

FOLLAS (GENOME RESOURCES)

10/1/08

<http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/11216>

The Director from GIVF Cryobanks (Fairfax Cryobank and Cryogenic Laboratories, Inc.) has different information than we show on our clinic list (which was compiled from former clients). It's easy to see why there is so much confusion!

I have agreed to post his information, as follows:

1. The Genetics & IVF Institute's (GIVF) main office is in Fairfax, VA. GIVF no longer has offices in Ashburn, VA and Gaithersburg, MD., where clients seeking infertility treatment were seen. GIVF is made up of Divisions, that specialize in infertility, genetics, sperm sorting, cryobanking, infectious disease testing, and pre-implantation genetic testing. Certain divisions have locations in various states (TX, CA, MN, PA) and internationally (China and Mexico) however not all divisions and services are represented in those locations. Please refer to our web site for additional information regarding our products and services: www.givf.com
2. CLI is not able to confirm the statement that the same donor had previously donated at Zygen Laboratories and California Cryobank. However, if the donor number from the CLI donor in question is forwarded to CLI management they will follow up with the donor.
3. CLI has NEVER changed any donor numbers. It cannot be done. Donor numbers are written on the vials that contain the semen. Once frozen, the numbers cannot be changed without thawing the vials and then refreezing them. Such a process would render the semen unacceptable for distribution. CLI is also AATB accredited and this practice would be in direct violation of the AATB standards which require that a unique identifier be assigned to each donor.
4. CLI was acquired by GIVF from John Olson in 2002. The 2000 numbers were from donors that were recruited following the acquisition and were not from other banks. Some donors with pregnancies listed are b/c they have children of their own and have created pregnancies as their samples were used.
5. CLI, IC and Follas have NEVER used ReproTech Ltd. as a freezing facility. In fact, ReproTech Ltd. an independently owned company does not operate a freezing facility they are a storage facility only.
6. ReproTech Ltd. was located in the same building as CLI in Roseville, MN until 2007. In 2007, they moved to a new location in Minneapolis/St. Paul.
7. CLI and ReproMed Ltd. were both started by John Olson. CLI donors and ReproMed donors were shared with distribution in the US and Canada. The first ReproMed donor was donor #3000. The CLI affiliation with ReproMed Ltd. was discontinued in 1999. ReproMed Ltd. is currently independently owned and operated. There are currently no shared donors between CLI and ReproMed Ltd. ReproMed and CLI have one donor (# 3040) in common on both catalogs currently. All other donors that CLI and ReproMed had in common are sold with ReproMed.
8. CLI has and continues to distribute semen produced by some of the following banks. Supplies of these donors are limited and once they are gone, there will be no additional units available from CLI. Clients interested in future specimens on these donors will have to contact the original bank to check availability. InternationalCryogenics, Inc. (ICI), Follas Laboratories, and Park Avenue Fertility (PAF), Reproductive Resources, University of Nebraska (currently out of business), Washington Fertility Study Center (currently out of business). (NOTE: The sperm banking division of Follas Laboratories was sold to General BioTechnology LLC and is currently doing business as Genome Resources). Donors from the other banks, were/are distributed with the same donor number as the originating bank. The CLI profiles on the donors were created with information supplied by the originating banks.
9. CLI has NEVER had any donors listed on the Biogenetics donor catalogue.
10. CLI has NEVER distributed California Cryobank (CCB) donors and likewise CCB has not distributed CLI donors.
11. Fairfax Cryobank DID NOT purchase Follas Laboratories or any other bank (see above) . GIVF of which Fairfax Cryobank is a division, owns CLI. GIVF has not purchased any other cryobanks.
12. Each cryobank has its own donor numbering system. Therefore, several banks can have the same donor number on a past or current catalogue, however, they are not the same person.
13. Can Am Cryoservices, Inc. in Hamilton, ON distributes donor semen throughout Canada produced by Fairfax Cryobank and Cryogenic Laboratories, Inc. The samples are produced in the US and imported into Canada. All donors and their samples must meet strict Health Canada regulations regarding screening and infectious disease testing. Some donors are distributed both in the US and Canada at the same time. They would have the same donor number in both the US and Canada.

14. GIVF egg donor program is separate from Fairfax Cryobank sperm donor program. In addition, Fairfax Cryobank sperm donor program is separate from the CLI sperm donor program. Likewise, egg donor screening is different than sperm donor screening. All three programs are FDA registered and FDA inspected.
15. CLI NEVER had an affiliation with the University of Utah for donor sperm.

8/8/08 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/10965>

Two more pieces of information from former donors:
"I recall Evan Follas, the owner of Follas Labs, telling me sometime between 1987-89 that he sent sperm to Alaska."
"Fairfax Cyrobank also exports to Fertility East in Sydney NSW Australia."

8/4/08 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/10956>

This part (from prior post) was changed because Genome Resources is now selling Follas' sperm on their website, along with CLI:

WAS:

- > Fairfax bought out a bunch of smaller clinics and sperm banks in 2002. One was Follas,
- > which no longer has a working sperm donor website (Pathology Associates purchased
- > Follas Labs and no longer sells sperm), and the F numbers are listed under CLI (which
- > Fairfax bought out but they are keeping both separate facilities and they have separate
- > donors for each list, it seems).

NOW:

Follas merged with Pathology Associates (abbreviated PA) in 2006. Follas' old website is now defunct. Their new website

(<http://www.palabs.com>) no longer sells semen; they only store it for cancer patients. Genome Resources has the former Follas donors listed on their donor list that is on their website,

(<http://www.genomeresources.com>). Genome Resources is a subsidiary of General BioTechnology LLC (GBT). GBT was founded in 1997 by former Indiana University School of Medicine researchers, but they started selling semen in 2006 (archives go back that far). Follas and Genome donor numbers start with an F and have four numbers behind the F. Some of the Genome numbers are from the former Follas donor lists, others are new. Some of these same donor numbers have also been sold through CLI out of MN.

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:

-CLI, IC, and Follas all use ReproTech Ltd. a freezing facility located at the same address as CLI in Roseville (it opened in 1990). CLI of MN and ReproMed Ltd. of Canada have some of the same numbers (they do not change from list to list). Seem to be 3000 and 3100 numbers. A donor that originated from CLI (was on lists for sure from 1986 until 2002) was found to be on Repromed's 1993 until 2002 lists, so they share some donors.

-Follas, CLI, and IC have some same (they start with F, which I think are all Follas)—same numbers.

4/3/06 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/6840>

It is Genome Resources in Indiana. It used to be Follas Labs, but Genome bought it out! They do have the same donors as Follas, but are starting to add some of their own.

3/6/06 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/6285>

When I was going through the archives I found CLI from MN and International Cryogenics from MI donors that were on both. CLI and ReproMed Ltd. (Canada) also had the same donors listed. Follas, International Cryogenics, and CLI had some in common, although I figured out these were the ones with letters in front of the donor number CLI usually does not have the letter, I don't think, Follas has F in front of theirs,

International Cryogenics uses letters in front of theirs). The connection they all seemed to have was that they all used ReproTech, a freezing place that opened in 1990 that is located at the same address as CLI in MN and is affiliated with them. These entries have all been using the same donor number and are easy to cross-reference at the different labs, the problem would be if the labs would start changing the numbers. Fairfax has on its website a place to click to go to its affiliate (CLI) for more donors, and the same is true about CLI having a link to Fairfax.

2/28/06 | <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/6170>

I guess I could be considered a current donor. Out of the blue, I just got a call from the bank (Follas) requesting me to return for a physical and to update my health history so they can update their records. I haven't donated in a few years, but apparently, they had a few samples that were in the quarantine period, and need this information before they can release them.

3/14/05 | <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/4305>

Most regulation of sperm banks is done at the state level, so there will be a wide variance. For example, Indiana has had very strict laws for many years. In Indiana the 6 month quarantine was legally mandated long before other states (and it may still not be legally mandated in some states). The reason we chose to use a bank in Indiana (Follas Labs) was that we knew that they had to meet very strict laws, and they even went beyond these strict laws (lots more testing than other banks).