

Wendy Kramer

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PO Box 1571 • Nederland, CO • 80466 • wendy@donorsiblingregistry.com • (303) 258-0902  
www.DonorSiblingRegistry.com

## Education

### **Bachelor of Arts, Magna Cum Laude, 1980**

Long Island University

## Professional Experience

### **Business Management – 1980-2009**

Business management, financial management and accounting for several small and medium sized organizations. Restaurant owner, 7 years.

### **Co-Founder and Director, Donor Sibling Registry (DSR) 2000-Present**

The DSR is a charity organization, founded in 2000 by Wendy Kramer and her donor conceived son Ryan, to assist individuals conceived as a result of sperm, egg or embryo donation that are seeking to make mutually desired contact with others with whom they share genetic ties. With more than 75,000 members in 105 countries, the DSR has helped to facilitate contact between more than 21,000 people with their half siblings and/or their donors (biological parents).

Without any outside support, the DSR has pioneered an international discussion about the donor conception industry and the families, with its research, speaking engagements and media appearances. Wendy has authored and co-authored many published articles and papers on donor conception, has reviewed abstracts for the American Society of Reproductive Medicine (ASRM), and has also been a peer reviewer for the journals *Human Reproduction*, *Social Science and Medicine*, and *RBM Online*. Wendy and her son Ryan have appeared on 60 Minutes, The Oprah Winfrey Show, Good Morning America, CBS Sunday Morning, and many other news shows and publications such as the NY Times, TIME and Newsweek.

### **Television, Documentary, and Books**

2011: Associate Producer on the Emmy nominated documentary *Sperm Donor*.

2013: Associate Producer of MTV News & Docs series, *Generation Cryo*, 6 episodes aired in December 2013.

2013: Co-Author of *Finding our Families: A first-of-a-kind-book for Donor-Conceived People and their Families*, published by Penguin Random House 2013.

2018: Author of the children's book *Your Family: A Donor Kid's Story*

2019: Author of the book *Donor Family Matters: My Story of Donor Family Matters: My Story of Raising a Profoundly Gifted Donor-Conceived Child, Redefining Family, and Building the Donor Sibling Registry*

## Current Research

**2021:** Egg Donor Research, Collaboration with the University of Illinois at Chicago Dept. of Population Health Nursing Science/ Dept. of Obstetrics & Gynecology

Background: The use of donated oocytes to establish pregnancy is escalating. Despite this trend, there is little knowledge about the medical and psychosocial health and disclosure habits of women who donate oocytes.

Purpose: The purpose of this dissertation study is to explore what medical and psychosocial problems oocyte donors have experienced post-initial donation and to understand if these women have disclosed to family, friends, or offspring.

Implications: These findings will serve to illuminate foundational knowledge about areas for improving medical health and needed education and counseling for psychological well-being and disclosure for former and future oocyte donors across the lifespan

**2021:** Collaboration with the University of Colorado School of Medicine, Reproductive Endocrinology & Infertility Department: we're researching themes surrounding family building in donor-conceived offspring.

According to the Society for Assisted Reproductive Technology (SART ), the number of individuals utilizing donor-assisted reproduction to achieve their goal of parenthood has nearly doubled from 2013 to 2018 and may be even higher than reported. Although the first pregnancy resulting from oocyte donation was reported in 1984 and the practice of donor sperm has been reported since the early 1940s, it has not been until recently that disclosure to the child by the recipient parent(s) regarding his or her donor conception has been strongly encouraged. Due to this increased transparency and development of various platforms to connect individuals conceived by donor-assisted reproduction, it is now possible to gain first-hand accounts to further aid in the counseling of those considering utilizing this form of assisted reproductive technology (ART).

Despite the overall encouraging research regarding the psychological adjustments among donor-conceived individuals, little is known about their views surrounding their own parenthood, including ideas about utilizing donor gametes or adoption for their own family-building if biological children were not an option. The purpose of this study is to explore the opinions about family building among people that were conceived via donor-assisted reproduction. Our approach will be to distribute a cross-sectional survey to investigate the opinions of donor-conceived people regarding the utilization of donor gametes themselves if they or their partner was unable to spontaneously conceive as well as their willingness to donate gametes.

We additionally intend to analyze how their experience of connecting with half-siblings shape these opinions. We will distribute our survey to the Donor Sibling Registry (DSR), a network of roughly 72,000 members. We hypothesize that offspring of donor gametes who have positive and open relationships with their donors and/or half-siblings would be more willing to use donor gametes themselves if unable to conceive spontaneously and would be more willing to donate gametes compared to those who have a negative or no relationship with their donor or half-siblings.

**2021:** [New Donor Sibling Registry Research: A Study of 2,013 Donor-Conceived People.](#) We reopened our 2009 offspring surveys (in which we had collected 751 surveys) and now have 2,013 surveys from donor-conceived people, school-aged and older. This research was presented at the 2019 ESHRE meeting in Vienna and at the World Congress on Controversies in Obstetrics, Gynecology & Infertility (COGI) in Paris, France, also in 2019.

## Published Research

The following research has been presented at meetings and conferences around the world, including: ASRM, ESHRE, British Fertility Society, Australian Fertility Society, CRYO, Human Reproduction, COGI, and ASPIRE. Additionally, research has been presented at many sociology, family, mental health, genetics, bio-ethics, academic, gynecology and obstetrics, legal, medical, SMC, LGBTQ organizations and conferences in North America, Europe, Australia and Asia.

**2019: Personal Relationships:** "[Attachment in Donor Conception: Curiosity, Search, and Contact](#)" Elizabeth B. Lozano, R. Chris Fraley, & Wendy Kramer. DOI:10.1111/pere.12273. [\(Pdf\)](#)

**2017: Reproductive BioMedicine Online:** "[Long-Term Breast Cancer Risk Following Ovarian Stimulation in Young Egg Donors: A Call for Follow-up, Research, and Informed Consent.](#)" Jennifer Schneider, MD, Jennifer Lahl, Wendy Kramer

**2016: Fertility and Sterility:** *Integrating donor conception into identity development: Adolescents in fatherless families.* Collaboration with Cambridge University, UK and The New School, NY

**2016 Journal of Family Issues:** *Donor Sibling Networks as a Vehicle for Expanding Kinship: A Replication and Extension.* Rosanna Hertz, Margaret K. Nelson and Wendy Kramer DOI: 10.1177/0192513X16631018

**2016 Children And Society:** *Adolescents conceived through donor insemination in mother-headed families: A qualitative study of motivations and experiences of contacting and meeting same-donor offspring.* Collaboration with Cambridge University, UK and The New School, NY

**2015 EC Gynaecology:** (Commentary) [The Need For Comprehensive Genetic Testing of Gamete Donors](#)

**2015: Reproductive Biomedicine and Society:** *Emerging models for facilitating contact between people genetically related through donor conception: a preliminary analysis and discussion.* M. Crawshaw, K. Daniels, K. Bourne, D. Adams, J.A.P Van Hoof, L. Pasch, P. Thorn <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.rbms.2015.10.001>

**2015 Social Science and Medicine:** *Gendering gametes: The unequal contributions of sperm and egg donors.* Margaret Nelson, Rosanna Hertz and Wendy Kramer [doi:10.1016/j.socscimed.2015.10.049](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2015.10.049)

**2015 The Journal of Law and the Biosciences:** *Gamete Donor Anonymity and Limits on Numbers of Offspring: The Views of Three Stakeholders.* . Margaret Nelson, Rosanna Hertz and Wendy Kramer.

<http://jlb.oxfordjournals.org/content/early/2015/10/28/jlb.lsv045.full.pdf?keytype=ref&ijkey=R1RUEPvvSoHwIFF>

**2015 Facts, Views & Vision in OB/GYN (the Scientific Journal of the Flemish Society of Obstetrics, Gynaecology & Reproductive Health): *Sperm Donors Describe the Experience of Contact with their Donor-Conceived Offspring.*** Margaret Nelson, Rosanna Hertz and Wendy Kramer

**2013** Chapter published in book “Visions of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Family: Transforming Structures and Identities”: **Making Sense of Donors and Donor Siblings: A Comparison of the Perceptions of Donor-Conceived Offspring in Lesbian-Parent and Heterosexual-Parent Families.** Margaret Nelson, Rosanna Hertz and Wendy Kramer

**2013 Reproductive BioMedicine Online: *A Survey of 1700 Recipients of Donor Sperm: the views of women who formed their families using donor spermatozoa.*** Neroli Sawyer, Eric Blyth, Wendy Kramer and Lucy Frith.

**2013 Advances in Reproductive Sciences: *Genetic and Health Issues Emerging from Sperm Donation: The Experiences and Views of Donors.*** Ken Daniels and Wendy Kramer.

**2013 The Journal of Family Issues, *A New Path to Grandparenthood: Parents of Egg and Sperm Donors.*** Authors: Diane Beeson, Patricia Jennings, Wendy Kramer

**2013 Social Science and Medicine: *Donor-Conceived Offspring Conceive of the Donor: The Relevance of Age, Awareness, and Family Form.*** Rosanna Hertz (Wellesley College), Margaret K. Nelson (Middlebury College), Wendy Kramer

**2012 Reproductive BioMedicine Online: *Semen donors who are open to contact with their offspring: issues and implications for them and their families.*** Authors: Ken Daniels, Wendy Kramer and Maria Perez-y-Perez.

**2012 Reproductive BioMedicine Online: *Perspectives, experiences and choices of parents of children conceived following oocyte donation.*** Authors: Eric Blyth, Wendy Kramer, and Jennifer Schneider.

**2012 Asia Pacific Journal of Reproduction: *Donor type and parental disclosure following oocyte donation.*** Authors: John Stephenson, Eric Blyth, Wendy Kramer, and Jennifer Schneider

**2012 Reproductive BioMedicine Online: *Forming a family with sperm donation: a survey of 244 non-biological parents.*** Authors: Lucy Frith, Neroli Sawyer, and Wendy Kramer.

**2011 Human Reproduction: *Offspring searching for their sperm donors: how family type shapes the process.*** Authors: Diane Beeson, Wendy Kramer, and Patricia K. Jennings.

**2010 Human Reproduction: *Sperm and oocyte donors' experiences of anonymous donation and subsequent contact with their donor offspring.***\* Authors: Tabitha Freeman, Vasanti Jadva, Wendy Kramer, Susan Golombok.

**2010 Reproductive BioMedicine Online: Experiences of offspring searching for and contacting their donor siblings and donor.\*** Authors: Vasanti Jadva, Tabitha Freeman, Wendy Kramer, Susan Golombok. This paper was nominated for the 2011 Robert G. Edwards Prize Paper Award.

**2009 Human Reproduction: *The experiences of adolescents and adults conceived by sperm donation: comparisons by age of disclosure and family type.*\*** Authors: Vasanti Jadva, Tabitha Freeman, Wendy Kramer, Susan Golombok.

**2009 Human Reproduction: *Gamete donation: parents' experiences of searching for their child's donor siblings and donor.*\*** Authors: Tabitha Freeman, Vasanti Jadva, Wendy Kramer, Susan Golombok

**2009 Human Reproduction: *US oocyte donors: a retrospective study of medical and psychosocial issues.*** Authors: Wendy Kramer; Jennifer Schneider and Natalie Schultz

\*Partnership with the Family Centre, University of Cambridge, UK

## Speaking Engagements

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### Upcoming Speaking Engagements

#### October 2021

American Society of Reproductive Medicine (ASRM) Annual Scientific Congress: "Open-Identity Sperm Donation: What Are the Children Saying?", an interactive session. *This interactive session will include an interdisciplinary panel of speakers who will bring their unique expertise/knowledge to the table.*

### Previous Speaking Engagements

#### 2021

February: University of Colorado Advanced Reproductive Medicine IVF Clinic

January: The British Fertility Society Annual Conference (online this year)

[The Donor-Conceived Adult: Implications Within Family, Medical, and Mental Healthcare Systems](#)

January: ASRC's Adoption Wellness, Advocacy, Knowledge and Experience (AWAKE) Influencer Forum

Ryan and Wendy Kramer participated on the panel.

#### 2020

September: University of Colorado Law School

[Bioethics Class Presentation](#)

September: LGBT Network

LGBT Family Building: Donor Conception

Virtual Workshop

August: Global Bioethics Initiative, Manhattan Bioethics Summer School

Virtual Event

[The Donor Conceived Adult: Implications Within Family, Medical and Mental Healthcare Systems](#)

January: Colorado Center for Reproductive Medicine

Denver, CO

“Disclosures and Discussions” panel. A workshop run every year for families who have used a 3rd party for reproduction.

## **2019**

November: 6th International Conference on Gynecology and Obstetrics

Paris, France

Theme: Focus on Next Generation and to Improve Obstetrics and Gynecology Care

November: 27th World Congress on Controversies in Obstetrics, Gynecology & Infertility (COGI)

Paris, France

Research on 2,013 Donor Offspring

July: The European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology (ESHRE)

Vienna, Austria

Poster Presentation on Donor Offspring Research

June: RESOLVE Walk of Hope

Englewood, CO

Booth

June: Midwest Reproductive Symposium International (MRSi)

Chicago, IL

Invited speaker: DNA=Donors Not Anonymous

May: Asia Pacific Initiative on Reproduction (ASPIRE)

Hong Kong, China

2 talks: One on donor-conceived people and one on DNA testing/anonymity (DNA=Donors Not Anonymous)

January: Colorado University School of Law

Boulder, CO

Bioethics & the Law Class

January: British Fertility Society

Birmingham, UK

## **2018**

November: Conference of The Foundation for Reproductive Medicine

NYC, NY

October: Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

NYC, NY

October: Philadelphia Family Pride Family Matters Conference

Philadelphia, PA

October: ASRM Meeting

Poster by our partners from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign: Attachment in Donor Conception: Curiosity, Search, and Contact

September: Conceptions Reproductive Associates of Colorado  
CO

August: Boulder Bookstore  
Boulder, CO

**Book signing for Your Family: A Donor Kid's Story**

June: RESOLVE Walk of Hope  
Englewood, CO

March: 26th European Congress of the European Board & College of Obstetrics and Gynecology  
Paris, France

February: University of San Diego School of Law, Center for Health Law Policy & Bioethics  
San Diego, CA

January: British Fertility Society  
Liverpool, UK

Talk: "Infertility and Donor Conception: Pregnancy is Just the Beginning!"

## 2017

October: American Bar Association  
Beaver Creek, CO

September: Colorado Center for Reproductive Medicine  
Lone Tree, CO

June: RESOLVE Walk of Hope  
Engelwood, CO

May: The Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Laboratory for the Research of Medical Law and Bioethics, the Bar Association of Thessaloniki, and the Medical Association of Thessaloniki International Conference  
Thessaloniki, Greece

**Talk: "Medicine, Law and the Internet"**

February: The European Meeting Days of the French Society of Gynecology  
Paris, France

**Poster**

## 2016

December: NY Genome Center  
NYC, NY

**"Are you your genome?"** A panel discussion about the human side of genetics: exploring the connections between identity, heritage, and genetic information.



November: 20th anniversary of CONCEBIR/Bi-annual meeting of the American Network (Red TRAscender)

Buenos Aires, Argentina

[Video Part 1](#), [Video Part 2](#), [Video Part 3](#)



September: HQA Fertility Fair

Colorado Springs, CO

May: BIT's 4th International Congress of Gynaecology and Obstetrics (ICGO-2016)

Barcelona, Spain

Oral presentation: "The Donor Sibling Registry (DSR) — A Global Registry for Donor Families"

April: 37th Annual American Adoption Congress International Conference

Denver, CO

"Trailblazing Change: Moving Mountains Together in Adoption"

March: 17th World Congress of Gynecological Endocrinology

Florence, Italy

Poster: [For the Infertile Couple: 5 Things You Need to Know](#) and Oral Presentation: [The Case for Comprehensive Genetic Testing of Gamete Donors](#)

## 2015

November: Reproductive Rights, New Reproductive Technologies, and the European Fertility Market

Santander, Spain

The DSR presented two talks

October: 11th World Congress of the European Society of Gynecology (ESG)

Prague, Czech Republic

Two oral presentations: "Infertility and creating donor-conceived children: Pregnancy is just the beginning, not the end of the journey" and "Connecting with offspring: sperm donor attitudes"

October: ASRM Meeting

Baltimore, MD

Two presentations: "Adolescents Conceived Through Donor Insemination: An In-Depth Qualitative Study of the Experiences of Contacting and Meeting Donor Siblings" and "Integrating Donor Conception into Identity: Parent-Child Relationships and Identity Development in Donor Conceived Adolescents." Jenna Slutsky, MA Center for Attachment Research, The New School for Social Research; Dr. Vasanti Jadva, Centre for Family Research, University of Cambridge; Dr.



Tabitha Freeman; Sherina Persaud, MA; Wendy Kramer, The Donor Sibling Registry; Dr. Miriam Steele; Dr. Howard Steele; and Professor Susan Golombok.

September: Skype interview with master's students in Bioethics and Science Policy at Duke University

Durham, NC

September: 22nd World Congress on Controversies in Obstetrics, Gynecology & Infertility (COGI) Budapest, Hungary

Oral presentation: "Infertility and Donor Conception: Pregnancy is just the beginning!"

April: Stanford University Law School

Stanford, CA

Talk sponsored by Law Students for Reproductive Justice

March: 16th World Congress on Human Reproduction

Berlin, Germany

Two papers: "Sperm donors who are open to contact with their offspring" (poster) and "The Donor Sibling Registry — a global registry for donor families" (oral presentation)

## 2014

November: Merck's Conference: The 2nd Red TRAscender Congress

Mexico City, Mexico

With the Latin American Parents Infertility Organization

October: The First European Workshop of the Italian Association of Gynecological Endocrinology and the 7th Albert Netter Days of the European Society of Gynecology

Capri, Italy

Abstract: "[After Pregnancy: What are the needs, rights, and issues of Donor-Conceived People?](#)"

June: Skype workshop with a GLBTQ parents group in Boston after they watched the Family Equality Council webinar

### [View Webinar](#)

May: Embryo Adoption Awareness Center

Webinar: "The Donor Sibling Registry: Helping People Discover Their Roots"

March: 2014 Annual Meeting of the Pacific Coast Reproductive Society

Palm Springs, CA

March: Family Equality Council Webinar

### [The Donor Sibling Registry: Educating, connecting and supporting donor families](#)

January: Boulder Bookstore

Boulder, CO

Book signing for Finding our Families: A First-of-Its-Kind Book for Donor-Conceived People and Their Families

## 2013

August: American Sociological Association Annual Meeting

Paper presentation: "Donor Conceived Offspring Conceive of the Donor and Donor Siblings in Lesbian-Parent and Heterosexual-Parent Families." Presented by co-authors R. Hertz and M. Nelson.

July: Television Critics Association (TCA) Press Tour

Los Angeles, CA

Our upcoming MTV News & Docs docu-drama series, *Generation Cryo*, was one of the fall shows premiered at this event.

June: 2-day workshop

Montreal, Canada

“Donor Conception: Lessons for Clinicians, Families, Policy Makers, and Researchers” ([Wendy's handout](#))

June: 1-day workshop

University of Minnesota, MN

“Revamping the Law & Policy of Reproductive Technologies: Children First?”

## 2012

September: Asia Pacific Initiative on Reproduction (ASPIRE) Conference

Osaka, Japan

Lunchtime talk by Ryan and Wendy: The Donor Sibling Registry (DSR) — A Global Registry for Donor Families

July: European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology (ESHRE) Conference

Istanbul, Turkey

[1700 Sperm Donor Recipients](#)

April: American Adoption Congress

Denver, CO

March: Pacific Sociological Association Conference

San Diego, CA

"Sperm Donor-Conceived Children Speak out about Donor Conception." Patricia K. Jennings (CSU East Bay) and Wendy Kramer (Donor Sibling Registry). Presented by Pat Jennings.

March: CU Law School

Boulder, CO

Sponsored by the Law Students for Reproductive Justice and the Health Law Society

## 2011

December: 14th World Conference on Human Reproduction

Melbourne, Australia

Plenary Speaker, Merck Serono Symposia and Donor Linking Symposium

October: Single Mothers by Choice 30th Anniversary Gala

NYC, NY

April 2011 and August 2012: Embryo Adoption Awareness Center

Webinars

April: 2nd International Congress on Controversies in Cryopreservation of Stem Cells (CRYO Conference)

Valencia, Spain

Reproductive Cells, Tissue & Organs: Two abstracts presented: [The Case for Comprehensive Medical and Genetic Testing of Gamete Donors](#), presented in the session "Ethics and Social Consequences of Electively Deferring Motherhood through Oocyte Cryopreservation" and [Semen donors who are open to contact with their offspring](#) (poster)

January: Fertility 2011

Dublin, Ireland

British Fertility Society, et al. Two abstracts: "Anonymity, disclosure, and contact with donors: How experiences of donor-conceived offspring vary by family type" and "Semen donors who are open to contact with their offspring"

## **2010**

November: National Council on Family Relations  
Minneapolis, MN

October: ASRM Conference  
Denver, CO

Two abstracts: "Anonymity, disclosure, and contact with donors: How experiences of donor-conceived offspring vary by family type" and "Semen donors who are open to contact with their offspring"

July: Genetics and Society Meeting  
Tarrytown, NY

April: Asia Pacific Initiative on Reproduction (ASPIRE) Conference  
Bangkok, Thailand

Two presentations: "A Survey of 164 Sperm Donor"s and "The Case for Comprehensive Medical and Genetic Testing of Gamete Donors"

March: University of Denver  
Denver, CO

Sturm College of Law, Motherhood Conference

February: L.A. Gay and Lesbian Center  
Los Angeles, CA

January: Fertility 2010, British Fertility Society  
Bristol, UK

The Case for Comprehensive Medical and Genetic Testing of Gamete Donors

## **2009**

June: European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology (ESHRE) Conference  
Amsterdam, The Netherlands

US oocyte donors: a retrospective study of medical and psychosocial issues

January: Fertility 2009, British Fertility Society  
Edinburgh, Scotland

[US oocyte donors: a retrospective study of medical and psychosocial issues](#)

## **2008**

October: Infertility Network  
Toronto, Canada

Ethics and Gamete Donation

March: DePaul University College of Law  
Chicago, IL

[Symposium: Tracking Change](#)

## **2007**

March: Association of Health Care Journalists  
Los Angeles, CA

**2006**

July: Association of Managers of Gynecology & Obstetrics  
Denver, CO

**2005**

October: Infertility Network Symposium on Donor Conception  
Toronto, Canada