Oncofertility
Fertility Preservation for Cancer Survivors


(continued after index)
Oncofertility
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for Cancer Survivors

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Foreword

It has been our pleasure to edit the first book on an interdisciplinary science we call oncofertility. Oncofertility bridges traditional areas of basic science and medical research, brings together oncologists and fertility specialists, and hopes to provide real options to young people who survive life-preserving but fertility-threatening treatments for cancer. The chapters in this book range from basic discovery research to reproductive medicine and from social science and the humanities to a section on stories from those who have survived cancer and have faced issues of fertility deprivation or restoration. Specifically, we have addressed three main areas: the underlying biological questions surrounding follicle growth and cryo-preservation of tissue; the application of the new technology to medical practice; and, the psychosocial implications of cancer-related infertility and oncofertility research for patients and their families. These questions are interlinking and require teams of investigators working in concert to solve a major unmet need. The book is a comprehensive initial definition of the field and we anticipate a great many more breakthroughs that will eventually provide a menu of options to those with fertility-threatening conditions.

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Teresa K. Woodruff
Karrie Ann Snyder
**Fundamental Question:**
What regulates follicle growth and oocyte maturation?
How can eggs and follicles be preserved without damage?

**Urgent Unmet Need:**
Preservation of fertility options after cancer

**Information Gap:**
Silo spanners, building a common language, integration between specialties

**Scientific Community:**
New ideas or approaches

**Family**

**Cancer Survivor**

**Parents**

**Reproductive Endocrinologist**

**Oncologist**

**New Scholar**

**New Policy and Practice, Government Regulations, of State Illinois (Legal, Ethical, Insurance, FDA)**

Community, education, engagement, authoritative resource pipeline

Healthcare decision-making, integration of self with society
As young women who faced both cancer and the potential loss of our ability to have children, we are extremely gratified by the efforts of the scientists, clinicians and social scientists who have come together to recognize, validate and tackle this critical issue. When we were diagnosed, there was little discussion of the physical impact of the life-preserving cancer treatments; and virtually no acknowledgement of the life-altering significance of that potential loss. It is exciting, therefore, to see the interdisciplinary, multifaceted approach that is now being put into place to meet the fertility needs of young adults diagnosed with cancer. We know that this seminal work in the field of oncofertility will set the stage for many more volumes as the field develops and the progress achieved makes more fertility-preserving options a reality for women just like us.

– Lindsay Beck
Founder and Executive Director, Fertile Hope

– Joyce Reinecke, JD
Program Director, Fertile Hope
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