INFERTILITY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: “Doing something, doing more, doing better”
2019 Best of ESHRE & ASRM Meeting
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Disclosure

No conflict of interest.

Director: African Network and Registry for ART
- Grants from NRF (South Africa), MSD, Merck, Ferring
- No personal compensation
Learning objectives

At the conclusion of this presentation, participants should be able to:

1) Describe the consequences of lack of access to infertility care.
2) Identify the diverse components of access to care.
3) Analyze opportunities for influencing health sectors locally, nationally, and regionally.

“Many judgements about the suffering of others are skewed by inattention, or bad social teaching, or by some false theory on human life.”

—Marta Nussbaum

Marta Nussbaum. Upheavals of thought: The intelligence of emotions.
Infertility in developing countries is an uncommon disease. A disease that should not be addressed. A disease that cannot be addressed.
Doing nothing

Depression  Guilt  Polygamy

Economic deprivation  Despair  Social isolation

Abuse  Exclusion  Neglect

Blame  Divorce  Loneliness

Health resources: wasted not saved

Repetitive consultations
Ineffective interventions
ART: Obstetric complications


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Stratified reproduction

Social class
Wealth
Ethnicity

Violation of our mandate

To provide universal access to care.
To protect against impoverishing payments.
To reduce inequality.
To start with those furthest left behind.
To protect and assist the family which “shall be the natural unit and basis of society”.


See the problem

Starr et al, Lancet 2018; 391:2642-2692
Doing Something: Assisted Reproductive Technology

Strengthen
Together
With data
Develop
Monitor

13 countries - 47 centres


www.anara-africa.com

Africa 2014: Overview
13 Countries – 47 Centres

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>IVF</th>
<th>ICSI</th>
<th>FET</th>
<th>OD Fresh &amp; frozen</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aspirations</td>
<td>2,633</td>
<td>25,185</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfers</td>
<td>2,207</td>
<td>21,693</td>
<td>4,751</td>
<td>1,898</td>
<td>30,549</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pregnancies</td>
<td>851</td>
<td>8,654</td>
<td>709</td>
<td>889</td>
<td>11,103</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deliveries</td>
<td>561</td>
<td>5,576</td>
<td>548</td>
<td>599</td>
<td>7,248</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

FET: frozen embryo transfer; OD: oocyte donation.
Effectiveness:
Fresh non-donor IVF and ICSI

Aspirations
- Age <35y: n=10,837
- Age 35-39y: n=5,000
- Age >=40y: n=2,576
- Total: n=18,413

Fresh IVF/ICSI:
Number of embryos transferred

Transfers (n=16,803)
## Number of embryos and outcome

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>PR/ET</th>
<th>Twin deliveries (%)</th>
<th>Triplet deliveries (%)</th>
<th>Multiple deliveries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 EMBRYO</td>
<td>25.6%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>39.2%</td>
<td>19.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 EMBRYOS</td>
<td>25.6%</td>
<td>19.5%</td>
<td>19.5%</td>
<td>14.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 EMBRYOS</td>
<td>25.6%</td>
<td>16.2%</td>
<td>14.4%</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 EMBRYOS</td>
<td>25.6%</td>
<td>42.1%</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 EMBRYOS</td>
<td>25.6%</td>
<td>50.5%</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Fresh IVF/ICSI: Gestational age (2013)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>&gt;=37weeks</th>
<th>33-36weeks</th>
<th>28-32weeks</th>
<th>20-27weeks</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SINGLETON</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n=2265</td>
<td>82.3%</td>
<td>10.6%</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>TWINS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n=776</td>
<td>47.3%</td>
<td>35.1%</td>
<td>10.3%</td>
<td>7.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>TRIPLETS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n=19</td>
<td>26.3%</td>
<td>26.3%</td>
<td>21.1%</td>
<td>26.3%</td>
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</table>
Doing More

- Participation
- Visibility
- Education
- Benchmarks
- Guidelines
- Research
- Stewardship
Improving access to ART

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acceptable</th>
<th>Affordable</th>
<th>Available</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Patients</td>
<td>Effectiveness</td>
<td>Training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Society</td>
<td>Safety</td>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>Stimulation</td>
<td>Drugs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health funders</td>
<td>Embryo Culture</td>
<td>Public sector</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3rd party funding</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Private-Public P.</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

Network and data


RedLARA: 20th anniversary goal: Better access

Number of cycles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>20000</td>
<td>40000</td>
<td>60000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Data
- Procedures
- No. of embryos
- Multiples
- Babies born
- Perinatal outcome

South - South Collaboration
RedLARA & ANARA
Share
Support
Strengthen

Doing better
Doing nothing
Harmful, wasteful, unjust

Doing something
Attention, better theory
Collective, imaginative, affordable

Doing more
Strengthen, sustain, expand

Freedom and human right to found a family