Dear colleagues

This is an e-mail from Assisted Reproduction Information and Support (ARISE).

This is mainly for the Cape Town people, but if Joburg or PE want to skype in as well, please let me know.

[ARISE  is a  collective of doctors, psychologists, counsellors and social workers whom I update and on e-mail and invite for training in the field of assisted reproduction.  In the past, this group  has been mainly for people not working in Assisted Reproduction clinics (as those working in clinics have slightly different training needs) .  This work  arose out of CPD training I did with about 25 psychologists in 2014 around psychological frameworks for 3rd party reproduction in 2014 and has carried on].

Recently Petra Thorn, a German Social worker published on her blog an article that some of you may have seen.  It was originally published by IOL media South Africa and is about the opinion that South African Law should ensure that egg and sperm donation are not anonymous.  Petra has been invited by SASREG to speak at the  Oct. 2015 conference and she will be speaking in Cape Town in November at ARISE. (Please see the IOL article at the end of this page).

The ARISE team thought it was a good time to invite researchers who had conducted a longitudinal study comparing psychological attachment (using a number of validated instruments) in UK families where gamete donation was disclosed or not and those where the donor was known or anonymous.

In time we will hear from a colleague who has conducted the first outcome study for donor conceived offspring in Spain where donation is anonymous.

We have registered our organisation to received CPD points for this. Please confirm your attendance for seating and catering.

A

Speaker 1: Dr. Lucy Blake.  Research Associate Cambridge Centre for Family Studies.

Topic:  Outcomes from a Longitudinal study. The consequences of secrecy versus openness about donor insemination (DI) for family relationships and child adjustment at adolescence. (Please see attached papers on these studies).

And

Speaker 2: Dr.  Sascha Edelstein. Fertility Specialist. HART clinic. Cape town.

Topic:  A summary of the keynote address at the recent European Society for Reproductive Health and Embryology (ESHRE) on the most recent research between stress and infertility.

Date :**Wed 9 Sep 2015**

Venue: I will hire the board room of The UCT HIV/AIDS and Inclusivity Unit. Ivan Toms Building 28 Rhodes avenue Mowbray.

Time 7-9pm.

Cost: R 50

RSVP: cal.volks@uct.ac.za

If you are lost: 0829408922

(Petra is the guest of Lizaan Van Waart of the Winelands Infertility Clinic).

Speaker: Petra Thorn. Social Worker. German Infertility Counselling Association.

Topic: Experiences of working with families with  donor conceived children aged 7 and up.

Date: **Sun 15 November**

Venue: I will hire the board room of The UCT HIV/AIDS and Inclusivity Unit. Ivan Toms Building 28 Rhodes avenue Mowbray.

Time: 10-12 am.

Cost: R 50

RSVP: cal.volks@uct.ac.za

If you are lost: 0829408922

**[I have an RSVP from Cal, Justin, Heather, Andrew, Sascha & Myra for both].**

You are please also reminded of the SASREG - the Southern African Society of Reproductive Medicine and Gynaecological Endoscopy 3 day meeting in Joburg 28-30 October where for 1 morning or afternoon the re will be the first meeting of the SASREG Psychology and Counselling group. Lizaan van Waart has done all the ground work on this with SASREG exec and will have mailed you all more info. Our esteemed colleagues Leanne Van Der Westhuizen and Tanya Rubin have been invited to present at the conference. Please support them if you are interested.

Please note this is a different forum from this ARISE forum where we get CPD points and different to  the MERCK updating group for mental health practitioners based in clinics that take place in Cape Town and Joburg.

Warm regards

Cal Volks

