



Extend Fertility and Texas Fertility Center Help Women Slow the Ticking of the Biological Clock

New Service Gives Women in Texas the Option to Freeze and Store Eggs -- Preserving Them for Future Use

AUSTIN, Texas, July 15, 2004 – Extend Fertility™, a key provider of fertility preservation technologies and services, and Texas Fertility Center announced a unique, exclusive partnership to provide egg freezing services to women in Texas. The service will allow women to proactively plan for the future - just as they plan for personal and professional development - by freezing and storing their young, healthy eggs for the time when they are ready to start their families. Texas Fertility Center will be the first center in Texas to offer the Extend Fertility egg-freezing service to both fertile and medical necessity patients.

Today, approximately one out of every three women in her thirties has never been married. This represents a significant change from 1970, when only one in ten remained single. This dramatic shift in social demographics has resulted in a growing anxiety about the issue and timing of motherhood. Having the option to proactively plan for future motherhood is expected to appeal to a broad range of women - from cancer patients facing chemotherapy and women facing family histories of pre-mature ovarian failure, to single, professional women and couples starting their families later in life.

"This development represents a huge opportunity for women in Texas. Until now, women have faced very difficult decisions when it came to choosing between such things as career, personal goals, or important medical treatment, and having families," said Dr. Kaylen Silverberg, Texas Fertility Center. "Through this Extend service, they now have the option of extending their fertility by preserving their eggs at a time when they are much healthier for use in the future."

Eggs are the key to female fertility. The average woman's fertility and egg quality peak in her mid-20s and begin to decline in her 30s. While a woman is physically able to carry a pregnancy to term well into her forties, the decline in egg quality makes the likelihood of a successful pregnancy significantly lower after the age of 38. A 40 year old woman has less than a 10 percent chance of having a successful pregnancy using her own eggs, compared to approximately 30 percent at her natural peak fertility.(1) The Extend technology leverages recent advances in oocyte cryopreservation science and enables women who have previously frozen their eggs to improve their pregnancy rate to an estimated 20 to 30 percent, using their own cryopreserved eggs.

"Women of the past two generations have been told that they can have it all - work, personal success, a family," said Christy Jones, founder and CEO, Extend Fertility. "Unfortunately, the reality is that our biology - specifically, our eggs - haven't evolved with those opportunities. Texas Fertility Center and Extend will give women more control when it comes to making these difficult life-timing decisions."

This service also provides a unique opportunity for women facing medical diagnoses that could jeopardize their future fertility. Advancements in the treatment of cancers and other illnesses are helping to ensure that more and more young women are surviving and going on to lead healthy, long lives. Unfortunately, these treatments can also rob a woman of her ability to have children in the future. "For many years, male cancer patients have been freezing sperm for future use. Now, women facing chemotherapy or radiation do not have to forgo the possibility of having their own child in order to save their life," said Dr. Silverberg. "With the advent of oocyte cryopreservation, we can restore hope and a legitimate possibility of motherhood to these patients."

The service will be offered on an investigational basis. Following an initial screening and education process, individuals interested in the Extend Fertility service will be referred to partner clinics throughout the country. Texas Fertility Center and Extend will also establish "satellite" service centers throughout the state of Texas to provide easier access to the service. Women can be monitored in Dallas, Houston, San Antonio and other Texas cities through the stimulation process and travel to Austin for the egg-retrieval.

For more information on the Extend Fertility egg-preservation service, please visit www.extendfertility.com or call (800) 841-7197.

For more information on Texas Fertility Center, please visit www.txfertility.com or call (512) 451-0149.

(1) 2000 ART Success Rates - Center for Disease Control

ABOUT EXTEND FERTILITY

Extend Fertility is dedicated to enriching women's lives through revolutionary science and unparalleled service that gives women the option to effectively slow down the biological clock. The company brings together industry-leading science, medical care and storage facilities. By combining these critical elements with our outstanding educational resources and client services, Extend Fertility offers women the leading fertility preservation experience available today. For more information, visit www.extendfertility.com.

ABOUT TEXAS FERTILITY CENTER

As Austin's only Board Certified Reproductive Endocrinology/ Infertility physicians, Texas Fertility Center limits its practice to Infertility and a primary mission to assist in achieving the dream of having a baby. In our efforts to provide the highest quality of care possible, we have purposely tailored the scope of our practice to working with issues solely related to fertility.