INFERTILITY

Age & Fertility: What are My Options (S)
Adoption: Katherine Jones, Editor, Adoption Helper Magazine
Childfree living: Sharon Corder, Actor & Writer
Medical treatment: Dr. Perry Phillips, IVF Canada

Anger & Grief (S)
Understanding grief: Margaret Ann Fitzpatrick-Hanley, Counsellor
Anger/Communication: Theresa Wetzel, RN; Infertility Counsellor
Personal experiences: Panel discussion

Becoming Informed (S)
Cecile Barington, MEd (Counselling): The Mind-Body Fertility Program
Dr. Tom Hannam: Using the Internet to enhance your fertility knowledge
Susie Langley, Registered Dietician: The nutrition & fertility connection

Causes & Treatments of Infertility (S)
Causes of infertility, investigation, ovulation induction, IUI, DI, donor egg, surrogacy: Carole Craig, Manager, IVF Canada
IVF, embryo freezing, ICSI: Dawn Kelk, Lab Director, IVF Canada
How information & support can help: Deborah Tennant, Infertility Helper Magazine

Charting, Acupuncture, Shiatsu, Naturopathy (S)
Charting temperature & mucus: Lisa Leger, Fertility Management Svcs
Acupuncture: Ilya Nudelman, DC
Shiatsu: Tim Phillips, CST
Naturopathy: Marilyn May, ND

Coping with Infertility (S)
Coping mechanisms for dealing with uncertainty, stress, disappointment, questions from family/friends; decision-making re treatment options, stopping treatment, adopting, living child-free:
• Jeri Hepworth, Family Medicine, University of Connecticut
• Susan McDaniel, Psychiatry & Family Medicine, U of Rochester
Comments & personal stories from the audience

Coping with the Holidays (S)
Spirituality & infertility: Rev. Morar Murray-Hayes
Coping with the holidays: Dr. Nina Josefowitz, Psychologist

Dealing with Doctors (S)
A patient’s view: A male partner's view.
A doctor's view: Dr. Cliff Librach
An overview: Carole Craig, Manager, IVF Canada
Panel discussion: Becoming your own advocate

Emotional Rollercoaster of Infertility (S)
An interactive workshop on the impact of infertility on relationships:
Susan Aaron, Psychotherapist
Comments & personal stories: The audience

Endometriosis & Infertility (S)
Medical & surgical Treatment: Dr. Kay Lie
Endometriosis Association: Kathy Chabot
Chinese medical treatment: David Bray, DCM
Naturopathic treatment: Sat Dharan Kaur, ND

Enhancing Fertility (S)
Fertility awareness & charting your cycle: Pam Thornton, ND
Naturopathic approaches: Daria Love, ND
Botanical medicine: Anthony Godfrey, ND
Mind-body medicine: Mark Gilbert, Mind-Body Medicine Canada
Awakening your fertility: Dot Whitehouse, Therapeutic Touch & Reiki Practitioner
Finding a care provider & what works for you: Margaret Ann McHugh, Ontario Association of Naturopathic Doctors

Family, Friends & the Workplace (S)
Workplace issues: Harriet Simand, Lawyer
Communicating with family/friends: Jane Graham, RN, MEd
Panel discussion: Personal experiences

Fertility Drugs & Treatments (S)
Dr. Perry Phillips, IVF Canada
• Infertility: Causes, investigation, treatments (OI, IUI, IVF, ICSI)
• Fertility Drugs: Types, uses, side effects, long term risks
Russ Burrell, Serono Canada: The manufacture of fertility drugs
Norm Hudson, Organon Canada: Research & licensing
Christine Juchem, Berry Technologies: Internet resources
Heather Woodhouse, Pharmacist: Pricing, purchase options

Fertility Drugs & Ovarian Cancer (S)
Dr. Barry Rose, Infertility Specialist, London Health Sciences Centre
Dr. Jim Martin, Infertility Specialist, London Health Sciences Centre
Dr. Lisa Shatford, Psychologist
Michelle Mullen, Research Associate, U of T Centre for Bioethics

His & Her Responses to Infertility (S)
The different ways men & women respond emotionally, how this can affect your relationship, staying in love when you're infertile, coping with coping differences, how infertility can affect your sex life & what you can do about it:
• Jean Haase, Social Worker, London Health Sciences Centre
• Sherry Franz Dale, Social Worker & Counsellor in private practice

I’m Not Pregnant Yet: What Next? (S)
How to find a doctor; the workup; treatment protocols; Q & A
• Shira Benson, RN, Nurse Manager, IVF Clinic
• Dr. Cliff Librach

Infertility & Your Marriage (S)
An interactive workshop on the effect of infertility on relationships:
Susan Aaron, Psychotherapist
Comments & personal stories: The audience

The Infertility Stress-Connection (S)
Is what I’m feeling normal? Loss, grief, lack of support from others. Why do men & women react differently? Dr. Alice Domar’s work at the Harvard Mind/Body Institute shows that the relaxation response’ decreases anxiety, depression & fatigue, increases the sense of well-being and the chance of conceiving:
• Dr. Lisa Shatford, Psychologist
• Jan Silverman, MEd, Infertility counsellor

Please see ORDER FORM for format available (video DVD or audio CD), prices & how to order.
**Coping strategies**
Jan Silverman, MEd, Infertility counsellor

**Spirituality & religious communities: Do they have anything to offer?**

**Surviving the Challenge**
Panel discussion: Personal stories

**Causes & treatment**
Secondary Infertility

**You Are Not Alone**
Coping with the emotional toll & grief

**Nutrition, acupuncture, botanicals & homeopathy:**
Judith Fiore, ND

**Nutrition for PCOS:**
Erin Collins, Registered Dietician

**Implications of an open market & anonymous donation:**
Molly Shanley, Prof. of Political Science, Vassar College, USA; Author, Making Babies, Making Families: What Matters Most in an Age of Reproductive Technologies, Surrogacy, Adoption, and Same-Sex & Unwed Parents' Rights

**When is Enough Enough?**
The decision-making process: Jan Silverman, MEd, Infertility counsellor
Personal experiences re:
- stopping IVF or DI
- deciding to adopt, or to live childfree
- having 1 child through treatment but being unable to more
- adopting then re-entering treatment

**DONOR CONCEPTION**
(Many of these speakers have written books available through the Infertility Network. Please see website, Order Form, Booklist.)

**Building Families through Donor Conception: The Personal, Professional & Public Policy Issues**

Keynote: Ken Daniels, New Zealand Professor of Social Work; researcher, author & policy consultant; author, *Building a Family with the Assistance of Donor Insemination*

Making the decision to use donor sperm: Jean Haase, MSW
Making the decision to use donor eggs: Jan Silverman, MEd

Discussion with 2 families & a donor featured in *Test Tube Dads*, a documentary re anonymity & the experience of meeting the donor

Information sharing: Leonie Hewitt, Donor Conception Support Group of Australia

Identity issues of offspring: Geraldine Hewitt, author of a large international study on donor-conceived adults & adolescents.


What can we learn from adoption?
- Karen Lynn, Canadian Council of Birthmothers
- Catherine Clute, Adoptive Parents Association of Nova Scotia
- Wendy Rowney, Adoption, Support & Kinship (ASK)
- Bill Cordray, Donor offspring

The UK Consultation on Access to Genetic Origins Information: Eric Blyth, UK Professor of Social Work; researcher, author & policy consultant; editor & contributor, *Truth & the Child 10 Years On: Information Exchange in Donor Assisted Conception & Third Party Assisted Conception Across Cultures: Social, Legal & Ethical Perspectives*

The Irish experience: Deirdre Madden, Lecturer in law. Member, *Irish Commission on Assisted Human Reproduction*

The ties that bind: Caroline Lorbach, Donor Conception Support Group of Australia; Editor, *The Offspring Speak*; Author, *Experiences of Donor Conception: Parents, Offspring & Donors through the Years*

Parenting after donor conception: Parents via sperm & egg donation
Discussion with filmmaker Barry Stevens, his sister & niece re *Offspring*, a documentary about their search for genetic family

Embryo adoption: In the best interests of the embryos? Ellen Glazer, MSW; author, *Choosing Assisted Reproduction; The Long Awaited Stork; Having Your Baby Through Egg Donation*

Offspring speak: 3 adult conceived via anonymous DI
Egg donors: Who are they & why do they do it? Sherry Franz Dale, MSW

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Choices & Challenges of Donor Insemination (S)
Carol Frost Vercollone, MSW, Author, Helping the Stork: The Choices & Challenges of Donor Insemination
David Towles, Xytex sperm bank

A Different Story (D)
By Liesel Evans, Donor Conception Network
7 children & young people (aged 7-20), conceived through anonymous donor insemination (DI) by heterosexual couples and told at an early age by their parents, discuss when they first found out; whether they are pleased their parents told them; whether their friends know and how they have responded; who they see as their ‘dad,’ what their relationship is like with him & how they think he feels about the DI; whether they think about their donor &/or half-siblings and want to know more.

A Different Story Revisited (D)
By Kat Litchfield, Donor Conception Network
12 children & young people (aged 9-26) conceived via sperm, egg, embryo & double (egg + sperm) donation by solo mums, lesbian & heterosexual couples discuss their thoughts and feelings about being donor conceived regarding the importance of being told early; their relationship with, & similarities to, their non-biological parent(s); how friends they’ve told have reacted; their curiosity about their half-siblings.

Donor Insemination: Issues, Disclosure, Doctors (S)
Making the decision: Sherry Franz Dale, DI parent
Disclosure in DI: Jane Graham, RN, MEd, parent via DI
Personal experiences: DI parents; a single woman undergoing DI; a couple who decided to stop DI & adopt
Rona Achilles, PhD, Sociologist, DI Researcher for The Royal Commission on New Reproductive Technologies

Disclosure (S)
History of DI: Rona Achilles, PhD, Sociologist, DI Researcher
Donors & disclosure: Cathy Roberto, ReproMed sperm bank
DI recipients: Secrecy & disclosure: Sherry Franz Dale, DI parent
To tell or not to tell? Jane Graham, RN, MEd, Parent via DI
Panel Discussion: Parents through egg & sperm donation

Egg & Sperm Donation (S)
DI in the era of ART & ICSI: Dr. Art Leader, Ottawa Fertility Centre
Towards an identity-release model: New Zealand Professor of Social Work; researcher, author & policy consultant; author, Building a Family with the Assistance of Donor Insemination
DI: Current concepts & clinical applications: Dr. Alfonso Del Valle, Medical Director, ReproMed sperm bank
Legislation: Linda Williams, Policy Analyst, Health Canada
Panel discussion on legislation: Linda Williams; Dr. Leader; Prof Daniels; Dr. Murray Krouch, IVF Canada; Rona Achilles, PhD, DI researcher; Diane Allen, Infertility Network
Building a family through donor gametes – Secrecy vs openness: Shirley Pratten, New Reproductive Alternatives Society; Olivia Pratten, Shirley’s 15 year old DI daughter; Bill Cordray, DI offspring; a donor egg mom
Sperm banking in Canada: Dr. Del Valle, ReproMed sperm bank
Egg donation in Canada: Dr. Murray Krouch, IVF Canada
Role of support groups: Sherry Dale, MSW; Bill Cordray; Shirley Pratten

Egg, Sperm & Embryo Donation (S)
Host: Shirley Pratten, New Reproductive Alternatives Society; DI mom
Truth & the child: Eric Blyth, UK Professor of Social Work; researcher, author & policy consultant; editor & contributor, Truth & the Child 10 Years On: Information Exchange in Donor Assisted Conception & Third Party Assisted Conception Across Cultures: Social, Legal & Ethical Perspectives
What can we learn from adoption? Jean Haase, MSW
Parenting: Valerie Fines, Social Worker
Grief & loss in 3rd party conception: Jan Silverman, MEd
Finding egg donors: Shelley Smith, The Egg Donor Program (California), Being an egg donor: A former egg donor
Donating eggs in exchange for treatment: A patient who donated
DI issues for lesbians: Sherry Franz Dale, MSW
Legal issues for gay & lesbian families: Kelly Jordan, Lawyer
Canadian government initiatives: Francine Manseau, Senior Policy Analyst, Health Canada
Conceived through DI a generation apart: Bill Cordray & Olivia Pratten
A donor speaks: Video presentation by David Towles, Xytex sperm bank
ID-release sperm donors: Maura Riordan, MSW, Sperm Bank of California
My experience as a DI dad: A father via DI
The joys & challenges of a single DI mom by choice: Personal account
Embryo donation: Susan Ward, IVF clinic manager
Legal aspects of egg & embryo donation: Sherry Levitan, Lawyer
Donor conception around the world: Sherry Franz Dale, MSW

The Future of Donor Conception:
Where Do We Go From Here? (S)
Lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer parenting: Rachel Epstein,
Coordinator, LGBT Parenting Network, Toronto
Having your baby using egg donation: Ellen Glazer, social worker specializing in reproductive medicine & adoption; parent through birth & adoption; author, Having Your Baby Through Egg Donation.
All in One Basket: a documentary on egg donation by Lauren Berliner
Should ethics & money mix in donor conception & surrogate motherhood? Phyllis Creighton, Historian. Ethicist. Member, Health Canada Advisory Committee on Reproductive & Genetic Technologies
Finding your half-siblings & donor: Wendy Kramer & Ryan, her son via anonymous DI, Donor Sibling Registry (USA non-profit assisting those conceived through sperm, egg or embryo donation make informed mutual consent contact with others with whom they share genetic ties)
How to tell children about their donor conception: Olivia Mantsch, Donor Conception Network; mother of 2 young adults via anonymous DI;
Manager, How to Tell project
Open-identity sperm donors & donor-conceived adolescents: Joanna Scheib, PhD, Research director, The Sperm Bank of California
Panel discussion:
• Canadian mother of a 13 year old via egg donation
• American father of 2 young children via DI
• Former UK & USA sperm donors
The mediation of kinship & identity: Jo Rose, adult offspring (UK); PhD (ethics) candidate; member, Tangled Webs, an international organization opposed to donor conception due to the intentional fracturing of genetic kinship. (Jo’s case before the High Court was instrumental in ending donor anonymity in the United Kingdom.)
Comparing Policy Cultures – Gamete donation in the UK & Canada: Mavis Jones; Senior Research Associate & PhD candidate, Centre for Environmental Risk, University of East Anglia, UK
Embryo adoption: Megan Corcoran, Client & Clinic Relations, Snowflakes Embryo Adoption Program (USA)
Understanding what it means to be a donor offspring: Parrish Protheroe, PhD (USA)
The struggle for dignity in donor conception: Bill Cordray (USA), donor conceived adult & advocate for reform of the donor system.
Meeting the challenges posed by the abolition of donor anonymity: Eric Blyth, UK Professor of Social Work; researcher, author & policy consultant; editor & contributor, Truth & the Child 10 Years On: Information Exchange in Donor Assisted Conception & Third Party Assisted Conception Across Cultures
Panel discussion:
• Shirley Pratten (Canada), New Reproductive Alternatives Society
• Olivia Pratten, Shirley’s 23 year old daughter via DI
• 2 USA adult offspring (via anonymous DI)
Telling & Talking About Donor Conception

By Liesel Evans, Donor Conception Network

Parents & children (aged 5-18) in 10 families (2 single women, 1 lesbian couple, 7 heterosexual couples) who used anonymous or known egg donation, anonymous sperm, or double (egg & sperm) donation answer questions about their experiences of ‘telling’ as children grow, and feelings, perspectives and questions change. The parents talk openly, sharing their initial anxieties & expectations about disclosure, how & why they went ahead (some against the advice of doctors &/or an initial desire to keep it a secret), and go on to recount how things have actually worked out.

From Infertility to Adoption

Making the transition from infertility to adoption: Karen McKnight, MEd, Certified Professional Coach specializing in the process of adult change, personal growth & development. Adoptive mother of 3.

The adoption experience: Panel discussion – Adoptive parent, birth mother & adult adoptee.

The Adoption Council of Ontario; The Adoption Resource Exchange: Mary Allan, Chair, Adoption Council of Ontario; Supervisor, Adoption & Foster Care Branch, Children’s Aid Society of Toronto

Is Adoption For Me?

The whys & why nots: Jan Silverman, MEd, Infertility counsellor & adoptive parent

The adoption experience: Panel discussion – Prospective adoptive parents: parents through birth & adoption; adult adoptee

Communications & decisions: Ruth Maben, MSW, Adoption social worker

Making the Decision to Adopt

Intro: Jan Silverman, MEd, Infertility counsellor & adoptive parent

Making the decision: Selma Elzas, Social Worker, Adoptive parent

The adoption experience: Panel discussion – Adoptee & adoption rights advocate; birth mother; parents through birth & adoption

Getting Started on Adoption

The homestudy: Barbara Steinberg, Social Worker

Homestudy: A personal experience: Alison Pentland-Folk, Support for Parents Adopting & Raising Real World Kids; adoptive parent (2 children from Romania)

Changing adoptive countries: Adoptive parent

Communicating with your spouse: Adoptive parent

What Do I Need to Know about Adoption?

Intro: Adoptive parents (newborn from USA in an open adoption)

Homestudy, legal process, birth parent letter, advertising, agencies, facilitators, domestic vs international, countries, costs:

• Mary Ann Kennedy, Social Worker & Adoption Lawyer

• Alison Pentland-Folk, Support for Parents Adopting & Raising Real World Kids; adoptive parent (2 children from Romania)

An Overview of Adoption

The legal process: Cheryl Appell, Lawyer & Licensee

The homestudy: Barbara Steinberg, Adoption social worker

Public, private & international adoption: Katherine Jones, Editor, Adoption Helper magazine; adoptive parent

The role of parent support groups: Lynne Wilson Orr, Latin American Adoptive Families

Adoption resources: Alison Pentland-Folk, Support for Parents Adopting & Raising Real World Kids; adoptive parent (Romania)
Adoption from A – Z
Trends in adoption today: Pat Fenton, Adoption Council of Ontario
Making the transition from infertility to adoption: Adoptive parent
(newborn from Hungary, toddler from Russia)
The homestudy: Betty Ann Streeter, Social Worker & Licensee
Adopting privately in Ontario: adoptive parents (newborn in an open
adoption)
Adopting through a public agency: Adoptive parent (older baby &
toddler through the Catholic CAS)
Adopting internationally: Adoptive parent (China)
Breastfeeding your adopted baby: Adoptive mom
The birth parent experience: A birth mother
Growing up adopted: An adoptee

Adoption Today
Making the transition from infertility to adoption: Adoptive parent
(newborn from Hungary, toddler from Russia)
Adopting through the Children’s Aid Society: Wilma Burke, CAS
Private & International Adoption: Pat Fenton, Adoption Council of Ont.
The homestudy process: Sharon Gollert, MSW, Social Worker
Adoptive parents’ experiences with local adoption: A toddler through
CAS; siblings through the Adoption Resource Exchange; a newborn in a
private, open adoption
Adoptive parents’ experiences with international adoption: A newborn
from the USA using the Internet; a toddler from Russia; a toddler from
China as a single woman
Growing up adopted: Dianne Mathes, adoptee, adoption therapist
The birth parent experience: Birth parents
Parenting in adoption: Pat Fenton

Options in Adoption Today
Options in adoption: Pat Fenton, Adoption Council of Ontario
The homestudy: Sofie Stergianis, Social Worker
Personal Stories: Adoptive parents – Adopting cross-racially; local private
adoption & CAS; an older child from the CAS & Russia; China

Adopting from China (video)
Overview of the Process: Deborah Maw, Adoptive parent; Executive
Director, Open Arms To International Adoption agency
Why Choose China? Panel of adoptive parents
The homestudy process: Joan Schettler, MSW, Adoption Social Worker
Video of 1 family’s adoption journey to China

Adopting from China (audio)
Intro: Adoptive parent (China)
Adoption in China: Bonnie Maddever, Formons Une Famille
Doing a homestudy for China: Sharon Gollert, Social Worker
The paper chase: Bonnie Maddever
Personal stories re adopting from China & resources for parents adopting
as a couple & as a single woman.

Adopting from Eastern Europe
Intro: Adoptive parent (Romania)
The homestudy: Sheila Neuburger, Social Worker
Russia & Romania: Angela Galasco, Adoption facilitator
Personal stories re adopting from Eastern Europe

Adopting from Latin America
The homestudy: Betty Ann Streeter, Social Worker
The process: Beryl Mercer, LLB, Saint Anne Adoption Centre
Personal stories re adopting from Latin America

Adopting in Ontario
Intro: Adoptive parent (older baby through the Catholic CAS)
Adoption Council of Ontario: Pat Fenton, Executive Director
Catholic Children’s Aid Society: Margaret O'Reilly
Children’s Aid Society: Susan Froelich, MSW
Jewish Family & Child Services: Susan Brandes, MSW
Children’s Resource & Consultation Centre: Michael Blugerman, MSW

Adopting Internationally
Intro: Adoptive parent
Homestudy approval: Joan Webber, Adoption Unit, Ontario Ministry of
Community & Social Services
Foreign adoption: Katherine Jones, Editor, Adoption Helper magazine
Latin American Adoptive Families: Lynne Wilson Orr
Support for Parents Adopting & Raising Real World Kids: Alison Pentland-
Folk

Adopting through a Public Agency
Nancy Dale, Adoption Supervisor, Children’s Aid Society: Eligibility, the
process, the homestudy, children available
Personal stories: Adoptive parents

Adopting from Russia
The Caring Homes for Orphan Children (CHOC) adoption agency: Yosaif
Yarmush, Executive Director
The adoption process: Anna Kharkhourin, Program Manager, CHOC
The role of the adoption practitioner before, during & after the adoption:
Dagmar Niffeler, MSW, Adoption Social Worker
Adoptive families share their experiences: Adoptive mother & adoptee
Closing Comments: Henry Gotfryd, Admin Manager, CHOC
‘From Russia with love’ (documentary about adopting from Russia)

Open Adoption
Intro: Adoptive parents (newborns in open adoption from USA)
Jennie Painter, Adoption Resource & Counselling Services The philosophy
behind open adoption. How openness can benefit all members of the
adoption triangle. The changing relationship between the birth
parents, adoptive parents & the child.
An open adoption story: Birthmother & adoptive parents