EUROPEAN SPERM BANK OF SEATTLE (ESB)  
SEATTLE SPERM BANK

9/15/17 Private Correspondence and the DSR’s Facebook

“...families in the US, Australia and Europe were given different pictures and the 3 families in Europe were not given the full profile.”

And 3 comments from Facebook on the same day:
“ I connected with a fellow woman who used the same donor in Canada and she was given an adult picture of the donor and I was not here on the state's. When I called the bank and asked why they were very upset that the woman in Canada had shared it with me. “

“I used European Sperm Bank (called SSB in US) and I only got a baby photo and later got the adult photo from one of the Canadian families.”

“My group too! I got just a baby photo and a Canadian mom got an adult photo! “

"...the rep I knew and worked with soured when I told him I found our donor -who's profile was FILLED with identifying info. They also don't seem to like it when we talk. I met two moms from the DSR that were NEVER invited to the connects site; until I insisted they reach out. The initial response I got was "we can't make people join" I told them they "could try inviting them all“"

8/8/12 http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/enforcement/enforce_rpt-Event- 
Detail.cfm?action=detail&id=61075&w=08082012&lang=eng

FDA Warning Letter to Seattle Sperm Bank:
26 Donors recalled. Reason: Human semen, collected from donors that did not have repeat physical exam within 6 months prior to donation, was distributed.

10/16/11 http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/14655

I have had very good experiences with them, within the last year. It was nice talking to the same person each time (Angelo, who took orders and was really accommodating) and being able to email instead of call -- a different experience from CCB. It seems you get the benefit of small-company personal attention, but with access to a large catalog.

Note both ESB has two separate catalogs, one for ESB-USA and one for ESB-Europe. For a while, they were allowing you to order donors from the European catalog (with waivers from your physician about mad cow disease), but that might not be the case anymore. I had to do that to get a sibling match for a donor I had bought at CCB prior to the FDA ban.

When ordering from the European catalog at least, you had to plan somewhat in advance. There's a schedule where they send a bunch of vials from Europe to Seattle, then the container comes back with other vials. Angelo was very helpful to me in trying to make sure I got my orders in time to make the container. If you see a donor on the USA catalog with limited vials, you might check if he is cross-listed with the European catalog, how many vials are available there, and find out the timing.

I doubt there are any banks that have adult photos. Sometimes you’ll see particular comments in the staff impressions, and you can check the facial features profile. Also remember it's a mixing of genes and somewhat of a crap shoot. One of my son’s half-siblings looks amazingly like him (and a girl at that!), but the similarity isn’t so strong with the others.


FDA Warning Letter to Seattle Sperm Bank:
- Failure to determine as ineligible, a donor who has risk factors for, or clinical evidence of, relevant communicable disease agents or diseases
- Failure to determine as ineligible, a donor whose specimen tested reactive on a screening test for a communicable disease agent
- Failure to screen a donor of reproductive cells or tissue by reviewing the donor's relevant medical records for risk factors for, and clinical evidence of, relevant communicable disease agents and diseases
- Failure to perform a complete donor screening procedure within the previous six months on a living donor who was permitted to donate using an abbreviated donor screening procedure
- Failure to design procedures to ensure compliance with donor eligibility requirements

2/3/2014:
Letter from sperm Bank:

Hi Wendy,

As you know, Seattle Sperm Bank (European Sperm Bank USA) received a warning letter from the FDA back in July of 2011, and you posted it on your website.

There were no health issues resulting from the lack of regulatory compliance, and we have since instituted a rigorous compliance program including bi-annual audits by Marty Wells and her team at Reglera.

We have had several routine FDA inspections since the warning letter (the most recent in August 2013), and are in full compliance and in good standing with both the FDA and CLIA.

Given the length of time that has passed, I would appreciate it, if you would take down this stale letter from your website.

If you have any questions, I'd be happy to schedule a call with you to answer them.

My best regards to you,

Greg.
Seattle Sperm Bank / European Sperm Bank USA