

Assisted Reproductive Technology (IVF)

As this page develops, we will post a summary of the latest advances in Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART), in-vitro fertilization (IVF) and associated technologies, as well as balanced critiques and alternative views.

ASSISTED REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGY (ART) AND IN-VITRO FERTILISATION (IVF)

Recent developments in ART

A series of links to professional articles on various current aspects of reproductive technology

<http://www.nature.com/nm/focus/reprod/index.html>

ART in Western Australia - Report 2006-2007

The annual report on the current state of ART in WA, made to WA's Parliament by the body that oversees ART in WA, the Reproductive Technology Council

<http://www.rtc.org.au/reports/docs/AR2007.pdf>

ART in Australia and New Zealand 2006

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare gathers data from all around Australia and New Zealand to compile this annual 'state-of-play' report, tracking trends in the practice of ART, numbers of babies born, embryos in storage, etc. Contains good tables and graphs.

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/per/artiaanz06/artiaanz06.pdf>

Reproductive Technology Council of WA

This is the website of the body overseeing the practice of ART in WA. Contains consumer information, FAQs, most recent legislative changes, and annual reports to Parliament.

<http://www.rtc.org.au/>

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STEM CELL RESEARCH - BASIC INFORMATION

An excellent and up-to-date introduction from the USA's National Institutes of Health
<http://stemcells.nih.gov/info/basics/>

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH'S VIEW

Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (1987), Instruction '*Donum vitae*' On respect for human life in its origin and the dignity of procreation
http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_19870222_respect-for-human-life_en.html

Pontifical Academy for Life (2004), Final Communique on '*The Dignity of Human Procreation and Reproductive Technologies*'
http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_academies/acdlife/documents/rc_pont-acd_life_doc_20040316_x-gen-assembly-final_en.html

Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (2008), Instruction '*Dignitas personae*', On Certain Bioethical Issues.
Released on 12 December 2008, this document updates 'Donum vitae', reaffirming some points made in 1987 and addressing more recent issues such as gene therapy and the use of vaccines derived from fetal tissue: <http://www.zenit.org/article-24556?l=english>

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SOME RECENT NEWS ITEMS

- **Society and Artificial Reproduction**
Margaret Somerville asks: where should the State place ethical boundaries on the use of IVF? 19/02/09
http://www.mercatornet.com/articles/view/society_and_artificial_reproduction/
- **Social and Ethical Aspects of Prenatal Testing**
Margaret Somerville raises important ethical questions about some 'standard' prenatal tests. 15/12/08
http://www.mercatornet.com/articles/view/the_dilemmas_of_pre_natal_testing/
- **Designer babies and genetic testing**
Should parents be enabled to choose specific genetic traits for their children? 20/11/08
http://www.mercatornet.com/articles/view/towards_a_coercive_utopia/
- **Don't rely on IVF to have babies later**
Don't delay having babies in the hope that IVF will be able to help 24/09/08
<http://www.news.com.au/dailytelegraph/story/0,22049,24359180-5005941,00.html>
- **IVF success rate remains low**
Only 17% of IVF cycles in Australia in 2006 led to the birth of a baby 17/09/08
<http://www.aihw.gov.au/mediacentre/2008/mr20080917.cfm>
- **What IVF babies really need**
Margaret Somerville asks what 'the child's best interests' might actually mean 14/09/08
http://www.mercatornet.com/articles/brave_new_babies/
- **IVF birth variations relate to infertility**
Why IVF babies have a slightly higher mortality rate 08/08/08
<http://www.medpagetoday.com/Endocrinology/Infertility/10343>

- **IVF survey - call for more trials**

Fertility experts want more clinical trials to test the efficacy of IVF techniques 25/07/08

http://www.fertility.org.uk/news/pressrelease/08_07-ClinicalTrials.html