IVI

# Press Pack

Where life begins

# Valencian Infertility Institute

IVI, the Valencian Infertility Institute, was founded in 1990, as the first medical institution in Spain fully dedicated to Assisted Reproduction. Since then it has helped with the birth of more than 160.000 babies thanks to the application of the latest assisted reproduction methods.

This has been possible thanks to the work of a multidisciplinary team comprising more than **2.000 professionals highly specialised** in Gynaecology, Obstetrics, Genetics, Biology, Andrology, Surgery, Maternal-Foetal Medicine, etc. IVI is currently leader in reproductive medicine due to its rate of results in the clinical field and the fact that it is visited daily by couples from Spain and worldwide.

The **quality international patient care** makes IVI clinics a benchmark in their field. The care provided by a personal assistant in their own language from the start of the treatment, state-of-the-art facilities, good flight connections, no waiting lists and anonymity in treatments with egg donation mean that 20% of IVI patients are foreigners.

IVI currently has more than **65 clinics all over the world.** In addition to the London clinic in the UK, IVI is also present in the following countries: Spain, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Italy, Oman, Panama, Portugal, United Arab Emirates and United States of America.

At the beginning of 2017, **IVI arrives at America hand-in-hand with RMANJ.** This merger consolidates IVI-RMA Global as the largest group of assisted reproduction in the world. This synergy reinforces one of the fundamental pillars of IVI, research, thanks to which the best rates of success are achieved using the most innovative techniques. With this new milestone, the group continues its international expansion plan, that from this moment on will also take place in the United States.

At IVI's clinics **all current assisted reproduction treatments** are performed: intrauterine insemination (AI), in vitro fertilisation (IVF), egg donation, intra-cytoplasmatic sperm injection (ICSI), preimplantation genetic test (PGT) and vitrification of oocytes. It is one of the centres with the best rates of pregnancy; indeed, 9 out of 10 couples who consult IVI for infertility problems achieve their goal.

At IVI, from the start, we have been aware of the need to invest in Research and Development, which is why we created the **IVI FOUNDATION** for the Study of Assisted Reproduction, focused on research and teaching, which also benefits patients as it allows continuing training of the professionals thanks to the continuous research and participation in congresses and meetings worldwide.

The IVI Foundation includes in its statutes the execution of **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)** activities within the fields of reproductive medicine, gynaecology and paediatrics with the objective of favouring and helping people with few economic resources, as well as actions of promotion, development and strengthening of volunteers.

Our specialists' scientific research and work have been awarded some of the most representative **prizes** in the profession. These include prizes awarded by the American Society for Reproductive Medicine, the Society for Gynaecological Investigation, the Salud 2000 Foundation and the Spanish Fertility Society.

# IVI's Clinical Achievements

- **1996 -** The first babies in the world are born in which the pregnancy was achieved with frozen semen originating from the father's testicular tissue.
- **1997 -** Development of the embryo coculture technique: in vitro cultivation of embryos with maternal cells to achieve better embryonic quality and a greater rate of pregnancies in sterility treatments.
- **2002 -** For the first time in Spain a healthy baby is born to parents who have cystic fibrosis, thanks to Preimplantation Genetic Diagnosis (PGD). This achievement is repeated the following year upon diagnosing type I spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) in embryos of a couple with this disease, also known as Werdning-Hoffman disease.
- **2003 -** The first child of a couple with AIDS is born, where the father was infected with HIV and the mother was not. The baby girl was born without the virus, as the mother underwent in vitro fertilisation after the father's semen was washed.
- **2004 -** The IVI Foundation achieves the derivation of the first two cell lines in Spain: VAL1 and VAL2.
- **2006 -** For the first time in the world, a couple with lymphohistiocytosis (an illness that affects the immune system and is usually fatal) gives birth to a baby that will not develop the illness thanks to Preimplantation Genetic Diagnosis (PGD).

- **2007 -** The first baby gestated from vitrified eggs using the Cryo-top technique, created in Japan and pioneering in Spain, is born. For the first time, the cryopreservation of eggs represents a real option for conserving fertility, since women who decide to freeze their eggs will have in the future the same reproductive capacity as the day they decided to cryopreserve them, without the risk of damage to their eggs caused by ageing or medical treatments.
- **2008 -** The IVI Foundation set up its Programme for the Preservation of Fertility with the commitment to vitrify for free the eggs and semen of all those people with cancer who wanted to preserve their fertility before undergoing a treatment that could affect their capacity to have children in the future.
- **2009 -** The first Spanish twins are born, conceived after an implant of ovarian cortex that the mother had preserved, after being diagnosed with cancer.
- **2010 -** Juan is born, the first boy in the world selected using Embryoscope, a film incubator that increases the success rate of IVF.
- **2012 -** Second successful case of DGP-HLA in Spain: IVI manages to cure Izan, an 11-year-old boy affected by Adrenoleukodystrophy, using Preimplantation Genetic Diagnosis. After obtaining an embryo free of disease and HLA compatible with Izan, it was successfully implanted in the mother's uterus and she became pregnant with twins, leading to the birth of Noa and Leyre, two girls whose stem cells were used to save the life of their brother.

- **2013 -** IVI enables a woman who has just recovered from hematologic cancer to become a mother with her own eggs thanks to fertility preservation.
- **2014 -** IVI introduces the GCT, a new genetic compatibility test that prevents the transmission of 600 hereditary diseases, which are present in 1 in every 300 new-born babies.
- **2015 -** The first baby is born in Spain whose parents both preserved their fertility due to cancer (the father was diagnosed with Ewing sarcoma and the mother with breast cancer). This little boy is the fifth baby to be born through IVI's free fertility preservation programme for oncology patients.
- **2016 -** The first baby is born in Spain with Anevivo technology, an innovative device which allows fecundation and embryo development within an small capsule inside the mother's uterus, which makes the process more natural.
- **2017 -** The first 6 babies are born thanks to ovarian rejuvenation, a line of research IVI is pioneering and one that could benefit both early menopausal women and poor responders. Led by Prof. Pellicer, this line explores both the technique of ovarian fragmentation for follicular activation (OFFA) and the infusion of stem cells into the ovarian artery.
- **2018 -** IVI launches its IVIRMA Innovation website, a virtual fertility research center which serves as a knowledge exchange platform for scientists and researchers from all over the world.

# Dr César Díaz García
## IVI London's Medical Director

Dr César Díaz García completed his Bachelor's degree in Medicine at the Autonomous University of Madrid and Pitié-Salpêtrière University in Paris in 2004. He specialized in Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the University of Valencia. **He obtained the European PhD and Research Fellow to Professor Mäts Brännström at the Sahlgrenska University Hospital** in Gothenburg and at the Pediatrics, Obstetrics and Gynaecology Department of the University of Valencia (2015). He then went on to graduate in the Master of Science by the Autonomous University of Barcelona in 2014 (Statistics and Experimental Design) as well as recently achieving the extraordinary doctorate medicine award at the University of Valencia (2017-2018).

**From 2009, he joined the Swedish program of uterus transplantation and was a part of the first team to obtain a live birth from this procedure in 2012.** He then went on to be the leading professor in the Valencian Program for Fertility Preservation, which is one of the most internationally recognised programs of fertility preservation for oncological patients, not only this he was also part of La Fe University Hospital IVF program, the largest Spanish public IVF centre.

His teaching activity started in 2011 as an Associate Professor at the Department of Pediatrics, Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the University of Valencia. He was the coordinator of the research branch at La Fe University Hospital-Woman's Health Area (2014) and is the coordinator of the Fertility Preservation interest group of the Spanish Fertility Society since 2016.

**At the present, Dr César Díaz García is the Medical Director of IVI London** as well as an honorary senior clinical lecturer at the Nuffield department of women's and reproductive health at the University of Oxford.

**Dr César Díaz García was the lead consultant for reproductive surgery at La Fe University Hospital between 2011 and 2017.** During that period, he performed surgical procedures to treat pathologies related to infertility such as fibroids, polyps, endometriosis or uterine malformations.

Between 2013 – 2017 Dr César Díaz García has devoted a lot of his time performing surgeries in ovarian cancer patients at the gynae-onco unit at La Fe University as well as having a key surgical role in the first series of successful uterus transplantations ever done.

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