe.

Now, maintaining this main focus on data collection, the new Steering Committee elected during last year's

STEERING COMMITTEE

Carlos Calhaz-Jorge (PT), Chairman
Christian de Geyter (CH), Chairman Elect
Markus Kupka (DE), Past Chairman
Jacques De Mouzon (FR), Special Advisor
Karin Erb (DK), Member
Edgar Mocanu (IR), Member
Giulia Scaravelli (IT), Member
Christine Wyns (BE), Member
Tatjana Motrenko Simic (ME), ExCo representative
Veerle Goossens (BE), ESHRE Science Manager

Annual Meeting intends to develop and improve on some previous initiatives of the Consortium.

In house, the consolidation of a new IT system able to perform automatic calculations on the data received and table construction is expected to speed up analysis and hopefully allow a significantly shorter delay of annual publications.

Full coverage, reliability and validity of data may be an issue in many countries. EIM has planned

to take some steps in this direction in the near future, defining a minimum core-data set, and contacting key people in the official institutions of those countries with practical difficulties in understanding the relevance of contributing to the EIM effort.

Other practical changes are planned in the collection of ART data dependent on technical and strategic modifications in the field. So, the data required will be slightly updated from 2014 on. Unfortunately, however, the vast majority of countries are at present unable to gather reliable information on cumulative rates in IVF/ICSI.

In addition to pursuing its main objective, we feel that there is room to extend EIM performance through new initiatives. Thus, in accordance with

secondary objectives fixed in the EIM bylaws, we plan to start several projects in the coming year - such as firstly an updated and further detailed European survey on the legal, funding and cultural frame for ART in Europe, secondly, a comparative study among European countries with cycle-by-cycle registries, and thirdly, reflections on new trans-European data collection system. Also envisaged are collaborations with some of ESHRE's SIGs to co-organise future workshops and/or pre-congress courses. The use of data coming from national registries as a means to a better understanding of the real ART world is of unquestionable relevance.

Carlos Calhaz-Jorge
Chairman
EIM Steering Committee



National EIM representatives at last year's Annual Meeting in Lisbon, with Chairman Carlos Calhaz-Jorge and Past Chairman Markus Kupka standing in the foreground.