

# focus on REPRODUCTION



## Another record-breaking Annual Meeting

- The first double-digit impact factor in O&G
- From assisted conception to artificial conception

// SEPTEMBER  
2015

# Frozen embryo transfer and egg donation both heading upwards

- European twin delivery rate falls to 17.3%
- Egg donation pregnancy rate at 52%

The number of frozen embryo transfers continues to rise in European clinics, with preliminary data collected by ESHRE's European IVF Monitoring (EIM) Consortium for 2012 and reported in Lisbon by EIM Chairman Markus Kupka recording almost 140,000 FER cycles, an increase of around 20,000 cycles from 2011. The rise in numbers, Kupka added, has been accompanied by a notable rise in success rates over the past 16 years of data collection: pregnancy rate per thawing was just 14.1% in 1997, the first year of EIM activity, which by 2012 had almost doubled to 23.5%.

Also seeing a remarkable rise in pregnancy rate was egg donation, which, said Kupka, 'is doing really well'.



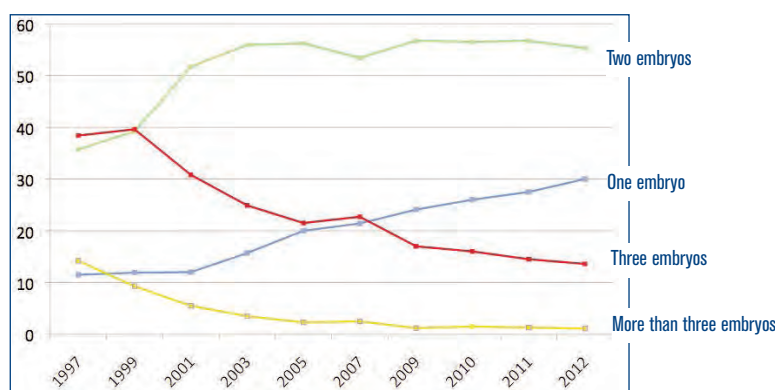
*EIM Chairman Markus Kupka: success rates 'generally stable since 2008'.*

Pregnancy rate with fresh donations was already 31% in 2001, yet had reached 52% in the latest 2012 analysis. 'I can't really explain the results,' said Kupka, but they certainly begin to reflect trends now evident in the USA - that more older patients are being treated with egg donation (and not IVF) and that success rates reflect more the age of the egg than the age of the patient. European delivery rates - from 21,000 fresh and 9500 egg donation cycles monitored - were 22% frozen and 31% fresh. Donation cycles from frozen oocytes achieved a 26% delivery rate.

Overall pregnancy rates in 2012 continued to show marked variation between countries, with high usage countries such as France, Spain, UK and Italy all recording rates between 24 and 34%. But generally, said Kupka, 'rates have been stable since 2008.' Also stable appear the rates of distribution between IVF and ICSI. Uptake of ICSI took off at the turn of the century and overtook IVF usage in 2002. Between then and 2008 ICSI use was in a steep upward curve, but thereafter usage appears to have levelled off, with ICSI use stable at around two-thirds of all cycles, and IVF at one-third. This rate too, however, also varies markedly between countries, with low utility countries (for example, Denmark, Finland, Sweden, Norway and Ireland) using ICSI far less than high utility countries (Belgium, Germany, Czech Republic, Greece, Italy, Poland and Spain).

The 2012 EIM figures continue to show a difference in outcome between IVF and ICSI and, despite the

*Number of embryos transferred in IVF and ICSI - % per year.*



## ALMOST 80% OF EUROPEAN CYCLES MONITORED

ESHRE's EIM Consortium has now been active for over 16 years and has reached the remarkable data milestone of more than 1.16 million babies recorded. The Consortium is presently evaluating around 640,000 cycles a year in an ever escalating total of European ART activity, which, Kupka said, now represents almost 80% of total activity. In 1997, the first year of EIM analysis, just 482 clinics in 18 countries were represented in 203,225 cycles of IVF and ICSI; in 2012, the year described provisionally in Lisbon, 1093 clinics in 34 countries were represented in the data collection.

	1997	2001	2008	2009	2011	2012
IVF	21.9%	25.1%	28.5%	28.8%	29.1%	29.4%
ICSI	24.3%	26.2%	28.7%	28.7%	26.8%	27.7%
FER	14.1%	14.3%	19.3%	21.0%	21.4%	23.5%
ED	-	30.8%	38.3%	42.2%	47.6%	51.7%

*Pregnancy rates per aspiration 1997-2012.*

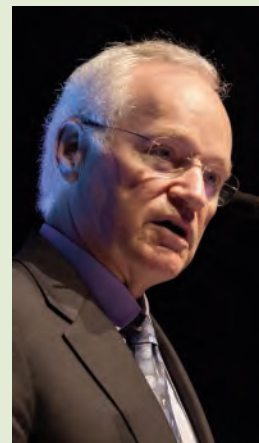


## TOTAL OF WORLD'S IVF BABIES NOW SOARS BEYOND 6 MILLION

Hold those abstracts. Easy on the front pages. For in just three years the total of IVF babies throughout the world has risen from a remarkable 5 million to well over 6 million, according to the USA's David Adamson presenting global results for 2011 on behalf of ICMART. His figures were based on an estimated 1.6 million cycles now being performed each year and the delivery of around 430,000 babies.

Of course, Adamson reported 'huge differences' in availability, practice and results, but was confident ('almost certain')

that China is performing more cycles than any other country - including Japan, which, with 268,255 cycles recorded in 2011, ranked by far as the world's most prolific reported IVF nation. Adamson said that even the number of clinics in China ran into thousands and it was likely that they now represent the major portion of global activity. 'Asia,' added Adamson, 'has caught up and passed all other regions.' The USA recorded 142,000 cycles in 2011, with Europe's biggest nations, France and Spain, on 72,000 and 88,000 respectively.



uptake trends, favouring IVF in the past three years.

However, Kupka's remarks of greatest emphasis were concentrated on the numbers of embryos transferred, which yet again showed an increase in single embryo transfers. SET has now reached an overall uptake of 30%, while DET remains stable at around 55%. Three embryo transfer also continues its decline, and is now just 14% of all transfers. A few countries in eastern Europe (Lithuania, Moldova, Serbia and Montenegro) still have the highest rates of three embryo transfer.

Nevertheless, the rate of triplet deliveries remains below 1%, and the overall twin delivery rate

throughout Europe fell to a record low of 17.3, with singletons at an all-time high of 81.9%. 'This is good news,' said Kupka, 'and I'm very happy to report it.'

Europe's twin rate, added Kupka, remains much lower than that recorded by the CDC in the USA. There, twins account for 26% of all ART pregnancies and deliveries, with singleton live births at 72%.

Kupka was also upbeat about the introduction of online data collection this year which should provide a digital data connection between the clinic, national ART registries, and the EIM hub. The EIM's next data collection - for 2013 - will be gathered electronically.

## CARLOS CALHAZ-JORGE SELECTED AS NEW CHAIRMAN OF THE EIM CONSORTIUM

The term of office of Markus Kupka as Chairman of the EIM Steering Committee came to an end in Lisbon. He will be replaced by the Portuguese gynaecologist Carlos Calhaz-Jorge, a long-standing member of the Steering Committee. He is pictured here standing in the foreground with the outgoing Chairman.

Other members of the EIM Consortium pictured are, front row from left, Tanya Milachich (BU), Janos Urbancsek (HU), Nebojsa Radunovic (SW), Markus Kupka (DE), Carlos Calhaz-Jorge (PT), Jacques De Mouzon (FR), Vladislav



Korsak (RU); second row, Roberto De Luca (IT), Ladislav Marsik (SK), Giulia Scaravelli (It), Tatjana Motrenko (MO), Valeria Godunova (LV), Giedre Belo Lopez (LT), Jean Calleja-Agius (MT), Veerle Goossens (ESHRE); third row, Dejan Ljiljak (CR), Vyacheslav Lokshin (KZ), Karin Erb (DK), Anna Pia Ferraretti (IT), Christine Wyns (BE), Elena Petrovskaya (BY), Ioana Rugescu (RO); fourth row, Deniss Soritsa (EE), Bogdan Doroftei (RO), Mykola Gryshchenko (UK), Fernando Prados (ES), Michael Pelekanos (CY), Irma Virant-Klum (SI); and back row, Sandra Zamora (ES), Christian De Geyter (CH), José Antonio Castilla (ES), Dominique Royere (FR), Jesper Smeenk (NL).