



Helping YOU Make a Baby

Fernando M. Akerman, M.D. | Farah S. Chuong, M.D. | Edward H. Illions, M.D. | Nicole Arencibia, A.P.R.N.

The Fertility Center of Miami's mission is to provide our patients with the highest quality of personalized care using state-of-the-art technology in a compassionate and supportive setting.

Most of us dream of having a family, but few of us ever anticipate that we will have difficulty making it happen. The Fertility Center of Miami is here to help. Established in 1991, we are South Florida's leader in providing Assisted Reproductive Technologies. Our team of Board-Certified fertility specialists excels in achieving positive outcomes while offering a comfortable setting that revolves around you. We know fertility journeys can be stressful, so it is our mission to make sure your needs are fully addressed, your questions are answered, and your dreams are made a reality.



Beyond our clinical expertise, we are dedicated to your overall well-being, including working closely with psychologists for emotional support, nutritionists, acupuncturists and urologists for evaluation of the male.

Most laboratory testing and hormonal assessment are done on site for your convenience in our state-of-the-art facility, with results available within a few hours.

The Center specializes in all aspects of In-Vitro Fertilization (IVF), third party reproduction and fertility preservation. Assisted reproductive techniques including ovulation induction with oral or injectable medications, and intrauterine inseminations (IUI) are also common practice for us. We also have an Egg and Sperm Donor Program.

Our world recognized fertility specialists offer the most advanced, minimally invasive, gynecologic surgical techniques with particular expertise in reconstructive surgery for the treatment of tubal disease, endometriosis, myomas and treatment of tubal ligation.

Reproductive care at the Fertility Center of Miami begins with patient education, so you can fully understand the process and participate in all treatment decisions.

Our range of services include:

- Evaluation of female and male infertility, including recurrent pregnancy loss
- Pregnancy following female or male sterilization
- Same-sex couples, Single-parent and Non-Traditional families
- Genetic Screening for Hereditary Diseases
- Evaluation of Ovarian Reserve
- Semen Analysis, Antisperm Antibody, Sperm DNA Fragmentation Testing and Andrologic evaluation
- Fertility Preservation: Oocyte and Sperm Cryopreservation (Egg and Sperm Freezing)
- Intrauterine Insemination (IUI)
- In-Vitro Fertilization (IVF)
- Intra-Cytoplasmic Sperm Injection (ICSI)
- Epididymal and Sperm Aspiration (PESA, TESA, TESE and Micro-TESE)
- Assisted Hatching (AH), Embryo Biopsy and Cryopreservation
- Pre-implantation Genetic Testing (PGT-A) for Aneuploidy (Adequate number of chromosomes) and Sex Selection
- PGT-M for a disease-causing single gene mutation (i.e., FragileX, Sickle Cell, Cystic Fibrosis)
- Egg, Sperm and Embryo Donation Program
- Gestational Surrogacy
- Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery (Laparoscopy and Hysteroscopy)
- Tubal Reanastomosis (Reversal of sterilization)
- IVF Clinical Research Trials
- International Patient Coordination



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Our Commitment to Our Patients:

The physicians at the Fertility Center of Miami work to optimize overall health before conception. They carefully consider your general health when deciding on your best course of treatment. Managing your health and the timing of conception can be as important as the fertility treatment itself in providing a quality outcome for a healthy pregnancy.

Preconception Counseling

Reproductive care at the Fertility Center of Miami begins with preconceptional counseling to ensure the best possible outcome. In addition to a thorough medical history, preconceptional evaluation is done, which includes physical examination, advanced medical imaging, and laboratory testing.

Genetic evaluation of both partners can help physicians diagnose reproductive conditions and identify inherited disorders that could affect the child. Diseases including polycystic ovarian syndrome (PCOS), obesity, thyroid disorders and diabetes are some of the conditions that can prevent conception, increase the chance of miscarriage and have adverse health consequences for the baby and the mother.

Our commitment includes patient education, so our patients can fully understand the process and participate in all treatment decisions.

Our Top Priority: You

For some couples, starting a family is straightforward. For many others, it can be a stressful, tiresome, and exhausting process.

If your journey towards parenthood has been a long and difficult one, the Fertility Center of Miami is here to help. We treat couples that have simple or complex cases. For those who have already unsuccessfully undergone IVF, ICSI, or other fertility treatments we offer a fresh start and a renewed sense of hope. We understand that dealing with fertility issues or coping with unsuccessful treatment can feel physically and emotionally overwhelming. We are here to support you every step of the way.

At the Fertility Center of Miami, we know successful fertility treatment requires much more than a 'one size fits all' approach.

We are proud to provide personalized care that puts your needs first. Our dedicated team invests the time and resources necessary to offer couples with even the most complex medical history the best chance of success. The combination of knowledge, decades of experience and engaged care have helped thousands of couples fulfill their dream of starting or completing their family. Our medical team is recognized around the world for their expert knowledge. Our skills and experience with difficult cases mean we are able to offer advice and treatment you can trust.

In addition, we also work closely with psychologists to ease the strain of coping with infertility.

Diagnosis & Evaluation

The Fertility Center of Miami will provide you the most comprehensive guidance and assistance to identify the main causes of infertility and appropriate treatment according to diagnosis.

**Early and
accurate diagnosis
is very important
for starting any treatment
related to infertility.**



Tubal Factor Infertility

Tubal blockage and pelvic adhesions can be caused by previous pelvic surgeries, endometriosis, infections, and tubal ligation.

Your physician may order a hysterosalpingogram to diagnose a tubal disorder and occasionally suggest minimally invasive surgery to confirm the diagnosis and repair the tubes or if needed reverse a tubal ligation. In certain cases, removal of a tube that is dilated (hydrosalpinx) and toxic to an embryo may be the better approach.

Ovulatory Factor

Some women may not release an egg. Others may ovulate an egg of poor quality. In these cases, medication may be given to induce or enhance ovulation.

OVULATORY DISORDERS are one of the most common causes



30%
of women's infertility.



90%
OF THESE CASES
CAN BE SUCCESSFULLY TREATED
WITH THE USE OF MEDICATIONS

Male Factor

Since male infertility accounts for approximately 40% of all cases, evaluation and optimization of a man's reproductive health are very important. Certain cases of male infertility are due to a varicocele (dilation of scrotal vein), obstruction of ejaculatory duct or ejaculatory disorders. Up to 90% of male infertility is due to deficient sperm production.

Spermatogenesis (sperm production) takes place in tiny ducts in the testicles. It takes approximately 72 days of cell division and maturation to have a mature sperm cell. Therefore, sperm ejaculated today is affected by your diet, exposure to toxins, medications, and illnesses from the previous 3 months.

Pregnancy after vasectomy: Sperm may be aspirated from the epididymis (PESA) or testes (TESA) and injected directly into the eggs (ICSI).

Semen analysis measures the following:

- Sperm concentration
- Motility
- Morphology (shape of the sperm)

Sperm DNA Fragmentation Testing: The Sperm Chromatin Structure Assay test measures sperm DNA fragmentation.

Antisperm antibodies: can cause the sperm to clump making fertilization difficult.

Sperm cryopreservation: Patients may benefit by freezing their sperm for future use. For example: prior to receiving chemotherapy or radiation treatment for cancer, before having a vasectomy or testicular surgery. The sperm can later be used for insemination or in-vitro-fertilization.

Semen analysis is the initial evaluation for the infertile male



SEMEN PARAMETERS AND TESTS OF SPERM FUNCTION
ARE 22% POORER IN SMOKERS
THAN IN NONSMOKERS
AND THE EFFECTS ARE THOUGHT TO BE DOSE-DEPENDENT



CHROMOSOMAL ABNORMALITIES
CAN BE IDENTIFIED BY KARYOTYPE IN UP TO
15% OF MEN WITH SEVERE SPERM ABNORMALITIES



MALE FACTOR
IS THE EXCLUSIVE CAUSE OF INFERTILITY
IN 20% OF INFERTILE COUPLES
AND CONTRIBUTES IN UP TO 40% OF COUPLES

Intrauterine Insemination (IUI)

IUI can be a cost-effective solution for infertile couples and single women who want to conceive.

Female infertility: Women with ovulatory dysfunction may benefit from IUI at the same time as ovulation induction. IUI is helpful when the cervix has inadequate mucus or scarring secondary to prior surgery such as cryosurgery, cone biopsy or LEEP procedure.

Male infertility: IUI is indicated when there is a suboptimal sperm count or motility.

It is also recommended when normal coital relations is not possible.

Third-party reproduction: Donor insemination (DI) is commonly recommended when there is no available sperm from the male partner. It is the treatment of choice for single women desiring conception and for lesbian couples. It also is an alternative to IVF with PGD to avoid the risk of a congenitally abnormal child in those couples at risk due to male factor. Donor Insemination may be done with a known or an anonymous donor.

Does Intrauterine Insemination (IUI) work?

The success of IUI depends on the cause of the couple's infertility. Factors influencing success include:

- Use of fertility medications
- Age of the female patient
- Quality of the sperm



In-Vitro-Fertilization (IVF)

The IVF process begins with harvesting mature eggs (oocytes). While a woman would naturally produce only one egg monthly, the use of fertility hormones (gonadotropins) makes it possible to obtain many. The eggs are extracted directly from the ovaries in our surgical suite under intravenous sedation administered by an anesthesiologist.

The eggs are fertilized with sperm in the controlled environment of our lab. The resulting embryo(s) are kept in culture for further growth and development for several days. Ideally at the blastocyst stage day 5, they are transferred into the uterus.

Advances in genetic testing provide our physicians with more information about the quality of the embryos. Embryos can be screened for an adequate number of chromosomes or screened for specific inherited diseases. This allows for the selection of the healthiest embryos.

Pre-Implantation Genetic Screening (PGS) is an IVF procedure designed to examine embryos for aneuploidy (embryos having the wrong number of chromosomes) and unbalanced translocations (chromosomes incorrectly arranged). An embryo biopsy is performed on day 5 or 6, and all 23 pairs of chromosomes are examined. PGS aims at improving pregnancy and live birth rates with fewer embryos being transferred.

Fertility Treatment provided for same-sex couples

Our practice is committed to gay couples with an equal opportunity for reproductive choice. We understand the importance of genetic and biological lineage. We help couples achieve their dreams through high quality, personalized, and compassionate care.

The LGBT community has fertility options and needs that differ from those of heterosexuals.

The Fertility Center of Miami is here to help all individuals have a family, regardless of their sexual orientation.

Proud Sponsor of



IVF Success Rates

The Fertility Center of Miami strives to achieve the highest pregnancy rates resulting in live births. Over the years, we have enhanced our program based on advances in treatment protocols, laboratory advancements, and embryo transfer techniques. Our pregnancy results reflect these advancements.

Egg Freezing

Egg freezing (oocyte cryopreservation) is an innovative technology in which a woman's eggs are extracted, frozen and stored for future use.

Egg freezing allows a woman to take control of her own biological clock and bank her eggs for use in the future, preserving her fertility.

Egg freezing can be beneficial for women wishing to preserve their fertility, including:

- Delay childbearing in order to pursue educational, career or other personal goals.
- Diagnosed with cancer.
- Objections to storing frozen embryos for religious and/or moral reasons.
- Family history of early menopause.



TAKE CONTROL

Set your own Biological Clock

Our Egg Donor Program

Egg Donation is designed to assist women who suffer from premature ovarian failure, poor oocyte quality, or diminished ovarian reserve due to advanced age, prior ovarian surgery, chemotherapy or radiotherapy. Additionally, this program may be an option for women with transmissible genetic disorders which may prevent the use of their own eggs.

**"Some donors help save lives.
Egg donors help
create lives."**

The Fertility Center of Miami introduced South Florida's first Egg Donation program in 1992. Since then, the Center has maintained excellent pregnancy results, and through continued recruitment efforts, has a wide variety of donors available, reflecting the cultural and ethnic diversity for which Miami is known. During the donation process recipient couples consult with a psychologist familiar with issues relating to egg donation and assisted reproductive technologies.

Our Egg Donor Program nurses will guide the recipient couple through the selection process. The patient will meet with a nurse to review the characteristics they are searching for in a donor. Our donor database will be searched for matches and will provide couples with profiles containing medical history, family background, and personality traits.

When needed we also work with both commercial egg banks and egg donor recruitments agencies to ensure meeting our patients needs.



Gestational Surrogacy Program

As leaders in third party reproduction services, the Fertility Center of Miami offers gestational surrogacy programs that have pregnancy rates exceeding the national average.

THIS TREATMENT IS INDICATED FOR



- Repetitive IVF failure
- Absence of or abnormal uterus
- Medical contraindication to pregnancy
- Previous high-risk pregnancy



- Who want a biological child with an egg donor



**THIS PROCEDURE IS
ALLOWED AND LEGAL
IN FLORIDA, UNITED STATES**

Source: <http://www.cdc.gov>

More Treatment Options For Women

Our Center is at the frontier of the most advanced technologies, treating diseases such as endometriosis and fibroids without compromising your future reproductive potential.

Options include advanced minimally invasive gynecological surgery and care for reproductive endocrine problems including menstrual abnormalities, hirsutism (increased hair growth), or abnormal uterine bleeding.

Our Caring Nurses

The nurses at the Fertility Center of Miami are the lifeblood of the office. They will walk you through each step of the treatment process, listen to and answer your questions, put your concerns at ease and, most importantly, show enormous compassion and support.

Our nurses will become your personal tour guides throughout your fertility journey.

It's a journey that can be full of ups, downs, and many uncertainties. Our caring nurses know how to help patients every step of the way, often putting a smile on your face when you need it the most.



AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR REPRODUCTIVE MEDICINE

The use of this symbol indicates most of our nurses have completed advanced training and received a certificate in Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility from ASRM.

Our Lab

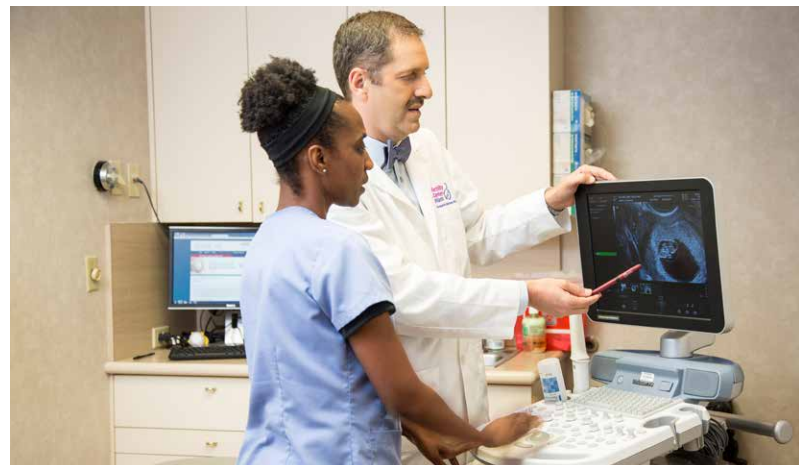
Patients that require only basic fertility testing and treatment benefit from the services of our andrology and endocrinology laboratory. These test results will help your doctor recommend a treatment plan that is right for you.

Our state-of-the-art laboratory, run by highly trained embryologists, offer cutting edge techniques and advancements in assisted reproductive technologies (ART), IVF, ICSI, PGD/PGS, assisted hatching, and egg/sperm/embryo freezing are some of the advanced treatments and lab techniques available in our Center.



Medical and Psychological Support

Our experienced staff understands the sensitive nature of problems associated with difficulties in conception and emphasizes a personalized approach to providing emotional support, as well as medical expertise. In about 40 percent of all cases, a male factor is responsible for or contributes to the couple's problems. That means equal attention is given to both partners. Patients have access to a clinical psychologist specially trained to address their concerns; bilingual educational resources including pamphlets; and referrals to additional care and support groups.



Professional Team

Due to recent advances in the field of assisted reproduction, achieving a pregnancy and having a child is now possible for most couples. Together with the nursing coordinator and office support staff, the team of health care specialists at the Fertility Center of Miami is committed to providing the most sophisticated and effective diagnostic and treatment options.

Meet your Doctors



Fernando M. Akerman, M.D. **Medical Director** **Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility**

Dr. Akerman joined the Center in 1999. He is originally from Argentina and is fluent in Spanish, English, and Portuguese. He is a Diplomate Certified by the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology, subspecialty in Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility.

Dr. Akerman graduated with honors from the Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina, where he also completed his Residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology in 1992. He completed an Internship in Pathology at Albert Einstein School of Medicine, New York, in 1993.

He completed his residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Saint Louis University School of Medicine in 1997 in Missouri, and his fellowship in Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility at the University of Louisville, Kentucky, in 1999. Dr. Akerman is a member of numerous scientific societies including the American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM), the Society for Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility (SREI), the Society for Assisted Reproductive Technology (SART), the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), and the Miami Obstetrical and Gynecological Society. In 2015, he became the President of the Florida Society for Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility (FSREI). He is an active speaker at numerous international fertility meetings.



Farah S. Chuong, M.D. **Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility**

Dr. Chuong joins the Fertility Center of Miami as a Diplomate of the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology and an active candidate for Reproductive Endocrinology & Infertility.

As a native of Miami, Dr. Chuong is thrilled to return home to help couples fulfill their desires to become parents. She earned her undergraduate degree from Florida State University in 2004 and her medical degree from the University of South Florida in 2008. Dr. Chuong continued her medical education at the University of South Florida where she completed her residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology and served as Chief Resident. Following the completion of her residency, Dr. Chuong worked as a general OB GYN with a focus in Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility.

She then pursued a fellowship at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland. Dr. Chuong's areas of clinical interests include fertility preservation, in vitro fertilization, and the medical and surgical treatment of infertility. Dr. Chuong is an active member in numerous national scientific societies including the American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM), the Society for Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility (SREI) and the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG).

Dr. Chuong prides herself in providing compassionate, individualized patient care. She will be available to see patients in our Kendall and Miami Beach offices.



Edward H. Illions, M.D. **Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility**

Dr. Illions joined the Center in 2021. Previously, he was the Medical Director of the Advanced Reproductive Medicine section at the University of Colorado. And previously, he was the practice director at the Montefiore's Institute for Reproductive Medicine at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York. In addition, he developed and led their Fertility Preservation Program.

He completed his fellowship in Reproductive Endocrinology while in the US Air Force at the National Institutes of Health and Walter Reed Army Medical Center. He acquired training in reproductive surgery, advanced reproductive technologies including in-vitro fertilization, and the management of complex endocrine disorders

in women. He completed his medical career in the Air Force in 1993 as a Lieutenant Colonel. He joined the faculty at the University of Florida as the Director of Reproductive Endocrinology in the Jacksonville campus.

He has a keen interest in fertility preservation, reproductive surgery, and recurrent pregnancy loss. He strives to offer comprehensive, evidence-based medical care in a compassionate and personalized setting. He believes that physicians must be good listeners to supply the individualized care that patients have come to expect and endeavors to help patients achieve their family-building goals.



Nicole Arencibia, A.P.R.N., W.H.N.P.-BC **Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility**

Nicole is a dedicated and accomplished board-certified Women's Health Nurse Practitioner with a wealth of experience in healthcare spanning over a decade in reproductive endocrinology and infertility.

She joined the Fertility Center of Miami (FCM) in 2011 serving as an IVF Coordinator, specializing in Transvaginal Sonography, intrauterine inseminations and providing comprehensive injection and medication teaching. Additionally, she played a pivotal role as a Study Coordinator for FCM in collaboration with multiple pharmaceutical companies.

In 2017, she became nurse manager at FCM and oversaw the daily operations of medical and surgical staff, strategically planning and implementing continuing educational programs and policies.

She now assumes the position of Nurse Practitioner providing clinical expertise, patient education, emotional support, and coordination of care to help individuals or couples navigate the complex journey of fertility treatments. Her unique background coupled with her many years of experience provide a compassionate and comprehensive approach that contributes significantly to the success of fertility treatments and the well-being of our patients.

Lab Personnel



Wael Abdel Megid, M.D. **Laboratory Director**

As both a physician and scientist, Dr. Wael Abdel Megid has had a longtime interest in assisted reproduction. Dr. Megid received his medical degree from Cairo University. He completed his residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at El-Galaa Teaching Hospital, one of the largest and busiest hospitals in Egypt. Following the completion of his residency, Dr. Megid moved to the laboratory where he worked as a senior embryologist and then was personally responsible for opening and directing three IVF laboratories in Cairo, performing more than 1,000 cycles of IVF per year.

Dr. Megid earned his Master's degree of advanced studies in Clinical Embryology from Danube University of Krems, Austria and also received his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He has published numerous professional manuscripts on human infertility and the effects of oxidative stress on DNA fragmentation. He has also attended and presented his work several times at the American Society of Reproductive Medicine, the European Society for Human Reproduction and Embryology, the Middle East Fertility Society, and the Alpha Society of Reproductive Medicine.

Dr. Megid is a member of the American Association of Bioanalysts and the AAB's College of Reproductive Biology. His laboratory has been certified by the College of American Pathologists. Dr. Megid has been certified by the American Board of Bioanalysts as a High Complexity Lab Director, Andrology Lab Director, and Clinical Consultant.





The Best Reproductive Care for International Patients

The Fertility Center of Miami strives to help our patients achieve their family-building dreams. Thousands of couples from around the world travel to us for treatment and have returned home pregnant. Our practice provides assistance to international patients who frequently benefit from our recommendations with accommodations, restaurants, travel arrangements, and translator services if needed. Our doctors speak English, Spanish, and Portuguese.

If necessary we will coordinate care with a physician in your home country to facilitate the treatment and decrease the length of your stay in Miami. Initial consultations can take place via Skype or telephone. Our doctors will review your medical records, explain your options and recommend a treatment plan. Our nurses and international patient care coordinators will help you with all your needs so you feel right at home.

In many cases, the initial workup, evaluation and the beginning of some treatments can be started in your country or city of residence.

An IVF cycle will require a stay in Miami for approximately 10 to 20 days depending on ovarian

response, access to monitoring at home and whether a fresh embryo treatment takes place. With PGD/PGS the initial time in Miami is less, but you will have to return for the frozen embryo transfer, which could require 3 – 4 days in Miami.

Patients who do not have a local center to assist in the early stages of their treatment may need to extend their Miami stay for additional time.

Fertility treatments can be costly. International travel and accommodations can add to that cost. The Fertility Center of Miami recognizes this challenge, and we are dedicated to assisting patients by practicing cost-effective, time-efficient, and data-driven medicine.

Please contact us
so that an international patient care coordinator
can assist you.



Cost Effective Care

Our specialists strive at all times to provide care in the most medically appropriate, cost-effective manner. We work closely with managed care and other insurance plans when coverage is available.

We also have multiple treatment options that may be applicable, which are cost efficient for the couples without insurance benefit.

Financial Information

Insurance Plans

Our administrative staff will be happy to assist you in determining your level of insurance coverage for your indicated treatment cycle. We strongly recommend that you contact your insurance company for clarification of benefits prior to initiating treatment.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Financial Plans

For our self-pay patients, we offer a selection of pricing plans to make our services as accessible and competitive as possible. We are happy to provide financial consultations in our office, by telephone or via e-mail to accommodate your schedule.





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