

**CRYOS INTERNATIONAL (DENMARK)
SCANDINAVIAN CRYOBANK (U.S.)**

7/2016	DSR Facebook Group
<p>My partner and I attended Fertility First clinic in Sydney. We conceived our children with sperm from Cryos International (Denmark) in 2003. We registered our details on DSR in 2005 so that we could connect with genetic offspring or donor should they ever come forward. In 2007 we contacted Cryos to see if any of the same donors sperm was available and were told No and given no other information. I did some online research and found that our donor was listed as a blocked donor and also that he started donating in 1990's, filled his quota and was being given to other international banks. Concerned for my own children's health/future health issues- I contacted Cryos with this information many times and they never responded so I contacted the Sundhedsstyrelsen/ Danish Health and Medicines Authority, who confirmed he was a blocked donor and gave me the form from Cryos but with the actual diagnosis blacked out. Obviously no help.</p> <p>I then contacted Fertility First, our Australian clinic who were extremely helpful. They had no notifications regarding the donor and looked into this further. They confirmed my findings that the donor had offspring with a notifiable health disease and was able to let the Australian families that may be affected. This gave the other families here a chance to tested. It was a serious autosomal recessive disease and this information should have been given to everyone who had used this donor's sperm and himself.</p> <p>I'm concerned that if I share this information there may be some negative or legal effects. I'm concerned with the health impacts to donor offspring and their families. I have no malice to the donor or our clinic here in Australia, just the whole process with Cryos being secretive and withholding vital health information regarding their donors. Also that this isn't an isolated case.</p>	

6/9/12	http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/15190
<p>I have been reading about Cryos, the Danish sperm bank, and on their web site it stands "in 2003 the branch in Seattle, Scandinavian Cryobank was shut down after the managing director Peter Bower, Ph.d was trapped in serious fraud. The branch was reopened in New York later the same year."</p> <p>...</p> <p>[In response:] It appears as if Peter Bower is now the head of Nordic Cryobank aka European Sperm Bank, which seems to be a different bank than Cryos International. It would appear that Cryos wants the world to know that he did not leave them on the best of terms, one might say.</p>	

6/12	Email to Wendy Kramer
<p>Dear Wendy! Today it came to my knowledge that Cryos and Xytex cooperated in early 2000. Cryos bought sperm from Xytex and gave the donors new numbers.</p> <p>One example that is established is that Xytex donor #### and Cryos #### is the same donor.</p> <p>As there are more donors (at least Cryos ####-####) that are not Danish/Scandinavian I suspect that there are more than one donor sold in Scandinavia under a new number.</p>	

4/7/11	http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/14098
<p>I have just had contact from Cryos stating: ' a donor registers as either anonymous or non-anonymous right from the start and this can never be changed as soon as his first sample has been released. So donors will never be able to change to non-anonymous as it would be against the law.'</p>	

7/14/10	http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/13380
<p>I know that Cryos does have some id release donors now. BUT please think carefully from the point of view of a future child before using them. Your child will have to cope with knowing that the donor is from another country & that may cause all sorts of problems in trying to get any information. What happens if your child asks questions about the donor that you cannot answer? It's not going to be a matter of picking up the phone & chatting to your clinic about it or visiting them and asking questions. The Cryos donor may be id release but they don;t have the legislation that some state of Australia have whereby information will be stored on a register.</p> <p>Also Cryos uses each donor for 25 births before his sperm is released for overseas countries and then as far as I have been able to find out there is no limit on the number of births around the world. One of my children has 18 half siblings and that is hard enough for them to cope with. I know that some clinics in Australia do not do any advertising for donors and that is why they have shortages but some do and so have a reasonable supply. I would suggest, if you are able, to look at other clinics so that you can get an Australian donor.</p>	

3/1/10	http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/13017
<p>Ole Schou, the director of Cryos Internation, is WRONG when he claims "..but the fact is that it is wrong to search for a donor who claimed anonymity," The 'donor' conceived did not agree to anonymity. It could equally be argued that not only is anonymity wrong but so is the practice of intentional disconnects from meaningful relationships (i.e. gamete donating/trading as a practice). It's a matter of opinion.</p>	

3/1/10	Full article: http://www.slate.com/id/2243743/pagenum/all/#add-comment
<p>Are Sperm Donors Really Anonymous Anymore? DNA testing makes them easy to trace. By Rachel Lehmann-Haupt ... Some sperm banks are changing their policies for fear that anonymous donors might withdraw from the program and hurt their bottom line. Cryos International, a sperm bank based in Copenhagen, Denmark, that claims to be the largest bank in the world, has started to offer a new program that it's dubbing "Invisible Donors." It's a system where donors can offer very few registered characteristics so they will be more difficult to track, and the bank keeps track of them by fingerprints instead of donor number.</p> <p>"I'm fully aware of the future child's needs, and I fully understand and support children who will search for their donor [and] half-siblings, but the fact is that it is wrong to search for a donor who claimed anonymity," says Ole Schou, the director of Cryos International.</p>	

10/10/08	http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/11254
<p>Re: Shame on Cryos International Not to mention, this prohibits all parties from sharing important genetic and medical information with each other. Whose best interests are they serving? Certainly not the families and donors who wish to connect. Yes, shame on them.</p>	

10/10/08	http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/11252
<p>Shame on Cryos International Today I read a horrible article about Cryos International. The manager Mr Ole Schou in Denmark has now stopped to inform the donors at Cryos what donor numbers they have. The reason is the DSR. He wants to make it impossible for donors to connect with their biological children. The article that I have tried to translate (I am not Danish myself...) is about a 14 year old danish girl who wants to find her father. ps If you have an old donor list from Cryos I/Scandinavian Cryo Bank please help Ina as the fertility clinic that her mother used refuses to help her. Neither will Cryos as they only support clinics.</p>	

Original articles/program in danish newspaper/television;

<http://www.kristeligt-dagblad.dk/artikel/300338:Etik--Paa-jagt-efter-donor-137>

<http://www.kristeligt-dagblad.dk/artikel/300300:Etik--Donorboern-leder-efter-soeskende-og-faedre>

<http://www.dr.dk/nettv/update>

see also

On the U.S. site Donor Sibling Registry more than 20,000 people currently is seeking the man who donated seed for their children or their biological father. In the typical situation, there are parents who have had a child with donor semen and are now looking for other children who have received semen from the same donor, and thus are genetically half siblings. Others are adults, donor children, who are looking for their donor father - and part of these inquires come from Denmark.

“It is a very unfortunate development and an international community problem. That means we have to take our precautions and make anonymous donations even more anonymous,” said Ole Schou, who is director of the world’s largest sperm bank, Cryos in Aarhus.

On the U.S. site users usually uses donor number to seek the donor or any half sibling. Therefore, Cryos now has stopped to inform donors about their numbers - so if they are sought, they do not know they are the one who people look for.

“It is a pity, because the trend now is that recipients would like to have as many details on appearance, background and training as possible, but now we are instead forced to go the other way and make things more foggy,” said Ole Schou.

One of those who seek her father is 14-year-old Ina Rosdal from Skagen. Her father was a Cryos donor, and she has only his donor number.

“I find it strange that we donor children are completely without rights, as opposed to adopted children, who can trace their biological parents. I find it sad that the law is such that the ability to trace my genetic property is taken away from me, she says, she wants to know what her biological father looks like, and what he is interested in.

Search Services that are working to trace relatives, typically put up for adoption, predicts that the future awaits big challenges when donor children in large numbers will seek their genetic fathers. In Netdetektiverne (Net detectives) has already received the first inquiry - and had to give up.

“We tried in every way, but there was nothing to do. Some cases can not be solved. I think there will be more who need to see a picture of their father or hear about his temperament. But the possibility is the cut off,” says project leader Kim Henrik Larsen.

Michael Loft Nielsen believes that as well. He is president of "Association of donor children and parents." (Denmark)

“One can imagine that there will be more cases in a few years, where some children will seek their donor fathers,” he said.

But the children - and especially their social parents – should stay away from this,” said Ole Schou from Cryos.

“It is immoral that women who at the time, has agreed to an anonymous donor, begins to advertise for him.

What the children are concerned, you need to tell them that it is a disability they must live with. The conditions under which they are here.”

Each year around 400 Danish children are born to the world as a result of sperm from an anonymous donor.

10/5/08

Full Article:

http://women.timesonline.co.uk/tol/life_and_style/women/families/article4882321.ece

(Note the comments from the Cryos sperm bank director at the end. We have more than 12 matched people from his bank in Denmark.)

From **The Sunday Times**

October 5, 2008

Our boys share a sperm-donor father

A British mother has found her son has a half-brother at the other end of Europe

Sarah-Kate Templeton

They were born 1,000 miles apart, in Britain and Finland. Now two four-year-old boys have discovered they share a sperm-donor father.

When Sally, 43, gave birth to her son Alex, she knew only that his father was Danish and was a good footballer with blue eyes and a talent for jazz piano. He was identified by the alias "Jens" and by his sperm sample number, 3001, from the Cryos clinic in Denmark.

Alex has become the first British child to be put in touch with a half-brother or half-sister by a US-based website, the Donor Sibling Registry.

After posting details on the site, Sally was contacted by Riikka Turunen, a graphic designer from Helsinki, Finland. Turunen had used sperm from the same donor to conceive her baby boy, Kasper, who was born in August 2004, just six weeks after Alex. The mothers now regularly chat by e-mail and swap photographs of the boys, and they are planning to meet.

The case raises questions in Britain about whether children should have the right from birth to know they have been conceived with donor eggs or sperm and to be told the identity of their genetic parents.

Children born since April 1, 2005, are entitled to be told the identities of their genetic parents when they reach the age of 18, although, unless their parents tell them they were conceived with donor sperm they would remain ignorant of their origins. The rule also applies to foreign sperm used in British clinics.

Alex was born in Warwick before the law came into force, and recipients of donated sperm such as Sally have no right to know who the donor is.

Peers including Lord Alton, who campaigns on fertility issues, and Baroness Deech, former chairwoman of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority, have called on the government to require birth certificates to state when a child has been conceived via a donor.

Sally, a marketing manager who does not wish to disclose her surname, set out to trace her son's brothers and sisters through the Donor Sibling Registry website because she wanted Alex to know more about his genetic background.

Fourteen British children conceived via donors have so far contacted each other through the registry and 111 British families are using it to look for relations.

Sally, who has dual British and Australian nationality and has moved to Melbourne, said: "Out of the blue, I got an e-mail from this person in Finland saying, 'I have just noticed your information on the website. Are you absolutely sure your donor was number 3001 from Cryos because we have a son born from the same donor?'"

Satu Sorjonen, 44, Turunen's civil partner, who helps to raise Kasper, said: "We read in a newspaper about the registry and we were curious to see if we could find any matches. It was a nice surprise. My first thought was, 'I hope he is not someone we already know', because that would have been quite awkward, but it was very nice to find Sally and Alex."

Sally underwent fertility treatment, using donated sperm, at the private Midland Fertility Services clinic at the age of 38.

Gillian Lockwood, medical director of the Midland clinic, believes the rules in Britain should change so children can be told the identity of their donor parent before they are 18.

Although Sally was living in Britain, she bought the sperm through the US office of the Danish sperm bank, because more details of the donor could be disclosed in America.

"If my son became a good pianist, I could say: 'You get that from your donor father.' I wanted to be forearmed," she said. Sally has examined photographs of her son's half-brother for traits inherited from their father. "I think there are similarities in the mouth and chin," she added.

The two families are considering meeting in four years, when the boys will be eight. Sally insists, however, it will be up to the boys how much contact they have with their half-brothers. "Alex is interested in football and I told him his donor father was good at it. I am also introducing him to more about Kasper," she said.

Sally believes that, with the information she has, and with the help of friends in Denmark, she could identify "Jens". She would not, however, invade his privacy if he did not wish to be contacted. Danish donors still have the right to remain anonymous.

Ole Schou, founder of Cryos, warned that if other families were less willing to respect the anonymity of genetic parents, this could deter potential donors. "I can see a big problem if this continues," said Schou. "The donors maybe will find themselves on the internet.

"If five or six characteristics are listed, there will be only one donor in the world who will match this information. These donors may be trying to protect their own families.

"We need to deal with this or we will lose donors."

8/22/08 | Full article: <http://www.bionews.org.uk/new.lasso?storyid=3949>

US BAN ON EUROPEAN SPERM

Health officials in the US have placed a ban on imports of sperm from European men to protect Americans from the human form of mad cow disease. Stores of European sperm are now running out, causing problems for women wishing to use them.

Before the ban, the use of sperm from Nordic donors in particular had grown in popularity. Companies such as California Cryobank in Los Angeles and Cryos International in New York City imported sperm from Denmark for which there was a huge demand, largely due to the donors' blue eyes, blond hair, and their tendency to be tall and well educated.

Since the ban, put in place in May 2005 by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), sperm banks are no longer allowed to import sperm from Europe for fear it might spread the fatal and incurable human form of mad cow disease, Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD). The ban was one of a number of restrictions the US government put in place after the spread of mad cow disease in Europe in the late 1990s. Other measures included banning people who lived in the UK for more than three months between 1980 and 1996 from giving blood. The disease, in rare cases, is spread from cow to human by eating meat from infected animals, and has also been known to spread from using contaminated surgical equipment and transplanted tissue, such as corneas. There are, however, no known cases of infection from sperm and scientists say that, although it is theoretically possible, the risk is insignificant.

Soon, the last few vials of European sperm imported before the embargo will be gone. Many women, who used this sperm before and now wish to have another baby using the same donor, are having to pay thousands of pounds to travel to Europe for insemination. Other women are travelling to Canada or Mexico, or even haggling with other women who have leftover vials. In response to the uproar, Nordic Cryobank has filed a petition asking the FDA to lift the restrictions.

5/10/08 | Email to Wendy Kramer

Last summer I know people been struggling (I was one of them) with Storkklinik in Denmark and Cryos International trying to get their donor id. Finally Storkklinik gave up their policy and decided to give everybody who wants the donor id but they have not put in down on there homepage so there are many people all around Scandinavia who have used Storkklinik who do not have a clue about the whole thing. People here in Scandinavia don't even know which sperm bank their donor belongs to so they can not exactly call their sperm bank.

3/7/08 | http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/4471

Although sperm bank responsiveness pre pregnancy is important, I sure hope that no one is choosing a sperm bank before they hear about post pregnancy responsiveness. Particularly how they deal with updating of donor and family medical information, how they then share this information, how they track how many births there are for any given donor, and how they deal with donor conceived people who become curious and want to have mutual consent contact with their biological family.

Most sperm banks I know are very attentive pre pregnancy. Once they have received their money, and helped with a pregnancy, it can be a completely different story. At this point, few even tell their clients about the DSR (only 1.5% of DSR members are sent from sperm bank recommendations).

2/1/08 | <http://www.spiegel.de/international/europe/o,1518,532388,00.html>

February 01, 2008

STUDENTS OF AARHUS BREATHE RELIEF

Danish Sperm Bank Deposits to Remain Tax-Free and Anonymous

By Daryl Lindsey

For a while, it seemed the stream of male students visiting the Cryos sperm bank in Aarhus, Denmark might dry up. But a recent decision by the Danish Tax Ministry means that donors can remain anonymous and won't be forced to report their earnings to the tax man.

For the better part of two decades, young men could step into the offices of Denmark's largest sperm bank in Aarhus and make a deposit. For their trouble, and depending on the quality and quantity of his semen, the average Lars, Anders or Niels could earn anywhere from 267 to 500 crowns (≈36 to ≈67) for a few minutes of his trouble. A perfect way for a cash-strapped student to earn book money.

It was also, the government thought, a great way for the state to earn a bit of extra money. In 2004, the Danish

Tax Ministry began an offensive that threatened to tax sperm donors -- thereby eliminating anonymity and endangering the supply of donors coming through the doors. Indeed, it is only now, after long negotiations with the government and a decision by the Tax Ministry to allow donors to remain anonymous that Cryos International, one of the world's leading sperm banks, can breathe a sigh of relief.

"We started giving out a questionnaire," Cryos CEO Ole Schou told SPIEGEL ONLINE, "and it turned out that only 7 percent would continue (to donate) if they had to register. People just didn't want to give up their anonymity. It sent us a strong signal that if the Tax Office succeeded with its policy, we were going to have major problems. We probably would have had to close down in Denmark."

The problems started when Tax Ministry officials decided that donating sperm should be considered the same as any other taxable labor -- no different from pulling a pint or working as a soda jerk. But the reporting requirement would have required donors to register by name. Furthermore, for students, who make up the bulk of sperm donors in Denmark, reporting those earnings might have meant a loss of student loans and other subsidies.

Schou says the intense media coverage of the tax office strife contributed to a significant drop in sperm donors at his Aarhus bank in 2006. When the maelstrom calmed in 2007, though, Danes started lining up again.

And late in December, the media reported this week, the Tax Ministry partially backed down, saying the country's sperm banks could continue their practice of accepting anonymous donations. Although fees paid by sperm banks in Denmark to donors had always been tax deductible, in 2004 the Tax Office moved to force banks to report the names of donors who had received the payments. The Tax Office has now dropped that requirement. Technically, sperm donors are required to claim such payments on their taxes, but the new system relies on good-faith and has no controls in place to conduct witch hunts of sperm donors who don't declare their earnings.

A Global Leader in Sperm Banking

Under new European Union regulations issued in April 2007, member states are required to register sperm donations, but there are no rules regarding anonymity. In Denmark, anonymous donations are permitted under what Schou describes as a "politically responsible" policies that ensure a steady supply of sperm donors and prevent the creation of black markets or the promotion of "fertility tourism" to other countries. Britain two years ago passed a law requiring the disclosure upon request of donors once the children conceived with their sperm came of age. Other European countries have also imposed similar or more limited restrictions on anonymity, including Sweden, Norway, Finland, the Netherlands and Austria.

In its 20 years in business, Cryos has become an international force -- selling its Danish sperm around the world and helping around 15,000 women to become pregnant, Schou says. The Danish English weekly Copenhagen Post has even described it as "one of the country's great export success stories of the last decade." That accomplishment even earned Cryos headlines in the English-language press -- most, of course, based on caricatures of Scandinavia: "Vikings' test tube invasion," "The Vikings Are Back for Britain's Women," or "Tall, Blond and Danish?"

But Schou, who is not a doctor and has a business degree -- downplays the blond-hair, blue-eye factor. Indeed, the Cryos homepage shows a quartet of babies representing a handful of ethnicities. "It's actually a problem for us that we can only supply donors from Denmark who are blond-haired and blue-eyed," he says, "but we have to take what we get, and about 90 percent of the Danish population is blond. But we also have a few brown-eyed donors."

Cryos, though, is expanding internationally, and it soon hopes to offer a bank of 1,500 sperm donations a year from offices in different parts of the world, including a new branch in New York. Schou is banking on the fact that Cryos will soon have a bigger gene pool to sell.

12/1/05

http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/1189

Re:My donor is a murderer!

Thx for posting this. It was so outrageous that I did an internet search to verify this, it appears that this story ran in London's Daily Telegraph and another source. Cd folks who reference news articles indicate the papers where you got the article from in the future?

I also looked at the Cryos site and this story and that site raises a host of issues about the sort of consumers sperm donor purchasers are. There is, for example, a special link for prospective US customers and I'm thinking, why on earth wd an American use a sperm bank in a foreign country, especially one that offers the same (and apparently even worse assurances) than ones here in the US. Then the issue of designer babies comes up. And as horrible as the discovery of a mentally ill double child murderer being allowed to donate

sperm, one wonders if these parents are deserving of sympathy --- a woman who is so shallow to only want a tall blonde blue eyed donor, without thinking about the best needs of her future child (who I am sure cd care less about having that as an origin, at least initially). Its an odd irony, going to Denmark for what you think is a "master race child" only to have this happen, not unlike people who travel around the world to adopt even though there are plenty of American children here, only to find that those kids DO want to learn about their birth heritage and, in the case of Chinese girls, their race and ethnicity. Troubling all around.

12/1/05 | http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/1183

How long is it going to be before we have a Sperm Bank ratings site giving those searching for the right sperm bank the information that they need and should know about the sperm banks that they are using. For goodness sake - it's the most important decision we ever make but what do we base it on - fancy websites and sales pitches.

I would have wanted to know that California Cryobank deliberately deleted negative medical information about its donors. That an east coast sperm bank failed to return phone calls made by a donor who found out that he was a carrier for Huntingtons and kept selling his sperm. That Cryos had a double murderer as a donor. That certain sperm banks routinely lie about looks, qualifications and SAT scores.

12/1/05 | http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/1182

I have posted previously about a US Sperm bank that might have used a known paedophile as a donor, but I recently uncovered much worse.

Cryos which I believe trades under the name "Scandinavian Cryobank" in the USA had a double murderer as a donor.

Cryos is also a large bulk supplier of sperm to Scottish clinics. Here's the article:

The world's biggest sperm bank has been forced to start screening all donors for any criminal record after it emerged that a man who killed his two baby daughters had been on its books.

Horrified parents who gave birth after receiving semen from the Cryos International Sperm Bank in Aarhus, Denmark, have flooded it with calls seeking reassurance that Heine Nielsen was not the father of their child. Nielsen, 32, who received \$A54 a time to give samples, was sentenced to life in a secure psychiatric unit last week for the murder of his three-week-old daughter in January. A check on his criminal record would have revealed that he had been found guilty 10 years ago of murdering his first child, an eight- week-old girl. He served six years in prison for the killing. Cryos has told anxious parents that none of the samples provided by Nielsen had been sent out, as he failed to attend the second of three compulsory psychological profiles. It has denied claims by Nielsen's relatives that he donated sperm twice a week for at least a year. The head consultant at Cryos, Erich Ernst, said: "He provided only 12 samples, according to our records, but none of these was used because he did not complete the testing process. Only about 9 per cent of the applicants ever make it to the final stages, so this is quite normal. "Nonetheless, future Cryos donors will be required to provide a police certificate confirming they do not have criminal records. "We have contacted the Danish Health Ministry and have heard that it is within the law to ask our donors about any possible criminal convictions," Mr Ernst said. "We can insist someone has a clean record before we allow them to apply."

The sperm bank has more than 200 donors on its books, distributing almost 10,000 units of sperm each year. It supplies 35 infertility clinics across Europe, resulting in more than 1000 pregnancies every year. The furor has prompted a fresh debate about whether laws should be introduced requiring would-be donors to face criminal checks as well as psychological tests and medical screening.

The Danish Health Ministry said donors did not require a clean record as "there is no evidence that a tendency towards criminal behaviour can be inherited".

Nielsen's mother, who has not been named, said he enrolled as a sperm donor to earn extra money. "He was at the sperm bank several times every week . . . in 2000. I did not like it - he was sick, mentally sick, and it did not seem right," she said.

2/16/05 | <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/4160>

I was at an Infertility Network Conference in Toronto a few years ago and met David Towles from Xytex in Georgia. We were staying in the same B&B and I watched him unload tanks from his van that he was delivering

to ReproMed. During the quarantine of Canadian donor sperm a while ago, clinics were regularly receiving sperm from Xytex and other places like CCB and the Sperm Bank of California. Cryos in Denmark is shipping worldwide and setting up clinics in the US. It's like the second Viking invasion. When the directors of the UC Irvine clinic fled the country out of fear of fraud charges for using embryos contrary to their owners' wishes, most of their unclaimed embryos were delivered to Cappy Rothman at CCB, who apparently is justing storing them in limbo.

Donor Michael Beany wrote, in a semi-autobiographical novel "Children of Eden," about donating at three different clinics at the same time in London during the sixties. These clinics compete with each other so I doubt they share their databases about their donors. Since the counts and quality drop with too frequent donations, I doubt this happens much or the donors would not be acceptable. Nothing theoretically stops a retired donor from donating under another ID number at another clinic after he reaches his first clinic's limit (those that have such limits). I remember an interview several years ago with a Canadian RE who said that he didn't have the resources to check out a donor's background or medical history. As he said, he was not "the morality police."

All this demonstrates the need for consistent regulation of this business/profession on an international level.