



# RMA OF MICHIGAN NEWS BLAST

## Over 500 Attendees at 3rd Annual Baby Reunion at Clawson Park



On Saturday, August 17 more than 500 parents and children gathered with the RMA of Michigan staff at Clawson Park to celebrate the success they have had with fertility treatment. The weather couldn't have been any more perfect for a day at the park. Children played on the playground, had their face painted and received glitter tattoos. Parents were able to catch up with the RMA staff and other families that they have met at past reunions. Everyone enjoyed a BBQ lunch with the classic picnic fare and relished in the site of so many families that were created with the help of RMA.

Drs. Brad Miller and Lynda Wolf opened the practice back in 2006 with the hopes of being able to help as many couples/individuals as possible achieve their dream of having a family or adding to their existing ones. They never imagined that almost seven years later they would have nearly 1,700 babies born as a result of their knowledge and expertise. Dr. Miller stated, "We love having this event and getting the opportunity to reconnect with past patients." Dr. Wolf added, "Once they leave our office we know we may not see them again so having the chance to visit is wonderful. We definitely look forward to this event."



## RMA of Michigan Participates in Worldwide Study

RMA of Michigan is one of several fertility clinics worldwide selected to participate in a study in collaboration with leading scientists in reproductive technologies from Michigan State University and Gema Diagnostics. The study aims at developing markers for embryo quality. There is a clinical need for noninvasive methods which give doctors the ability to select the most competent eggs and most viable embryos. Recent advances in molecular biology have brought about the possibility of identifying markers of an egg's potential. Examining genetic markers contained in the cells that nurture developing eggs, called cumulus cells, help doctors identify which eggs are most likely to succeed.

This is the first study RMA has participated in since they opened and they plan on participating with more in the future. Patients who are interested in participating in the study can contact the office to see if they qualify.

## Upcoming Events



**Free Seminar  
"Infertility 101"**

RMA of Michigan  
Monday, October 28  
6:00-7:30 PM

# SelectCCS - Breakthrough Technology Redefining IVF

SelectCCS is the most thoroughly validated and proven method of comprehensive chromosome screening (CCS) for patients undergoing IVF treatment. Developed by the physicians and scientists at Reproductive Medicine Associates of New Jersey, SelectCCS improves the embryo selection process by accurately determining which embryos have the normal number of chromosomes. How accurate is SelectCCS? It has been demonstrated to be  $\geq 98.6\%$  accurate in screening for aneuploidy (abnormal number of chromosomes).

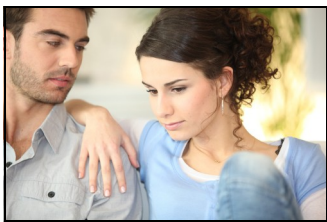
For patients who choose to have SelectCCS done, a small sample of

genetic material (approximately 5 cells) is carefully removed from the embryo at the blastocyst stage, when the embryo already consists of 100 or more cells. Removing these cells does not impact the viability of the embryo since only a few cells are needed for the analysis. The embryos never leave RMA of Michigan's IVF laboratory so patients do not have to worry about their embryos traveling elsewhere. The cells that were biopsied from the embryo are sent to RMA Genetics in New Jersey for determination of which embryos are chromosomally normal and abnormal. It can take up to two weeks to get the results back. This information allows our physicians

to better determine which embryos to select for the embryo transfer. Since the analysis of the cells is done at an out-of-state lab, the patient will need to have a frozen transfer rather than a fresh transfer. Patients can rest assured that having a frozen IVF cycle versus a fresh IVF cycle does not impact the outcome of success.



## When to Schedule an Appointment with a Reproductive Endocrinologist



Couples who are having difficulty conceiving go through an emotional rollercoaster. Generally, the woman is the one that initiates a conversation with

her OBGYN or primary care doctor stating her concerns. While some couples having been trying to conceive for several months or even years, others may only have been trying for one or two months and get worried that something might be wrong. It is important to note that women in their 20s have a 20-25 percent chance of conceiving each month and by the time the woman reaches age 35 it drops to less than 10 percent. While age does play a factor in your chance of success you can see that there is a high likelihood that it may

take more than one or two months to conceive. Unfortunately, it may not happen as quickly as the couple may want.

Generally, the rule most reproductive endocrinologists go by is if the patient is under 35 years old and has been trying to conceive for a year or more then they may want to schedule an appointment with a specialist. If the patient is 35 years or older the timeframe is six months or longer. Of course, if the woman is having other issues, such as, she has had a recent miscarriage or miscarriages, that would prompt a visit sooner.

As always, if the patient is wanting to talk with a specialist she can always schedule an appointment. Our physicians are happy to answer any questions she may have.