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SUB-DOMAIN: 3. WOMEN, HEALTH, AND REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

PANEL TITLE:
HAPLOID DIPLOMACY: SCREENING, ETHICS AND REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE OF ASSISTED CONCEPTION

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ABSTRACT

Literature on assisted human reproduction has burgeoned in the four decades since ART (Assisted Reproductive Technology) came as a reasonable alternative to childlessness. A lexicon has combined, and key sets of debates for utilizing new reproductive technologies and techniques has expanded. It includes carrier screening (ECS), voiding of the presumed anonymity of gamete, PGT (Preimplantation Genetic Testing), MRT (Mitochondrial replacement therapy), epigenetic inheritance following IVF and germline genome editing. It has collated questions of biological, social, technical, moral, and legal imperatives confronted by couples opting for it. Another significant unifier though often unstated is bringing together of categories: biological and foster parents, single woman, and LGBTQ besides circulation of gametes and technological know-how. It also brings to the fore question of impact of genetic screening on future birthing choices. Would be parents have the right to abort the child if the foetus is diagnosed with any genetic abnormality. In vitro Studies have amply demonstrated the result of advances in genetic research, Findings have assisted in the entire process ART and helped individuals and families to have healthy children. Review of studies conducted in the last 19 years has provided both qualitative and quantitative explanation to evaluate the impact of the novel research advances at the interface of assisted reproduction and genetics, including the respective application into ART procedure. We review the texts and suggest several strands for research. Objects of medical sciences do not become saturated by the existing, to enhance the ART outcome at the backdrop of bio-ethics.

We invite papers for elucidating the hitherto development of high-throughput technologies, such as ECS, voiding of the anonymity of gamete, PGT, MRT, and germline genome editing to negotiate with the reproductive justice. Scores of phrases developed early in embryology with ever improving technology, such as ARTians'. Notion of haploid diplomacy pertinent to the NRT (New Reproductive Technology) community is used to elucidate how community navigates the conundrums, that arise when new opportunities arise. These have remarkable resilience and wide application in describing and analysing human technology interactions. While assisted reproductive technology, including in vitro fertilization has given hope to millions of couples suffering from infertility, it has also introduced countless ethical, legal, and social challenges.

Keywords: ART, ECS, PGT, bio-ethics, social freezing

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