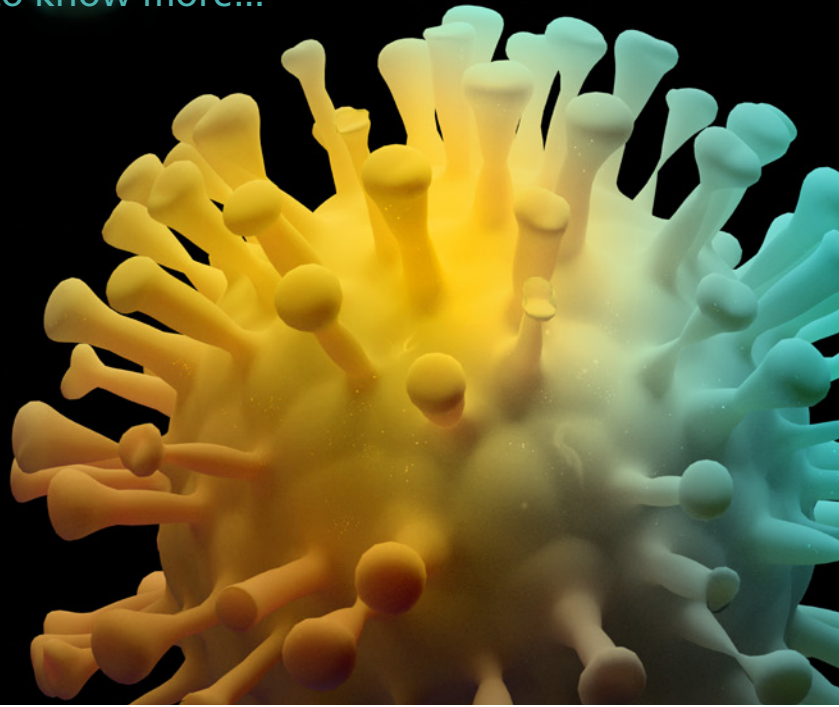


If you want to know more...



## ASPIRE, other International Conferences Postponed Amidst COVID-19 scare

### Is a public gathering worth the threat of spreading the new coronavirus (COVID-19)?

Business conferences and conventions are considered major economic thrusts. However, with the increasing number of COVID-19 cases across the globe comes the decision for a number of international events opting to cancel, postpone, or even relocate.

Here's a rundown of some of the big events Esco Medical ought to participate that have been postponed.

#### **Thai Society of Reproductive Medicine (TSRM) Conference**

Venue: Bangkok, Thailand  
Original Date of Event: March 11 - 13, 2020  
New Date of Event:  
Specific date to be announced.

#### **1st Fertility Expo 2020**

Venue: Dhaka, Bangladesh  
Original Date of Event: March 14, 2020  
New Date of Event:  
Specific date to be announced

#### **Danish Fertility Meeting**

Venue: Billund, Denmark  
Original Date of Event: March 14 - 15, 2020  
New Date of Event:  
Specific date to be announced.

#### **Pacific Coast Reproductive Society Annual Meeting**

Venue: Indian Wells, California, USA  
Original Date of Event: March 25 - 29, 2020  
New Date of Event:  
Specific date to be announced.

#### **13th Meditex Bangladesh**

Venue: Dhaka, Bangladesh  
Original Date of Event: April 2 - 4, 2020  
New Date of Event: August 27 - 29, 2020

#### **10th Congress of the Asia Pacific Initiative on Reproduction (ASPIRE)**

Venue: Manila, Philippines  
Original Date of Event: April 16 - 19, 2020  
New Date of Event: August 4 - 7, 2020

#### **SASREG Meeting**

Venue: South WC, South Africa  
Original Date of Event: April 26 - 28, 2020  
New Date of Event:  
Specific date to be announced.

#### **New England Fertility Society Annual Meeting**

Venue: Newport, RI, USA  
Original Date of Event: May 1 - 2, 2020  
New Date of Event: Specific date to be announced

#### **SIRT Meeting**

Venue: Melbourne, Australia  
Original Date of Event: May 2 - 3, 2020  
New Date of Event:  
Specific date to be announced.

#### **European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology (ESHRE)**

Venue: Copenhagen Denmark  
Original Date of Event: July 5 - 8, 2020  
New Date of Event: Cancelled

We may not yet know the full consequences of the novel coronavirus, however, health officials have called for "social distancing" — a concept of cancelling public gatherings and restricting travel — which experts say can slow and delay the spread of new infectious diseases. This recommends that anyone with authority, instead of restraining the risks of the coronavirus, should ask people to stay away from public places, cancel big gatherings, and restrict most forms of non-essential travel.

Stay safe everyone.

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Where in the World are Esco Medical's New Installation

# ASRM, SART Advisory for Infertility Patients about COVID-19

The Society for Assisted Reproductive Technology (SART) and the American Society of Reproductive Medicine (ASRM) previously released an advisory to infertility patients concerned with COVID-9 (novel coronavirus).

With the COVID-19 outbreak spreading globally, people across the world are being alerted to take all precautionary measures, including those who wish to bear a child. These measures are vital since scientists and health professionals are still on the verge of learning more of this virus' nature, hence, it is said that little is known with regards to its potential effect on reproduction and pregnancy.

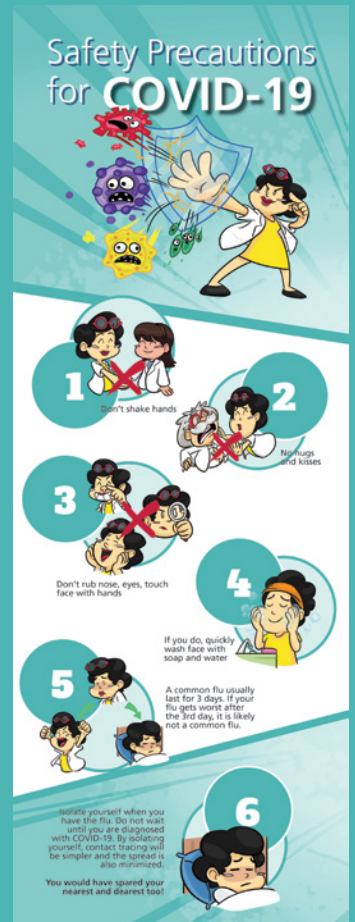
Both the ASRM and SART recommend that "individuals, who are pregnant or seeking to initiate a pregnancy soon, avoid non-essential travel to known areas of infection or contact with potentially infected individuals". Patients, (which includes prospective oocyte and sperm donors, gestational carriers), should avoid becoming pregnant if they meet the diagnostic criteria for COVID-19 infection. Patients who are undergoing active infertility treatment are encouraged to consider freezing all oocytes or

embryos and avoiding an embryo transfer until they are disease-free.

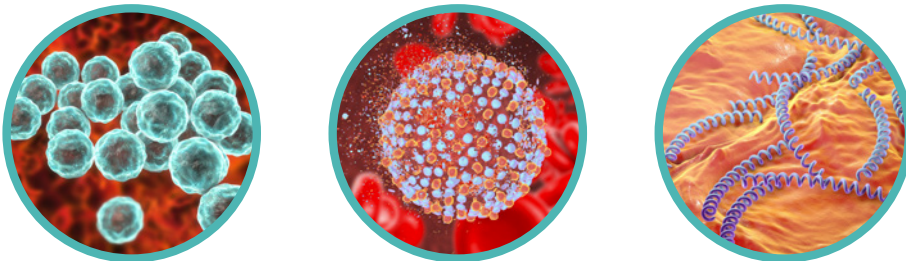
Moreover, the 2 organizations strongly embolden all future parents, clinicians and their organizations, (including programs that assist and/ or conduct these procedure and arrangements) to promptly take appropriate steps to identify families/ couples that may be affected and help come up with contingencies in the event that these babies need to be cared for following their birth.

Esco Medical is one with the world in reminding everyone (especially reproductive health care professionals and their patients) to stay well-informed of the newest guidelines and updates issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) concerning evolving developments on the COVID-19 epidemic.

An article about this advisory is published in ASRM's Bulletin Vol 22, No 3.



## Handling Infectious Disease Screening of Fertility Patients



With the inception of in-vitro fertilization (IVF), concerns regarding contamination and the possibility of infection transmission have been raised. Because of this, the screening for infectious organisms like Chlamydia trachomatis, HBV, or HCV in infected couples wanting to go through IVF, may pose a risk to the embryologist.

While IVF is not contraindicated in such cases, the embryology clinic and the IVF system warrants further consideration. Besides using sterile technique and supplementing culture media with screened sera or serum substitutes and antibiotics, working in an environment that is capable of providing added protection is of great help. The transmission of infectious diseases to IVF laboratory personnel can be further prevented by observing safety guidelines, wearing protective clothing,

having proper vaccination (like HBV), and even developing a plan for the disposal of bio-hazardous materials within the lab.

The Esco Medical Class II Workstation can be utilized in handling gametes and embryos from patients with communicable diseases while providing sample, user and environmental protection. It has multiple heating zones that enable precise temperature control across the work surface, with provision of a built-in microscope and integrated MIRI® chambers.

For more information about the MAW Class, check out its brochure at <https://www.esco-medical.com/product/ivf-workstation-ii/12/>



IVF laboratory personnel (whether lab technicians or healthcare personnel) are at risk, and so are future mothers and their offspring. Therefore, safety to all people involved should always be the top most priority. Fertility clinics should be capable of minimizing these risks by adhering to guidelines and standard operating procedures.



# Optimizing Embryo Selection through TL Technology

Embryo selection is considered one of the main predictors of live birth rates and success for IVF cycles. Throughout the years, many selection parameters have been developed but one of the latest advancements is doing aneuploidy screening or Preimplantation Genetic Screening (PGS) by performing an invasive technique -- trophectoderm biopsy. Although some studies shown improvements in clinical pregnancy and live birth rates using this embryo selection method, we are still in continuous pursuit of finding non-invasive methods so we can achieve zero harm to the embryos before they are transferred.

With the onset of time-lapse technology, it is now possible to monitor the complete development of the embryo without needing to disturb it or having to do daily capture images of the development outside their respective incubators. With this setup, embryologists can now attain an undisturbed culture system, and more accurate annotation timing as one of the benefits of this technology. Another important advantage is having abundant time to study the development of embryo and being able to take note of predictors for non-invasive embryo selection. Some of the more common ones are multinucleation, reverse cleavages, and direct cleavages. Study of Otsuki et. al. 2019, scored embryos at their early stage of development; specifically at pronuclei



detection stage. Studies on this stage were already present prior to time-lapse technology but a more comprehensive way of studying was opened with time-lapse imaging. They have devised a formula using time-lapse technology by combining the difference between the size of the male and female pronucleus based on 8 hours before and immediately before pronucleus membrane breakdown. On their study, when the normal embryos were defined using their equation, the birth rates for both IVF and ICSI were significantly high, yielding 68.1% and 50%, respectively. Whereas if abnormal embryos were

defined using their equation, the live birth rates were 9.4% and 4.2% for IVF and ICSI, respectively.

Having more studies like this using time-lapse system have paved way the development of non-invasive methods for embryo selection. This indicates that we are now closer than where we were to completely eliminating invasive methods for embryo selection. In-turn, we are now able to achieve significantly higher success rates for our patients without needing to possibly harm their embryos.



The MIRI® TL is a Multiroom Incubator with a built-in camera and microscope. Designed and manufactured in EU, the MIRI® TL provides high quality time-lapse images of embryos developing in 'real-time', without having to remove the embryos from the safety of the incubation chamber for manual microscopy. Time-lapse embryo monitoring provides detailed morphokinetic data throughout embryo development, which is not available on routine spot microscopic evaluation. This allows all important events to be observed, helping to identify healthy embryos with the highest probability of implantation, with the aim of achieving higher pregnancy rates.

## Esco Medical joins the “53rd Annual Meeting Physiology & Pathology of Reproduction simultaneously 45th Veterinary-Human Medicine Community Meeting”.

Esco Medical joined the “53rd Annual Meeting Physiology & Pathology of Reproduction simultaneously 45th Veterinary-Human Medicine Community Meeting”.

The conference that focused on the topics “Well-being and Fertility” and “Reproduction Management and Maternal Health” has taken place at the Hotel Neptun in the Baltic Sea resort Rostock-Warnemünde, Germany last February 26-28, 2020.

This event was organized by the Institute of Reproductive Biology of the FBN together with the German Veterinary Medical Society (DVG) and the German Society for Reproductive Medicine. Esco Medical is one of the sponsors and exhibited its MIRI® TL6, Mini MIRI®, and MIRI® Multiroom Incubator.

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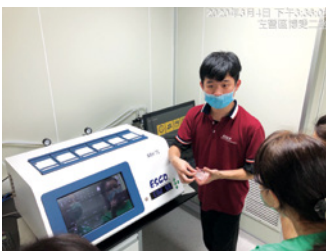
# Esco Medical joins the “53rd Annual Meeting Physiology...

Continued from Page 3.



## Where in the World are Esco Medical's New Installation

The Esco Medical team remains committed to its customers in spite of the coronavirus outbreak. Here are some pictures of the Esco Medical installation and application team in various IVF clinics/ laboratories after installations were made.



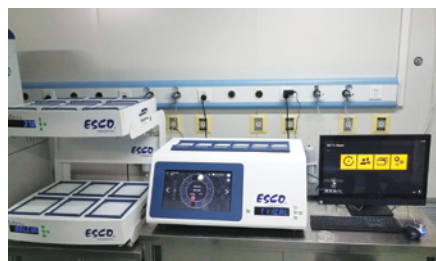
### Taiwan, February 2020

A new Multi-Zone ART Workstation (MAW) was installed at the Dr. Chang's clinics in Kaoshiung, Taiwan. Esco has continuously provided quality products and services to them. Over a span of a few years, the laboratory is now equipped with an MAW, a MIRI® Time-Lapse Incubator, and three MIRI® Multiroom Incubators.



### Malaysia, February 2020

A MIRI® Time-Lapse Incubator trial was conducted in Kensington Hospital in Malaysia. Kensington Hospital is a multi-specialist hospital at Johor Malaysia, opened in late 2019.



### China, January 2020

One unit of MIRI® Time-Lapse Incubator was installed at the second Hospital of Hebei Medical University in Northern China. Previously, the institution acquired two units of MIRI® Multiroom Incubators that were installed in 2019.



### USA, February 2020

The University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) is a long-term customer of Esco. With the new installation, UPMC now has six units of MIRI® Multiroom Incubators.

#### Manufacturer:

**Esco Medical Technologies, Ltd.**

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Service address: Please contact your local distributor for details.

Users of Esco Medical products should not hesitate to contact us if there are any unclear points or ambiguities in this manual.

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