**After Pregnancy: What are the needs, rights and issues of donor conceived people?**

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**Donor Sibling Registry**

Since September of 2000, the Donor Sibling Registry (DSR) has brought immense joy to more than 11,400 donor offspring that have been able to learn about their medical backgrounds, and come to understand their ancestry through connecting with their donors and their half siblings. In addition, the DSR has helped to eliminate much of the stigma associated with being a gamete donor or a donor conceived person.

Behind the scenes, but very actively, the DSR’s research, education, and counseling services have been instrumental in creating momentum towards establishing positive reforms in the egg donor and sperm banking industries. It's not just about getting pregnant. We must start asking: “What is in the best interest of the child to be born?” Is it fair to bring a child into the world who will have no access to one half of their ancestry, medical history and genetic background?

The DSR's published research on offspring, donors and parents, reveals that donor-conceived people overwhelmingly want to know specific details about their origins. The published research on 751 donor offspring revealed the need to address two distinct aspects of the donor system. First, when should children find out that their parents used donor sperm or eggs? And second, should children have the right to be curious about, and seek to connect with their first degree genetic relatives? The majority of the respondents believed that early disclosure was important. More than three- quarters recommended that only known or willing to be known donors should be used. Most donor-conceived participants were very interested in learning more about the donor and any half-siblings who were conceived through use of the same donor. All research showed the need for more openness in the donor world. In the 14 years of it’s operation, almost 44,000 gamete donors, offspring and recipients around the world have registered, seeking to find those with whom they share genetic ties.

We will explain how the DSR has so successfully helped so many of those whose lives have been affected by donor insemination find the answers they were searching for. It's important for clinicians to hear about what happens to families after infertility, and after finally achieving pregnancy with a gamete donor. With both anecdotal information, and data from surveys and published papers, We will focus on donor offspring, their parents, and the donors in the areas of disclosure, reasons for searching, contact with half siblings and/or donors, and what advise donors, parents and offspring give on redefining this new phenomenon of expanding family via the DSR.