

CRYOBIOLOGY

4/11/2018 DSR Facebook Group

I received an email today from the birth mother of one of my offspring, a first! What a thrill! She chose me as a donor 25 or so years ago because I indicated that I would be open to contact. When her son was 16, he was diagnosed with MS. They learned there was a genetic link. She contacted the center and was told they were not allowed to contact me and would not give her any info. They even denied having a sperm donor program. She finally convinced them to send her the original information she had received to choose a donor. It was like a big secret they did not want her to know. I was never contacted by the clinic, even though I had provided them with updated contact info over the years!

9/7/15 DSR Facebook Group

My daughter is now 18. She would very much like more information on her donor dad (no judgment please our term). After reading the article about the Australia donors meeting their offspring after they changed their law I got curious about changes at my own clinic (Cryobiology). I was disheartened to read the following on their website. " Donor Anonymity: The maintenance of donor anonymity is essential to the availability and quality of donors. There are those who believe that the identity of all donors should be known, and such disclosure is, in fact, required in a number of countries such as the United Kingdom and Australia. But the consequence of this requirement has been a severe shortage of donors in those countries, since most donors do not want to be known. However, the industry is sensitive to the desire by some for "known" donors as an alternative to anonymous donors. Consequently, now most of the major sperm banks offer donors who have agreed to have their identities disclosed to their offspring at age eighteen. Interestingly, known donors are not selected disproportionately more than anonymous donors. Since it is clear that many want their donors to remain anonymous, sperm banks do not think it is wise to destroy the anonymous status for ALL donors. To do so would breach the contracts and representations made to donors and to those who selected an anonymous donor, and eliminate for a large segment of potential users of sperm donors, the much wanted option to select a forever anonymous donor." I have a message for them. The reason people are choosing anonymous donors is because they are uninformed. Just like I was 18 years ago when my concern was removing any potential that someone could decide I was unfit to parent as a single mother by choice. I have also spoken to many a lesbian couples who went into this with this same fear. Instead of happily allowing us to make a choice that will harm our future children you should be giving us information about the feelings of other donor conceived children. You should be reassuring us that agreeing to contact does not in any way give the donor any rights to the child. You should be educating potential donors on the needs of their future offspring. You should be talking about the agreement to contact can be on their terms. That sharing medical information can be lifesaving for everyone involved and that contact in no way makes them financially responsible for their offspring. Its time to wake up America.

8/4/08 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/10954>

A member recently wrote to ask about Fairfax Cryobank and which other clinics they have bought up or sold sperm for. Here is the information that we've collected about who shares/sells/buys sperm: -All Cryobiology of OH start with CB, PC, or LX, depending on if the donor donated at Cryobiology (the CB numbers), or one of its satellite banks: LaCrosse (WI) Cryobank which opened in 2005 (the LX numbers), or Pittsburgh (PA) Cryobank which opened in 1996 (the PC numbers).

9/14/07 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/8915>

Regarding availability of open/willing to be known vs. anonymous donors: My experience is very recent. I began working with a fertility clinic in February and am now eight weeks pregnant. The fertility clinic is large and reputable, and I trusted their choice of sperm banks. They work with four, including California Cryobank (CCB), Cryobiology, Cryogenic Labs, and Pacific Reproductive Services. Of these, CCB had a substantial number of open donors - maybe 25% of their large inventory. Even so, I had to get permission from the clinic to waive a medical concern - CMV status - to allow me to find a donor who was open and of the race that I wanted. Had my clinic not been willing to allow me to use a CMV-positive donor (I am negative), I would have been forced to choose between the donor's race and whether he was willing to be known. Race and openness are both choices that have a potentially huge impact on a child's life. It would have been very difficult to choose between the two. And CCB is one of the largest sperm banks around, with one of the largest inventories. As for the other three banks, Cryobiology had just eight open donors. This was not indicated in their catalogue; I had to e-mail them to find out. Cryogenic, like CCB, had a substantial number of open donors, as did Pacific Reproductive Services, and I imagine that my selection at those banks would have been similar to my options at CCB. About 80% of the population is CMV positive, so if my fertility clinic had been unwilling to allow me to use a CMV+ donor, I would probably have been similarly limited in my donor options at those banks, as I would have been at CCB. I was lucky enough to have a fair selection of open donors, though there were significant constraints within that selection. In addition, open donor programs appeared to be new, and one bank didn't have much of a program to speak of. I live in a large, liberal metropolitan area and had my choice of several fertility clinics, two of which are quite large. The clinic that I did work with used four sperm banks, so I had a range of options there as well. However, if I lived in a smaller, more conservative city, my options for fertility clinics, and thus sperm banks, might have been much more limited. And if I were doing this five or 10 years ago, my options might have been more limited still.

7/6/07 http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/3482

I didn't think about reporting to the bank (Cryobiology) since every thing was done through my RE. When I called this year to try to get missing pages from my donor profile I asked if they knew how many pregnancies had been reported. They told me that 10 had been reported but that that number was probably not accurate as many people don't report. They added me to the list at that point. (I only knew to even ask because of this group so thanks everyone). So for those of you who didn't self report you could still do that which will help other people get accurate answers to that question. If you went through a clinic or RE I would ask them first if it is their practice to report back to the bank so they don't get duplicate reporting. I think this is another area that seems to be getting better now than it was 10 years ago. Lets hope that the banks are getting the message that they are a service industry, and we are talking. Either they do a better job of information sharing and giving us what we need or soon they could be hurting for clients. If we do get some kind of rating system going that will be an awesome step forward. I feel really good that we may be able to gently force some positive changes in this industry without stomping it out. There is tremendous power in what we are doing here. Remember that old saying that if you are happy with service you will tell one or two people and if you are unhappy you will tell ten. This reminds business how much damage an unhappy customer can do to their reputation. Here we have the potential to reach many more.

7/6/06 http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/3478

I don't think that they really know. I used a local medical facility (donor insemination clinic) who only used Cryobiology. They only verified a pregnancy because I went back for a blood test to determine pregnancy and appropriate hcg levels. That was it. I went to my ob/gyn thereafter. No one asked me to report the pregnancy to the sperm bank and there was nothing (that I can remember) in my paperwork that said the information would be reported. I was pregnant 3 times total with the same donor. I miscarried 2 of them and had a full term baby just recently. In a way I

did report the pregnancy myself when I called to ask just how many pregnancies there were from the donor. But that was when I was well on my way through a healthy pregnancy. So who's job is it to report the pregnancy? Mine or the hospital? What gets reported, all pregnancies or just the full term ones?

7/3/07 http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/3428

We used them also when we lived in Nashville Tennessee. We have two wonderful boys and it all worked out well. 7/3/07 http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/3426 I don't know if I have any real questions for now. I think that I just needed to make a connection with someone who has used them. (Seeing how I haven't yet made a donor/sibling connection). In the midst of emails swirling around about less than honest sperm banks it's good to know that others have the same impression...that Cryobio is reliable and safe. The company was nothing more to me than a catalog from which I chose my donor. My selections were limited but I will use them again in the near future. I have a beautiful 7 week old boy and have no negative issues concerning them.

7/3/07 http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/3421

My partner and I both used them, mainly because it's local for us. We could go right to the door and pick up our frozen "sample" and take it home. They were very helpful and friendly, in our experience. We have six kids together - including a set of quadruplets. 7/3/07 http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/3418 I used Cryobiology in Ohio for the same reason. My fertility center only used that bank. They told me at that time it was because it was the most reliable and safest. I used CAR in Bedford, TX.