

EDITORIAL

Dear Colleagues and Friends,



The Italian Society of Embryology, Reproduction and Research (SIERR) and the Italian Society of Fertility, Sterility and Reproductive Medicine (SIFES-MR) have recently joined forces with the aim of highlighting the scientific activity of their members.

Initially conceived under the auspices of SIERR and later implemented through the participation of SIFES, the RIVER (Research, Innovation and Views in Embryology and Reproduction) Journal project is now a reality in the scientific literature landscape. The name chosen for this “adventure” is meant to allude to the concept of the continuously flowing river of knowledge, and also to recall how this flow is continuously fed through research, innovation and, above all, vision.

The idea of blending the expertise of our two societies in a multidisciplinary way that allows clinical experience and research to complement each other fits in neatly with the concept of a global vision.

This first issue of *RIVER Journal* takes us on a journey through topics relating to the application of assisted reproduction techniques (looking at biochemical and structural aspects, and issues linked to infection).

The issue opens with a systematic review which describes in detail the phenomena that trigger the production of reactive oxygen species in male gametes subjected to cryopreservation

(• *Mechanisms underlying human sperm cryodamage: the role of reactive oxygen species (ROS) and antioxidants*). It then continues with six concise reviews that describe different characteristics of female reproductive potential in relation to age and hormonal status (• *Meiotic errors in oocytes of young and advanced maternal age women: the U-curve of fertility* • *Follicle-stimulating hormone receptor: the impact of genetic variations and gene expression levels on fertility*) and look at possible risks associated with reproductive tract infections and contamination linked to laboratory manipulations (• *HPV infection and ART: the andrologist's point of view* • *Report on viral infections in ART* • *Cross-contamination risk management in biobanking. Lesson from the pandemic* • *Male infection: cross-contamination risk management and impact on sperm parameters*).

The issue closes with an interesting case report which addresses the problem and the possible solutions in the rare, but possible, event of contamination of the embryonic cell culture (• *Candida contamination of embryos in the ART laboratory: a case report and literature review*).

The presidents of SIERR and SIFES-MR join me, the editor in chief, in expressing our hope that this publication will arouse the interest of the scientific community dealing with reproduction (in not only the human but also the veterinary field), and that readers will feel motivated to submit papers of their own, thereby helping to drive the growth of our new scientific journal.

Lucia De Santis
Editor in chief, RIVER Journal