Dear Barbara,

The National Physicians Cooperative would like to wish you a happy holiday season and we look forward to an exciting 2014.

In this newsletter, you will read about recent updates within the National Physicians Cooperative as well as upcoming changes and research projects.

In addition, we will be creating an online forum where NPC members can discuss challenging oncofertility questions. Stay tuned for more information!

Sincerely,

The National Physicians Cooperative

SAVE THE DATE

8th Annual Oncofertility Conference
September 8-9th, 2014
Chicago, IL

Please contact our NPC Coordinator, Brigid K. Martz, at brigid.martz@northwestern.edu or (312)503-2506 with any questions or concerns.

NATIONAL PHYSICIANS COOPERATIVE UPDATES

Under our new co-Directors, Drs. Jacqueline Jeruss and Mary Ellen Pavone, the NPC Leadership Board has been working diligently to expand the reach of the Oncofertility Consortium and gain new NPC members. NPC Mission and Vision Statements have been developed to help current and future NPC members better understand the role of the NPC within the Oncofertility Consortium.

Mission:
To protect and preserve reproductive health through the continuum of care and across the lifespan of patients.
**Vision:**
The National Physicians Cooperative will investigate ways to mitigate the effects of any disease or treatment on ovarian and testicular function and develop physician-guided tools that will facilitate communication and translation between basic research and clinical practice.

As research is paramount to the success of the NPC, we want all NPC members to be aware of changes that have occurred during 2013. Please update your forms and files accordingly if you have not yet done so.

Grant Number: U54HD076188

Oncofertility Consortium Location: Northwestern University in Chicago, IL

NPC Co-Directors: Drs. Jacqueline Jeruss and Mary Ellen Pavone

NPC Coordinator: Brigid K. Martz, CCRP (brigid.martz@northwestern.edu or 312-503-2506)

Capitation Amount: $500/research tissue (up to 24 patients/year - please submit your invoices in a timely manner)

OTC Administrative Forms: Form 1, Form 2, and Form 3 have all been modified Download updated forms here: Section 9 - Administrative Forms

Authors: NPC Leadership Board

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**Welcome new NPC Members!**

Please join us in welcoming the following groups to the National Physicians Cooperative:

- [Connecticut Children's Medical Center](#)
- [Fertility Associates of Memphis](#)
- [Reproductive Associates of Delaware](#)
- [Reproductive Medicine Associates of New York](#)

We look forward to your contributions to the National Physicians Cooperative and appreciate your input on current NPC endeavors.
Pediatric Initiative Network

The National Physicians Cooperative recently created a Pediatric Initiative Network as a subset of the NPC. The Pediatric Initiative Network (PIN) consists of both NPC members and non-members including physicians, scientists, administrators, nurses, and patient navigators:

Mary Ellen Pavone, MD, MSCI
Jacqueline Jeruss, MD, PhD
Kate Timmerman, PhD

Leslie Ayensu-Coker, MD
Veronica Gomez-Lobo, MD
Paige Hertweck, MD

Jill Ginsberg, MD
Barbara Lockart, RN
Yasmin Gosiengfiao, MD

Kristin Smith, BS
Ali Fernbach, RN
Leah Kroon, RN

Peter Shaw, MD
Laxmi Kondapalli, MD
Lennie Sender, MD

To support the research mission of the NPC, the Pediatric Initiative Network reviewed the data items submitted on Form 2 for the OTC protocol. Minor edits were made in an attempt to avoid re-contacting sites for clarification during analysis.

The newly updated Form 2 can be found here: Form 2 - Enrollment

Please check with your IRB to determine whether an amendment is required at your institution.

Cryopreservation Techniques

Recently, the NPC has received an influx of questions relating to the vitrification of ovarian tissue. While the data regarding the role of vitrification is promising the NPC continues to recommend the use of slow-freeze as the method of cryopreservation for the NPC protocol.

Over the next few months, the Oncofertility Consortium will review the current slow-freeze and thawing procedures outlined in the OTC protocol. We aim to strengthen the protocols we are providing to NPC research sites and will notify the NPC of changes to the protocol as soon as possible. An update will follow in the Spring 2014 newsletter.
UPCOMING EVENTS

December 12, 2013, 10am CST: Virtual Grand Rounds with Joel L. Voss, PhD: "The role of hippocampal insults in cognitive impairments related to cancer treatment"

February 13, 2014, 10am CST: Virtual Grand Rounds with Robert E. Brannigan, MD