



"AD ASTRA PER ASPERA" "TO THE STARS THROUGH DIFFICULTIES" | AUGUST 2007



## FERTILITY NEWS

### ASTRA HAS RECEIVED ITS ACCREDITATION BY THE CCHSA (CANADIAN COUNCIL ON HEALTH SERVICES ACCREDITATION) FOR 2006 - 2009

We are pleased to announce that Astra has become an Accredited Health Care Facility. We are proud to be one of few fertility clinics in Canada that have gone through the accreditation process. Being a quality minded organization, we always look for opportunities to improve our services to better serve our patients.

Continuous quality improvement is the pivotal reason for participating in accreditation.

The CCHSA's accreditation process is both rigorous and thorough. It consists of a self-assessment, an on-site survey, and follow-up action for improvements. Organizations examine all areas of their service, obtain advice from peers, increase credibility, and involve partners and clients during on-site interviews. It took more than 18 months of hard work and dedication by the Astra team members to prepare for the accreditation process.

The CCHSA is a national, non-profit, independent organization. CCHSA developed the accreditation program with the expertise of leaders in health care who are its advisors and surveyors. CCHSA helps health professionals in their quest to ensure Canadians are receiving the highest quality health care services possible. For more information about CCHSA you can visit [www.cchsa.ca](http://www.cchsa.ca)

## ABOUT THE DOCTOR

Dr. Essam Michael is the Clinical Director of Astra Fertility Group. He is certified by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada as well as the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology. After completing his residency at Queen's University in 1994, Dr. Michael joined ISIS Regional Fertility Centre in Mississauga in 1999 as a founding partner and staff consultant. Dr. Michael has also been an active staff member in the department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at William Osler Health Centre, Etobicoke Campus, for the past 12 years.

Dr. Michael manages and treats a wide range of medical and surgical fertility problems. He is highly skilled in endoscopic procedures and is experienced in a full range of Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) treatments. His area of interest is focused on uterine and pelvic factors related to infertility, such as tubal disease and endometriosis. He is actively involved in clinical research and has several publications in the field of reproductive medicine.

Astra Fertility's mission is to offer effective, compassionate, and affordable state-of-the-art fertility treatments and make them easily accessible to all patients in various communities. They pride themselves on patient satisfaction. Instead of randomly trying different fertility recipes available in all clinics, they strive to first reach an accurate diagnosis for the fertility problem before administering the most effective treatment option. This significantly cuts down on the emotional and financial strain that many endure before reaching their goal. Without an accurate diagnosis, treatment remains experimental.

Astra Fertility also offers a wide range of skilled surgical treatments. If indicated, surgical options can help you achieve your goal in a shorter period of time and likely without the need to use fertility drugs or expensive Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) procedures. Rest assured that quality care is standardized in all Astra Fertility clinics regardless of location.



## MEET THE TEAM

Astra Fertility team welcomes the arrival of Dr. Saeed Rahbar, our new Lab Director, who joined us in August 2006; arriving from the UK. Dr Saeed Rahbar has more than 14 years of experience in the field of clinical embryology.

He has established a few IVF Labs in different parts of the world and also has trained many outstanding embryologists. He has a Ph.D. in Embryology and Histology and has pioneered the use of Laser in clinical embryology.

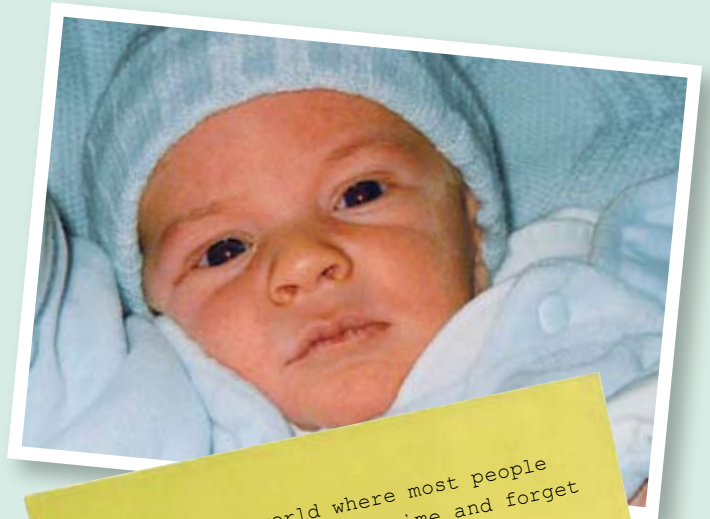
Dr. Rahbar has supervised IVF laboratories in the UK, Qatar and Iran. He has published and presented more than 30 papers and titles in scientific journals and conferences. He is also the winner of several research awards. His research is focused on the ultra structure of zona pellucida and details of embryo hatching. He has superior technical experience in all aspects of clinical embryology such as IVF/ICSI, laser assisted hatching, spermatid injection, blastomere biopsy and vitrification.

## TESTIMONIALS



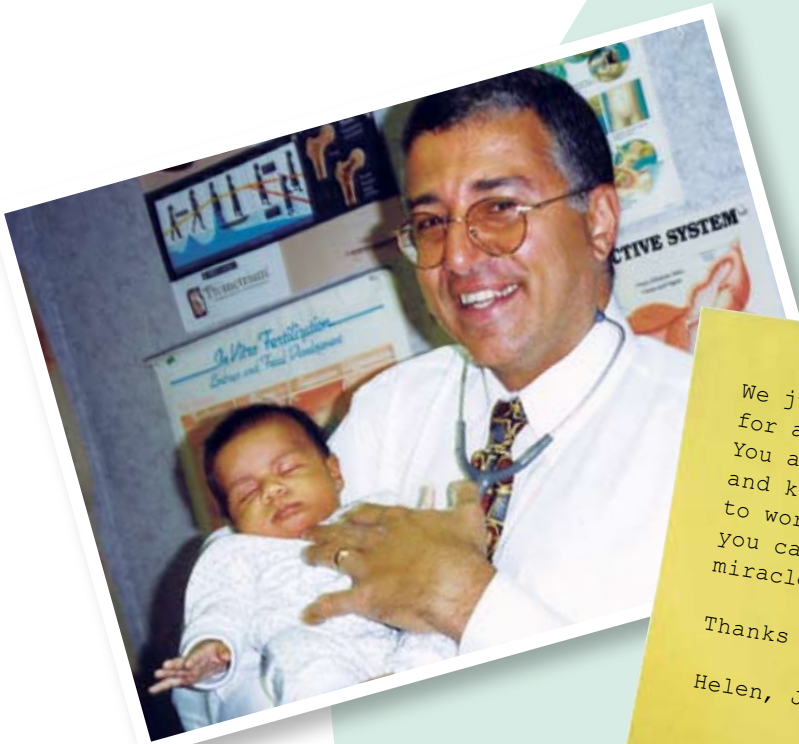
I realize there is no compliment I could ever give you that you have not already received. You've been so easy to talk to and made me feel very comfortable and confident throughout both of my pregnancies...I always feel like I'm in "good-hands" when I come see you...You are a true asset to your profession!!

Evanthia Paswzzo & Family



We live in a world where most people are always pressed for time and forget the gift of giving to others unless there is some personal reward for them. You, however exemplify through your work the true meaning of giving, compassion and trust...The smooth delivery of our son was a moment we will never forget thanks to you...

Angela, Calogero, John & Victor Cavarretta



We just can't thank you enough for all that you've did for us! You are a very gentle, caring, and kind doctor...May God continue to work through you so that you can continue to help make miracles happen!

Thanks so very much!

Helen, John, & Jessica James

## ASTRA FERTILITY NEWS

### **FERTILITY PRESERVATION FOR MEN AND WOMEN THROUGH SPERM AND EGG BANKING (CRYOPRESERVATION); NOW AVAILABLE AT ASTRA USING STATE OF THE ART BIOTECHNOLOGY.**

In collaboration with ESRM Biotech Inc., it is now feasible for clients to freeze (cryopreserve) their gametes (sperms and eggs) until they are ready to use them.

Sperm freezing is not new, however egg freezing and successful subsequent use at a later date is a breakthrough. For years, it has been thought that freezing of the body's biggest cell (the egg) is not possible. Now we know how to cryopreserve human eggs and thaw them for subsequent fertilization and healthy embryo development that follows. An estimated 60% to 70% of the frozen eggs will survive the thaw. Candidates for the gamete cryopreservation are patients going for cancer treatments, individuals at risky jobs that can compromise their fertility potential or career women who like to postpone childbearing.

For more information you can contact us at [info@astrafertility.com](mailto:info@astrafertility.com) or call 1 866 962 7872 (ASTRA)

### **ASTRA SUCCESS RATES FOR IVF/ICSI FOR 2006**

We are delighted to inform you that our success rates for IVF/ICSI for 2006 are keeping up among top Canadian centres. We have added laser assisted hatching as a standard treatment for embryos before Embryo Transfer (ET). This seemed to have boosted our success rates in the fall of 2006.

Overall Pregnancy rate per fresh Embryo transfer was 46% (66% for women under 35 years of age, 48% for women between 35-39 years of age and 27% for women over 40 years of age).

Overall Pregnancy rate per frozen Embryo transfer was 34%, which is comparable to previous two years.

We are committed to provide our patients with the best possible care and latest advances and innovations in the field of Reproductive Medicine.

### **PGD (PREIMPLANTATION GENETIC DIAGNOSIS) OR PGS (PREIMPLANTATION GENETIC SCREENING) WILL IMPROVE THE OUTCOMES IN IVF AT ASTRA.**

It is our pleasure to announce that we have established a full PGD service to our clients in association with leading North American Genetic Centres. Preimplantation Genetic Diagnosis (PGD) will allow us to pick the best and healthiest embryos for transfer reducing the miscarriage rate, and minimizing the need for termination of pregnancies because of chromosomal abnormalities like Down's Syndrome and Trisomy 18. PGD will also eliminate the transfer of embryos affected by single gene defects like cystic fibrosis and Fabry's disease. These abnormalities are impossible to detect judging embryos by their morphologic criteria or their ability to become blastocysts in Vitro.

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**ASTRA FERTILITY CLINIC**

