

Letter From the Editor



**Marina
Gvakharia, MD,
PhD, HCLD/
ELD(ABB),
MT(AAB)**

Dear peers,

Thank you all so very much for entrusting me with the post of the president-elect of CRB. I am honored and touched but I am also humbled: as much as I love shoes, I fully realize that I have some *big* shoes to fill. Indeed, some very distinguished and accomplished peers of ours served in this position before me (see the list of past presidents on page 2). So thank you again for your

votes. I will work very hard on your behalf.

As a result of the efforts of our membership and CRB officers, our organization has grown over the years and has become nationally and internationally known for its role in providing educational and

I am taking this opportunity to encourage you to think about your next abstract for the CRB Symposium.

credentialing support to the ART community. Indeed, the annual CRB Symposium is without a doubt one of the best educational venues for ART professionals. In addition to quality lectures, the meeting offers an opportunity to present oral papers and posters, which are also published in meeting materials. One of my goals as chair of the publications committee is to attract quality sub-

missions for scientific oral and poster sessions. So I am taking this opportunity to encourage you to think about your next abstract for the CRB Symposium. For more information about submitting an abstract, see page 15.

Another goal of the publications committee is to expand the “cyber-presence” of CRB by regularly updating our website and potentially utilizing social media outlets. We are planning to provide our membership with links from the website to CRB publications such as guidelines, recommendations, and SOPs. Again, stay tuned for the new and improved website.

This newsletter will be serving our members as an official publication of CRB. We will continue to inform you of upcoming events and other CRB-related news. We welcome your thoughts and suggestions on how to improve our newsletter. Feel free to contact me anytime at mgvakharia@fpnc.com.

Highlights of this newsletter include CRB goals and plans for the upcoming year outlined by CRB President

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Mark Your Calendar

CRB 17th Annual Symposium

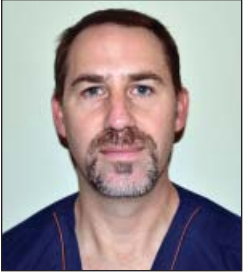
in conjunction with AAB's 2013 Annual Meeting and Educational Conference

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From the CRB President



**Mark Dow, PhD,
HCLD/ELD(ABB)**

As president of CRB this year, it is my job to motivate on the purpose and objectives of CRB, which is **“To provide a more focused forum for andrologists and embryologists (A&Es) to communicate with each other, share ideas and knowledge, and foster closer collaborations.”** In the past,

this has primarily been done at the AAB Annual Meeting and Educational Conference/CRB Symposium with occasional newsletters. Now, thanks to Dean Morbeck’s vision and Bill Boone’s implementation, we have dynamically expanded CRB’s reach and involvement with its membership via Legislative, Meeting, Publications, Credentialing and Membership, and Nominating Committees. We have established the committee chairs and members and are ready to pursue our membership goals. To date, 19 people have volunteered to participate on these various committees.

CRB membership continues to grow. There are now 722 members of CRB, which represents an 11% increase from the previous year and completes an overall growth of over 25% in the last five years. In addition, regional meetings have been very successful and offer low cost travel and time away from the laboratory while providing access to new and emerging technologies for reproductive laboratories. If you have an interest in forming a regional meeting/workshop in your area, I encourage you to contact the CRB Meeting Committee at crb-aab@aab.org for information.

Another goal for the coming year is to establish collaborations/liaisons with other organizations such as the Society of Reproductive Biologists & Technologists (SRBT), Society of Assisted Reproductive Technologies (SART), College of American Pathologists (CAP), Joint Commission and others to strengthen CRB’s voice and reduce wasteful duplication of materials and efforts. One example of a change on the horizon that may affect CRB members is the effort by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to regulate Laboratory Developed Tests (LDTs) that many of us either do or send out for our laboratories. The FDA/CMS is concerned about the lack of controls and/or high error rates associated with these LDTs. Examples of LDTs in ART include sperm DNA fragmentation assays, FISH or aCGH for aneuploidy and single gene PCR assays. While the FDA approves

food, drugs and medical devices, there is discussion on whether these techniques fall within the FDA’s jurisdiction. Alternatively, these LDTs may be regulated by CMS. If CMS regulates these LDTs, laboratories will be charged user fees but implementation would be much faster than if they are regulated by the FDA.

I encourage all members (directors, supervisors and laboratory technicians) to get involved in CRB committees. Just like our laboratories, CRB should have its own Quality Assurance and Improvement in order to grow and adjust to the needs of our members. So, please feel free at any time to send your comments or suggestions to the respective committee chair, to me (mdow@rgiohio.com), or to the CRB office.

Respectfully,

Mark Dow, PhD, HCLD/ELD(ABB)
CRB President

CRB thanks all outstanding individuals who have served as its officers over the years!

List of CRB past-presidents:

- 2011 – William R. Boone, Ph.D., HCLD/ELD/CC (ABB)
- 2010 – Dean Morbeck, Ph.D., HCLD(ABB)
- 2009 – Kimball Pomeroy, Ph.D., HCLD(ABB)
- 2008 – Margaret Papadakis, Ph.D., HCLD(ABB)
- 2007 – Joseph Conaghan, Ph.D., HCLD(ABB)
- 2006 – Kathleen Miller, TS(ABB)
- 2005 – David Battaglia, Ph.D., HCLD(ABB)
- 2004 – Gary Smith, Ph.D., HCLD(ABB)
- 2003 – Barry Behr, Ph.D., HCLD(ABB)
- 2002 – Barry Behr, Ph.D., HCLD(ABB), Co-Chair
David McCulloh, Ph.D., HCLD(ABB), Co-Chair
- 2001 – David McCulloh, Ph.D., HCLD(ABB)
- 2000 – Thomas Pool, Ph.D., HCLD(ABB)
- 1999 – Kristen Ivani, Ph.D., HCLD(ABB)
- 1998 – Richard Rawlins, Ph.D., HCLD(ABB)
- 1997 – Grace Centola, Ph.D., HCLD(ABB)

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From the Outgoing President of CRB

2011-2012 Year in Review¹



William R. Boone,
Ph.D. HCLD/ELD/
CC(ABB)

Introduction

It has been the best of times; it has been the worst of times...²

The excitement of revamping the College of Reproductive Biology (CRB) has been great; the constant deadlines that would not quit were nightmares.

Let me explain.

I was given the “Morbeck Doctrine,” or at least that is what I called it, right after I became the chair of the CRB. Now Dean Morbeck would argue that it was a compilation of ideas from Margaret Papadakis, Joe Conaghan, and him, but I knew it as the goals of Dean Morbeck. Before I go on, I would like to tell you that I could not have gotten as much accomplished as I did without the Master Planner— Dean Morbeck.

I would like to thank the Executive Committee for all of their hard work and for their responses to my constant bombardment of emails. The Executive Committee consisted of President-Elect Mark Dow, Secretary Erin Fischer, Past President Dean Morbeck and me.

Accomplishments

It started with the concept of revising the CRB Standing Rules, which required removing the current structure of Regional Chairs and changing the committee structure. Such changes required that the Standing Rules be revised by the Executive Committee. This occurred before the November 11, 2011, AAB Board Meeting that took place in St. Louis, Missouri. The board approved the revisions on November 12, 2011, and then the CRB members were asked to vote on the revisions in December with the final tally coming in January. With the acceptance of the changes to the Standing Rules, came the establishment of the six new committees. These new committees were designed to be a better voice for the embryologists and andrologists.

The six new committees were filled with individuals that had agreed at the 2011 annual symposium to help serve on committees, if and when, they were approved.

The chairs of each committee were determined by their position on the Executive Committee.

The six committees were the Standing Rules Committee, the Nominating Committee, the CRB Meeting Committee, the Credentialing and Membership Committee, the Publications Committee, and the Legislative Committee. Once the committees were established, the members were given the challenge of writing guidelines for their committees. Working documents of these guidelines were completed in March and will be used to provide direction for current and future committee members.

With the guidelines in place, committees were given specific topics to investigate. These committees are at this juncture currently. The following topics have been assigned to each committee to review:

Standing Rules Committee

This committee is assessing the new Standing Rules to determine if further changes to these rules need to be made. Because this committee has little current activities, I assigned them to investigate the idea that patients are no longer allowed to donate their unused medicines to someone else in certain states and to find out if this is now a nationwide policy.

Nominating Committee

This committee was responsible for nominating individuals to be voted on by the membership for CRB officers and board members. This committee was also charged with investigating a secure email system that would allow for voting online similar to how other organizations now do their voting.

Meeting Committee

This committee makes recommendations for the annual symposium. The members of this committee had a great program lined up for this year.

The members of next year’s committee are already on board and have preliminary topics that are being discussed for the 2013 CRB Symposium.

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Annual Symposium Report: CRB 2012 - The Changing Face of ART



**Dean Morbeck,
Ph.D., HCLD/
CC(ABB)**

As Chair of the first CRB Meeting Committee, I would like to start by thanking the members of the committee, Bill Boone, Ph.D., HCLD(ABB), Betsy Cairo, Ph.D., HCLD(ABB), Gerry Celia, Ph.D., HCLD(ABB), and Kelly Wirka, TS(ABB), for their efforts and talents in developing a program that was comprehensive and well received. In this era of

limited discretionary funds for travel, our annual symposium must provide great educational value to those who attend. Next year's Meeting Committee plans to assure this continues, so stay tuned.

My job in this short space is to summarize many excellent talks by distinguished speakers and keep you—the reader—interested! We all have too much to do and not enough time, so I will be brief. But let me first encourage you to attend next year's meeting to not only hear the talks in person, but to take advantage of the best opportunity available to reconnect with colleagues and have time for meaningful dialogue.

The 2012 CRB Symposium opened with three sessions of a Basic Semen Analysis Workshop organized by Betsy Cairo and Kelly Wirka and made possible by the generous support of Origio Mid-Atlantic Devices. Though the course was targeted for bench biologists with limited exposure to andrology training, the majority of participants were supervisors or directors! This illustrates that most junior level clinical reproductive biologists are not able to attend this meeting. As CRB members, what do you think? Do we as leaders want and expect junior embryologists and andrologists to attend meetings for continuing education? But I digress....

Have you changed how you test semen or select sperm? Doug Carrell, Ph.D., HCLD(ABB), kicked off the meeting Thursday afternoon with two talks: *Sperm Selection Techniques for ART*, and *New and Traditional Diagnostics for the Clinician*. As usual, Doug did a great job covering a lot of data. New options for sperm selection, including methods that select sperm based on maturity (hyaluronic acid binding and sperm charge), apoptosis (annexin binding) and morphology (IMSI), offer promises of improved clinical outcomes but still don't appear ready for prime time. As we continue to strive for improved outcomes, both in terms of pregnan-

cies and newborn and adult health, the role of the male should not be overlooked. Doug also presented several unique and interesting case studies where poor embryo quality was linked to sperm defects in men with normal semen parameters. From a clinical view, we are limited by our inability to detect why some patients make bad embryos. His work shows there is hope that we can tease out these occult male factor cases.

Every lab has abandoned embryos that present a challenge to both the clinic and the embryologist directly. In his talk on gamete and embryo storage, Russ Bierbaum polled the audience and found that while 80% said their storage agreements detail what to do with embryos abandoned due to non-payment of storage fees, less than one third follow through with discarding these embryos. Perhaps what is missing is a plan. When Russ asked how many people have an SOP for contacting patients who are delinquent or an SOP for handling abandoned embryos, approximately half said they do not have either. This talk highlighted the importance of SOPs, properly reviewed by the practice and legal counsel, which will empower embryologists in these difficult cases.

What is the value of the SART database? Do you think we have to enter too much data for SART? Does it even matter? Judy Stern, Ph.D., HCLD(ABB), provided a nice summary of some of the work that has been published with data from the registry. The data have clearly shown that delivery rate is lower with ICSI and that we should try to limit its application to only when necessary. As for embryo grades, while the published studies confirmed what I think most of us already knew, I was surprised to see that over 60% of clinics report using unmodified bright field optics for grading and the most common magnification for grading, used for 57% of all transfers, was 15x. I can't think of a more profound example of variation in how we practice!

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Attending the CRB Symposium is a great way to meet colleagues and discuss ideas.

Current CRB Officers

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PAST PRESIDENT
Bill Boone

PRESIDENT-ELECT
Marina Gvakharia

SECRETARY
Erin Fischer

DIRECTOR MEMBER
Grace Centola

SUPERVISOR MEMBER
Stanley Harris

MEDICAL TECHNOLOGIST/AT-LARGE MEMBER
Jean Popwell

You can contact your CRB representatives by emailing them at:

crb-aab@aab.org

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Dara Berger

Barbara Timm btimm@heartlandfertility.com

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CREDENTIALING and MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Grace Centola, Chair centolag@yahoo.com

Jeff Knickerbocker

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

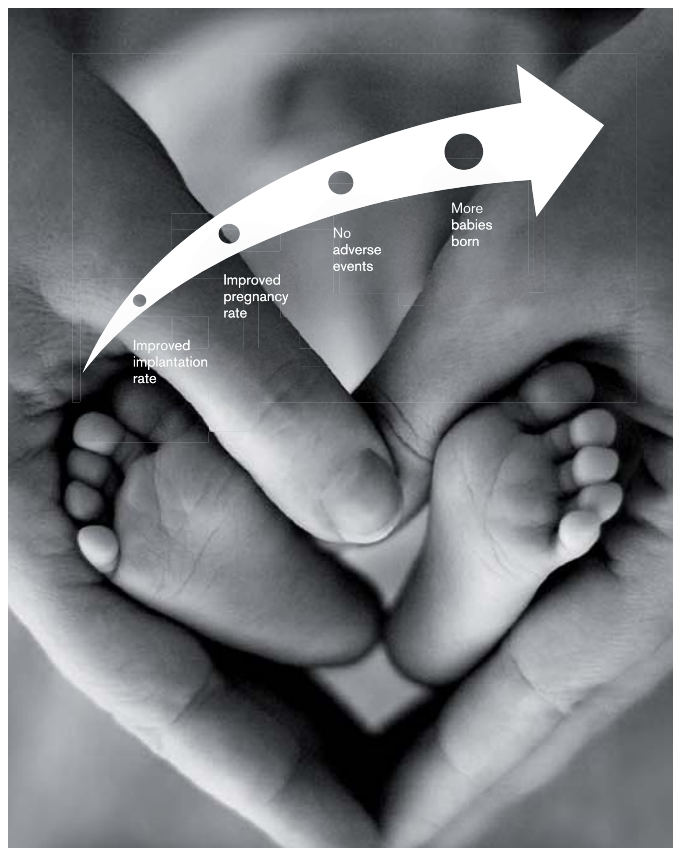
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1. Balaban B, et al. (2011) Oral presentation 0-060, ESHRE 2011. 2. Bontekoe S, et al. Adherence compounds in embryo transfer media for assisted reproductive technologies. Cochrane Database Syst Rev. 2010;7:CD007421.

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From the Chair of the Legislative Committee



**Stan Harris,
TS/ELD(ABB)**

Change has come upon us, and the change feels good. It feels right. It feels empowering, no more so than witnessing the reorganization of the CRB.

One change that is sure to pay dividends has been the addition of the Legislative Committee, or LegCom as we like to refer to it. Currently, the LegCom is chaired by Stan Harris, TS/ELD(ABB), and utilizes

the talents of David Battaglia, Ph.D., HCLD(ABB), Dara Berger, Ph.D., TS(ABB), and Barbara Timm, TS/ELD(ABB). And, as with any new committee, we have been busy with development, including the generation and submission of guidelines consistent with other CRB committees. The guidelines were developed to provide a meaningful outline of responsibilities, and timelines for completion of committee tasks.

Further committee development included establishing a mechanism whereby the committee could search state and federal legislatures for activities related to ART and medical laboratories in general. To this end, a spreadsheet has been developed to store hyperlinks to internet-based search engines specific to each state's legislative activities. This database will be used by the committee to perform routine surveillance of known and not yet realized legislation. Information obtained from these websites will be communicated to the CRB President who can determine if the information warrants dissemination to the greater CRB and/or the AAB Legislative Committee. We would also like to encourage any member of the College to notify the LegCom, the CRB, or AAB should you become aware of regulatory activities in your area.

A second tool developed was a list of relevant terminology and keywords that could be used in the search engines. This list is intended to be dynamic in that each word can be highlighted or removed relative to its performance in finding relevant information via the search engines. The committee would like to thank Tammie Schalue, Ph.D., HCLD/ELD/CC(ABB), for assisting us by providing an initial list of keywords she has found to be useful.

Another facet of the LegCom development has centered on how we define our purpose moving forward. There is some reservation concerning the scope of our primary goal, surveillance. For example, over the past

several months there have been activities pursuant to legislation in South Carolina, Minnesota, Maryland, New York, South Dakota, and Virginia. While some activities, especially certification and qualification of laboratory staff in Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, South Carolina and Texas, have direct consequences on reproductive laboratory operations, much of the surveillance has centered on clinical legislation defining personhood and donor rules. Although the CRB is fully capable of developing opinions on all matters related to ART, it is the opinion of the LegCom that there are some proposals, especially those that do not directly involve the laboratory, that are out of the reach of our persuasion and should be disseminated to the CRB membership for informational purposes only.

While most of our initial effort has focused on developing the tools for legislative surveillance, future activities will certainly include developing additional tools for communicating committee findings to the CRB President, and if so asked, producing informational alerts that can be sent to the CRB membership. The manpower required for all these responsibilities must be met by

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Examination Dates



October 19, 2012

San Diego, California

November 14, 2012 - Spanish and Portuguese

Hotel Americas Towers, Buenos Aires, Argentina

May 15, 2013

Golden Nugget Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada

June 1, 2013

Public Health Microbiology and General Knowledge ONLY
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October 11, 2013

Boston, Massachusetts



September 21, 2012

Miami-Dade College, Miami, Florida

November 30, 2012

Florida State College at Jacksonville, Jacksonville, Florida



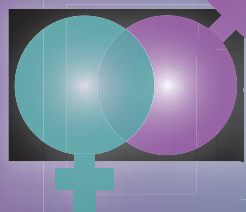
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From the Chair of the Membership and Credentialing Committee



**Grace M. Centola,
Ph.D., HCLD/CC
(ABB)**

It is an honor to be the chair of the Membership and Credentialing Committee of the College of Reproductive Biology (CRB). As the inaugural Chair (the position now referred to as CRB President) of the CRB for the year 1997-98, I am both delighted to see how the College has progressed and to be a part of this exciting new era. I have been board certified by the ABB for 18 years, having taken the

HCLD exam in the specialty of Andrology the first year that it was offered by the ABB. I can't begin to tell you in this newsletter, the many benefits that my membership, affiliation and continuing education activities with the AAB and the ABB have had on my career as a Laboratory Director and an Andrologist. For these reasons, and for many more, I look forward to my tenure as Chair of the Membership and Credentialing Committee of the CRB, and serving the AAB, ABB and its members.

The obvious purpose of this committee is to promote membership in the AAB and CRB and to encourage our young embryologists and andrologists to participate in educational activities of the College. Again, we are all examples of the benefits of membership in the AAB and the CRB, and we should pass on these benefits to our ART colleagues.

The Membership and Credentialing Committee will also provide input to the ABB Board regarding CEU credits for any educational programs offered outside the auspices of the AAB conferences, such as the ASRM Annual Meeting and other national or regional organizations. The committee will initially review programs, such as the ASRM annual meeting program, to recommend certain sections (post-graduate courses, lectures, symposia, interactive sessions, etc.) for consideration of PEER credit. According to the ABB, CEU credit is acceptable only if it directly relates to the laboratory, although there are certainly gray areas that are under consideration each year. The process is not a perfect process, but clearly, in the long run, we all benefit from the CEUs we obtain. Maintenance of certification (MOC) is an evolving process and differs for different professions and specialties. We are fortunate that PEER credit is given for posters, roundtable luncheons, oral abstracts, and prize paper presentations. In addition, while authorization is required by way of stickers or a stamp, our members are not required to take a pre- and a post-test in order to receive CEUs. If

you feel that you have a justifiable reason why a topic is related to your laboratory practice and should be allowed CEU credit, please submit your information to me and I will guarantee that this is presented to the ABB Board. The purpose of this committee is to provide members a mechanism to voice their opinion.

The MCC will also work to promote member involvement in the board-certification exam process. In order to continue to provide timely, targeted board certification examinations, new questions must be developed by board-certified laboratorians. New questions are taken to an Item Writers Workshop (IWW) for review of content and wording prior to approval for use on an examination. Currently, the IWW needs about 100 new questions per year per subject. Another way to get involved in the board certification process is to participate in an Item Writer's Workshop. The IWWs typically take place at the AAB offices in St. Louis with all expenses paid, and with CEUs given for participation!! Please submit your name for participation in an IWW, and if you cannot afford the time away from your lab, please do submit questions. Don't be shy or embarrassed to submit even the simplest of questions. You may receive up to four (4) hours or 0.4 CEU in each two-year CEU recording period for writing examination items (questions) for the American Board of Bioanalysis (ABB) or the AAB Board of Registry (ABOR) examinations. One contact hour, or 0.1 CEU, credit is awarded for every six (6) examination questions. The questions must be in the correct format, original questions and be accepted by the Item Writers' Committee to receive CEU credit.

In summary, the 2012-2013 goals for the Membership and Credentialing Committee are to:

1. Promote new membership in the CRB
2. Retain current members
3. Review scientific programs for relevance to the ART laboratory and provide CRB member opinion to the American Board of Bioanalysis for PEER CEU credit
4. Encourage members to submit exam questions and provide recommendations for participation in the Item Writer's Workshops

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to participate or have recommendations to submit to this committee. I encourage you all to become active in this worthwhile organization. Your career will thank you!!

— Grace M. Centola, Ph.D., HCLD/CC(ABB)

Credentialing and Membership Committee

Among other duties, this committee reviews proposed CEUs for the various reproductive meetings that are scheduled. This committee has submitted to the ABB their suggestions for CEUs for the American Society for Reproductive Medicine meeting that is scheduled for October 2012.

Publications Committee

This committee is responsible for developing a newsletter and other informational pieces such as a CRB website. One newsletter was sent in February explaining the changes in the Standing Rules. A second newsletter will be sent that includes a “Year-in-Review” along with the list of the 2012-2013 officers and committee members. It is hoped that a quarterly electronic newsletter could be developed that will allow you the opportunity to keep up with the activities of the CRB.

Legislative Committee

This committee is working hard to develop mechanisms to stay abreast of state and federal legislation that affect clinical laboratories. They are currently investigating the possibility of linking with other organizations to stay on top of this very active area that plays a vital role in the way that we will operate our laboratories in the future.

This is my first experience with legislative matters and it occurred in my home state of South Carolina. With the help of Tammie Schalue and the AAB Office we were able to momentarily stop HR 4611 that would make it difficult for small independent labs to staff qualified personnel and would require that laboratorians have a 4-year degree to run high-complexity tests. Why is this important? AAB is the only organization looking out for our board certification status at the state level. For many of us who work in states where this is not an issue, think of the AAB as an insurance policy that I hope we never have to use. However, because we tend to be a highly mobile society, if you change jobs you may encounter a state where laws are much different than the state in which you currently reside.

While the chairs for these committees are established according to the Standing Rules, the president of the

CRB, Mark Dow, will be appointing or reappointing members to each of these committees. I urge you to contact him if you are interested in serving on any of these committees. I would especially encourage the newer members of our organization to volunteer so that they can see how our organization works. In the past, we have had very little member involvement and had few accomplishments other than planning the program for the annual symposium. I am calling for an army of volunteers to help Mark Dow move this organization forward.

The Future

Where do we hope to go in the future? Let’s turn to the “Morbeck Doctrine” for guidance. The organization (us) needs to continue to develop programs and activities that provide value and that meet the goals of the CRB’s purpose and objectives. In addition, the CRB needs to promote our professional community. There are six steps that need to be fulfilled in order to do this.

1. Improve the CRB Symposium
 - (a) Obtain more sponsors
 - (b) Promote abstracts from more members and include REI fellows
 - (c) Have a Past Presidents’ reception to “pick their brains”
 - (d) Have a keynote speakers luncheon where awards are given
 - (e) Insure that andrology remains a key component at the CRB Symposium
2. Have a newsletter
3. Have a strong web presence
4. Have joint regional meetings with the Society of Reproductive Biologists and Technologists of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine

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COMING SOON!

Online
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Produced in conjunction with SAMER

If you don't know much about ovarian stimulation, you missed a great presentation by Brad Van Voorhis, M.D., on Friday morning. Brad did a nice job of translating the complexities of the different stimulation protocols to our diverse audience so that it was educational for all. His ability to communicate was then highlighted when he and Amy Sparks, Ph.D., HCLD(ABB), discussed the importance of the Clinical Team-Laboratory Interface. Later, Amy provided an update on the status of the University of Iowa's eSET program. While I am convinced their teamwork is a major reason they are a leading IVF center, particularly for offering eSET, they also demonstrate how this marriage of clinician and scientist can work and contribute to job satisfaction.

Have you implemented trophectoderm (TE) biopsy for PGD yet? If your lab does aneuploidy screening and you biopsy on day 3, you're not alone, as Mandy Katz-Jaffe, Ph.D., found during her overview of PGD in 2012. While comprehensive chromosome screening with array technology has paved the way for better aneuploidy accuracy and this is especially true for blastocysts, at least two-thirds of the audience continue to biopsy cleavage stage embryos even though recent studies demonstrate conclusively that biopsy adversely affects developmental potential. A TE biopsy with a fresh transfer requires that all embryos be expanded blastocysts on the morning of day 5 for a day 6 transfer. This has important clinical implications as evidenced by a poll of the audience: for clinics that perform TE biopsy and planned a fresh transfer, most cycles (>80%) do not have a fresh transfer. Stay tuned as technology moves rapidly to meet the demands of this unique clinical presentation.

If you went to ASRM in Denver two years ago, you saw and heard about the embryo personhood movement in Colorado. You likely are dealing with this in your state; if not, you are fortunate because this national movement has reached more than 20 states. Lee Rubin Collins, J.D., an attorney on the Board of RESOLVE and on the front lines of these legal battles, provided a provocative talk on the final day of the conference. If this legislation passes, it will have dramatic consequences on how we practice, so take notice and know that your



Lee Rubin Collins, J.D.

voice is important. CRB has a Legislative Affairs committee that is working on tracking, among other things, laws at the state level so that we catch them early in the development process. It would be great to have a representative CRB contact from every state, so let Stan Harris, the chair, know if you are interested.

It's been nearly five years since Biometrics and the promise of metabolomics burst onto the scene at ASRM in Washington, DC. So what's new? Mandy Katz-Jaffe gave a stimulating talk on all of the "omics" technologies and, in case you are wondering, there are a LOT of things cooking and some look quite promising. So there's still hope that someday we will have a means to select embryos based on in-lab culture media analysis.

The 2012 CRB Symposium also included our very first Keynote Speaker. If you haven't heard of her, Renee Reijo Pera, Ph.D., from Stanford University is one of the most published and high-impact scientists in reproductive medicine. In addition to directing the Stem Cell program at Stanford, her group published the seminal paper on time-lapse imaging and its ability to predict blastocyst formation. We were fortunate that Dr. Reijo Pera gave two talks—one on her time-lapse imaging, and for the keynote address she took us into the future as she shared the state of the art of generating viable oocytes for infertile women. The science was incredible and provided a glimpse of things to come. As a bonus, Dr. Reijo Pera also gave a great talk on time-lapse imaging technology. Videos of embryos cleaving, either normally or abnormally, are always fascinating!



Renee Reijo Pera, Ph.D.

If you're still with me – thanks for reading on (brief? – yes, I can get carried away, but there was a lot to cover!). My final plug is that, in addition to great education, the CRB Symposium is a forum that allows participants to ask questions, talk to speakers and interact with peers in a low-stress environment. Please join your fellow reproductive biologists at the Annual CRB Symposium (May 16-18, 2013; Las Vegas, NV). See you next year!

— Dean Morbeck, Ph.D., HCLD/CC(ABB)

Call for Abstracts

Share what you have learned with your colleagues. Submit an abstract for oral presentation or for the poster session at AAB's Annual Meeting and Educational Conference/CRB Symposium, May 16-18, 2013, at the Golden Nugget Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Authors are encouraged to submit titles and abstracts for consideration in Assisted Reproductive Technology or Traditional Laboratory (chemistry, microbiology, hematology, immunology, molecular diagnostics, environmental, public health).

Abstracts for oral presentation are limited to assisted reproductive technology. Abstracts for poster presentations will be accepted in the areas of the traditional laboratory and assisted reproductive technology.

Membership in the AAB and the CRB is not a requirement for submitting an abstract. There is no limit to the number of abstracts you may author. However, the first author or person submitting an abstract(s) must register for the Conference (Friday daily, full Conference, or combo registration) and be present during presentations and/or the poster session. Oral abstract presentations are tentatively scheduled for Friday afternoon, May 17. The poster session will be held on Friday evening, May 17.

Submit your abstract by filling out the Abstract Submission form found on the AAB web site at www.aab.org. Click on 2013 AAB Annual Meeting and Education Conference under Upcoming Events. Email the completed form and a copy of your abstract to aab@aab.org. Also forward a confirmation copy of your abstract by fax to (314)241-1449.

NOTE: April 4, 2013, is the deadline date for submission of abstracts. Abstracts received after April 4, 2013, may not be considered by the abstract review committee.



Participants viewing abstracts at the Poster Session held during the 2012 AAB Annual Meeting and Educational Conference/CRB Symposium.

Letter From the Editor, from page 1

Dr. Mark Dow and the address given at this year's CRB Symposium by Past President Dr. Bill Boone. Those of us who were present were very inspired and excited by the work done by CRB and by the future prospects for our organization. Be sure to read this piece and, better yet, be sure to attend in 2013, so that you can be a part of this exciting event.

Dr. Dean Morbeck has provided an excellent overview of the lectures from the 2012 CRB Symposium. We had a very diverse group of presenters who covered a wide range of topics from regulatory issues to cutting-edge research. From what I've heard, next year's program is going to be just as interesting. We will provide you with the preliminary program as soon as it becomes available.

I would like you to also meet Dr. Grace Centola and Stanley Harris, who shared with us their visions for their respective committees.

As a CRB member, after reading all the impressive materials provided to me for the newsletter, I once again feel lucky to have such excellent leaders/contributors! Hope you feel the same way.

Until next time,

Marina Gvakharia, MD, PhD, HCLD/ELD(ABB),
MT(AAB)
Editor

From the Chair of the Legislative Committee, from page 10

finding eager volunteers whose name may be submitted to the CRB President for consideration in adding to the committee. If you feel you might want to participate, please contact the Chair at Stanley.harris@nmhs.org.

On behalf of Drs. Battaglia and Berger, I would like to thank the CRB, and especially Dr. Mark Dow, for the opportunity to serve the College of Reproductive Biology in this rewarding capacity. I would also like to thank my fellow committee members for their willingness to serve. Their contributions are greatly appreciated.

— Stan Harris, TS/ELD(ABB)

5. Have a Legislative Committee that writes practice guidelines
6. Have a presence in the CAP organization

Closing

I would like to close with the same statement that Dean Morbeck read to you last year. “I believe that the College of Reproductive Biology represents the best opportunity for reproductive biologists to control their own society, develop their own community, and be recognized as an independent professional organization that gets things done.”

Respectfully submitted,

William R. Boone, Ph.D. HCLD/ELD/CC(ABB)
2011-2012 President of the College of Reproductive Biologists

¹ Presented at the College of Reproductive Biology (CRB) Symposium, Las Vegas, Nevada, Friday, May 18, 2012.

² Dickens, C. A Tale of Two Cities.1859.



Participants asking questions after listening to one of the many informative programs held during the 2012 CRB Symposium.



Poster session and reception. Oral paper presentations are also given during the CRB Symposium.

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