

# FERTILITY CONNECTION

email us at AskUs@docdoyle.com

MICHAEL B. DOYLE, M.D.  
ANDREW J. LEVI, M.D.

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www.docdoyle.com

CONNECTICUT FERTILITY ASSOCIATES ~ Summer 2002

Michael B. Doyle, M.D., Medical Director

## Staff News

### *Dr. Doyle introduces a new physician associate.*



After 12 years of solo practice, Dr. Doyle is happy to announce the addition of Andrew J. Levi, M.D. to his practice. Dr. Levi is a fellowship-trained Reproductive Endocrinologist who brings his advanced skill and experience to Connecticut joining our team of specialists.

Dr. Levi earned his undergraduate degree from Haverford College in Haverford, Pennsylvania and received his medical degree from the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry in Rochester, New York. He then completed his residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Georgetown University Medical Center in Washington, D.C. Prior to joining Dr. Doyle, Dr. Levi completed a three-year fellowship in reproductive endocrinology and infertility at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland. Dr. Levi is an assistant professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, Maryland. He is a member of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American Society for Reproductive Medicine, and the Society for Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility. Throughout his career, Dr. Levi has been the recipient of several honors and teaching awards, and has authored numerous scientific abstracts, journal articles, and book chapters in the field of infertility. His particular areas of interest include factors that affect embryo implantation, male infertility, and improving protocols for oocyte donors and recipients.

## WE HAVE A NEW BRIDGEPORT LOCATION

*We now provide full-time fertility-related services at our new, expanded office at:*

**4920 Main Street  
(corner of Main Street & Old Town Road)  
Bridgeport, CT 06606  
(203) 373-1200**



## VISIT OUR NEW FERTILITY WEBSITE:

[www.docdoyle.com](http://www.docdoyle.com)



*On behalf of my staff, I would like to introduce and offer to you our on-line services which we currently offer to our patients. The website: [www.docdoyle.com](http://www.docdoyle.com) provides customized one-on-one instruction focusing on infertility and reproductive endocrinology, including basic causes and work-up, treatment options, ovulation induction, surgery, and IVF. There both an audio and video component to this user-friendly program, and the feedback we have received has been extremely positive.*

*Since infertility is an overwhelming and emotional process, we feel that access to accurate information is very important to gain a sense of control; and that personalized messages from healthcare providers adds an additional level of comfort.*

*I urge you to view this site yourself, to use it for your own teaching if you wish, and to recommend it to your patients whose next step may be fertility testing or treatment. As always, I look forward to working with you in the future and helping your patients achieve their dream of pregnancy! Please don't hesitate to call me with any questions or feedback. You or your patients may also contact us directly from the website at: [AskUs@docdoyle.com](mailto:AskUs@docdoyle.com).*

Michael B. Doyle, M.D.

### PHYSICIANS

Michael B. Doyle, M.D.  
Andrew J. Levi, M.D.

### NURSE PRACTITIONERS

Patricia O'Neill, APRN  
Franci Sheehan, APRN  
Jayne Fatse, APRN  
Jeanne Cail, APRN

### EGG DONOR COORDINATOR

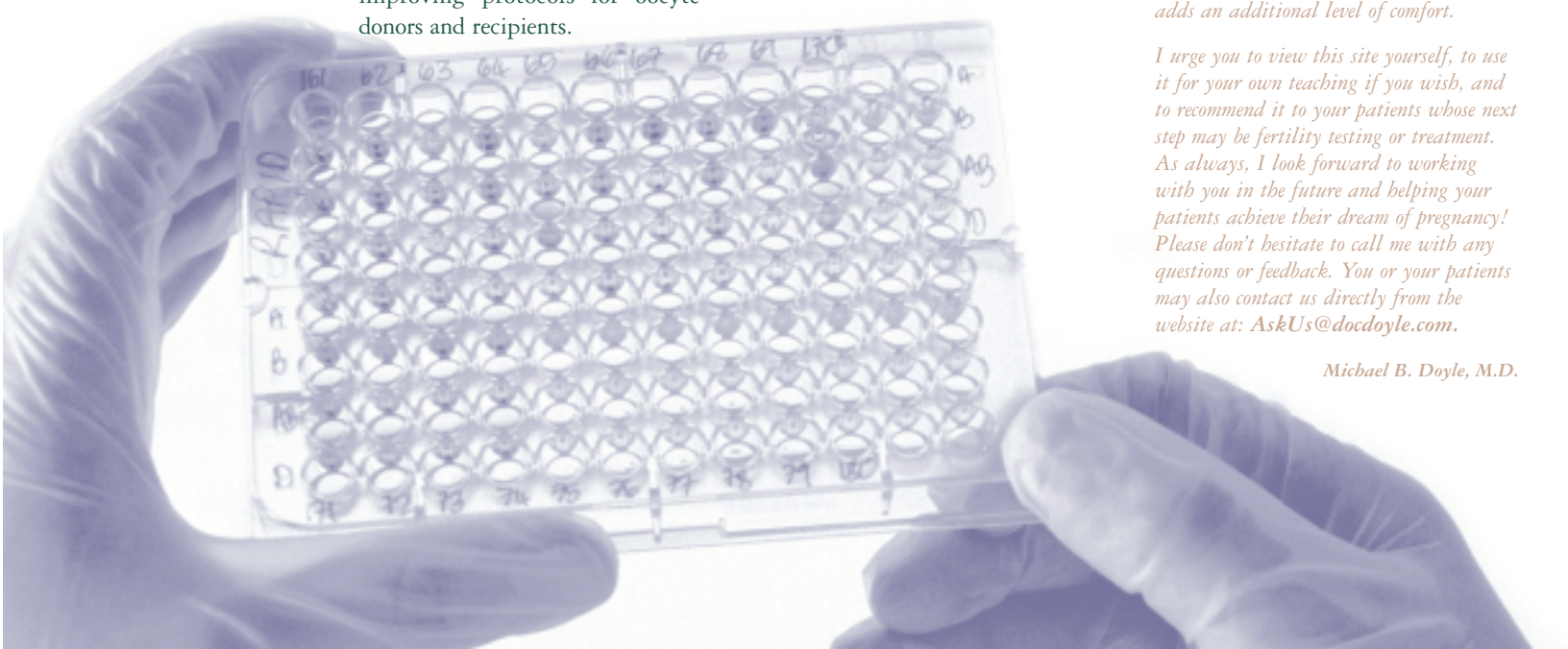
Colleen Iversen

### IVF COORDINATOR

Lena Spartos, RN

### BUSINESS MANAGER

Lorraine Sheftz



## What are the major causes of infertility?

There are a number of causes of infertility. Infertility affects the male or female almost equally. In general, 40% of infertile couples have an issue associated with the male partner and, 40% have an issue associated with the female partner. 20% of couples have both male and female issues.

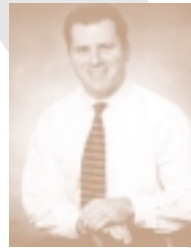
Infertility can occur when one or more parts of the reproductive system are not working well. These include:

- \* Abnormalities involving the development or release (ovulation) of a healthy, mature egg;
- \* Male factors such as sperm quality issues that affect the ability of the sperm to reach or fertilize the egg;
- \* Problems of female anatomy, such as problems with the fallopian tubes, that affect the movement of the egg to the uterus;
- \* Problems involving the attachment or implantation of the embryo or fetus, including anatomical, infectious, hormonal or autoimmune (allergic) conditions;
- \* In some couples, other causes of infertility, such as endometriosis, can be detected. In endometriosis, tissue that is normally seen only on the inside of the uterus is found outside the uterus. This can cause anatomical problems that disrupt the fertilization cycle.
- \* In some couples, no obvious cause of infertility is seen. This is called unexplained infertility. Unexplained infertility is really not a cause of infertility but rather an inability to find a cause. Patients with unexplained infertility do have a cause for their infertility, but due to limitations of our current testing, the reason cannot be uncovered.

### DID YOU KNOW?

- **40%** of infertile couples have an issue associated with the male partner
- **40%** have an issue associated with the female partner
- **20%** of couples have both male and female issues.

## A message from Dr. Levi



Hello and welcome! I am Andrew Levi, M.D., and I am looking forward to working together with you. As a fellowship-trained reproductive endocrinology and infertility specialist, my goal is to provide you with a complete understanding of fertility testing, diagnoses, and treatment options. I know that fertility treatment, from the basic to the more advanced, can be stressful and time-consuming. I will strive to provide you with the personalized care necessary for you to be informed and comfortable with our treatment plan. I believe that communication is the cornerstone of a successful relationship and partnership, and I will do my best to make sure that all of your questions are answered.

I will provide you with comprehensive treatment options, from the simplest to the most advanced techniques available. These include the use of the newest and most effective fertility regimens, in conjunction with ultrasounds, blood monitoring, inseminations, or in vitro fertilization if necessary. As an advanced reproductive surgeon, I also provide surgical treatment options that, in many instances, can help you to become pregnant.

I am also very excited to be the Director of Egg Donation for the practice. The Gift of Life is indeed a special one, and we welcome those extraordinary individuals who are interested in becoming egg donors, or just have questions about the process of becoming an egg donor. We are dedicated to working closely with our donor egg recipients and will do our best to make the entire process a stress-free, successful experience for all involved.

I look forward to working with you and answering any questions you might have. Together, we will reach your goal of having a successful pregnancy!

## A look at in vitro fertilization (IVF)

In vitro fertilization, (IVF) involves a series of complex procedures, including the administration and monitoring of medications which stimulate the ovaries to produce multiple eggs; the retrieval, fertilization and laboratory culture of these eggs; and the growth and eventual transfer of viable human embryos into the uterus. IVF creates an environment, which allows for maximal interaction between as many eggs and sperm as possible, and fosters the creation of multiple embryos, which can then be introduced directly into the uterus under highly optimized conditions.

Once you and Dr. Doyle or Dr. Levi decide to proceed with IVF, you should schedule an orientation class with our IVF Nurse Coordinator. Details of each phase of the process will be discussed, including administration of medication; ultrasound and blood testing; the actual procedures of egg retrieval and embryo transfer; and post-transfer strategies. An injection lesson will be given at the orientation visit, so whoever will give the injections should attend. Specific, individualized dosing instructions about your medication will be reviewed. If you have questions after attending the class or reading this information, please do not hesitate to call us.

You may also need to undergo some screening blood work, cervical cultures, a PAP smear (if one has not been done in six months) and uterine studies. Your husband may also be required to undergo some blood studies. We will review with you which of this test will be required to complete. You will also be given detailed consent forms concerning IVF laboratory processes, and you must review and sign them prior to the beginning your medications.

QUESTIONS?  
VISIT US AT  
OUR  
WEBSITE

[www.docdoyle.com](http://www.docdoyle.com)

*In addition to the services offered by Dr Doyle, patients also have access to a psychotherapist, support groups, four nurse practitioners, and staff who get to know the patients well. Treatment periods that may range from just a few months to a few years.*

Many of the women who come to see Dr Doyle are in shock. "It is our job to manage their expectations," he said. "We provide information and precise testing that helps diagnose the problems. "The stress stems from a lack of control," he said. "We provide choices so that patients feel they can regain control."

We are planning an exciting event for January 2003...

Women's  
FERTILITY & WELLNESS  
Symposium

As we plan, we encourage your ideas & participation.

Any topics or ideas you would like to see covered at this event?

Email us at:

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# TRUE STORIES...

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These are excerpts from some of the 300 proud parents and their miracle babies who attended Dr. Doyle's 2001 "Roomful Of Miracles" party, an annual family event celebrating the successful infertility treatments.

*Dr. Doyle treated Dana with fertility drugs and injections to have Madison. "I thought he was great," she said. "And that was before we succeeded." She was waiting to tell Dr. Doyle her surprising news. She was pregnant again, inexplicably, delightfully pregnant.*

*Tina and Dan Bukowski of Wilton were sitting down next to their three babies, Daniel, David, and Alexa. The babies were all asleep. The Bukowskis said they were lucky. They were successful with in vitro the first time.*



Dana, 10-month old Madison and Mike McGreesh with Dr. Doyle at the 2001 Roomful of Miracles party.

*Andrea and Rob Buchanan of Stratford spent three years with Doyle as he slowly and carefully figured out what would work for them. As she held eight-month old Jackson on her hip, Andrea said, "there is no ONE answer. It's a long and slow process of careful testing and vigilant monitoring." She complimented the people who work with Dr. Doyle. "The staff becomes a huge part of your life. The emotional side is very intense."*

*Donna and Joe Fallacaro of Fairfield held one year old Daniel close. They saw Doyle for close to two years before they were successful. They were unsuccessful with in vitro fertilization. Donna, who had a life-threatening ectopic pregnancy, ultimately had a laparoscopy in which Doyle surgically repaired her only remaining fallopian tube. They were considering adoption when she got pregnant.*

## CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. DOYLE!

Doctor Doyle was named one of the Top Docs for Women by Connecticut Magazine (May 2002).

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