

## ZYGEN

10/1/08

<http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/11216>

The Director from GIVF Cryobanks (Fairfax Cryobank and Cryogenic Laboratories, Inc.) has different information than we show on our clinic list (which was compiled from former clients). It's easy to see why there is so much confusion!

I have agreed to post his information, as follows:

1. The Genetics & IVF Institute's (GIVF) main office is in Fairfax, VA. GIVF no longer has offices in Ashburn, VA and Gaithersburg, MD., where clients seeking infertility treatment were seen. GIVF is made up of Divisions, that specialize in infertility, genetics, sperm sorting, cryobanking, infectious disease testing, and pre-implantation genetic testing. Certain divisions have locations in various states (TX, CA, MN, PA) and internationally (China and Mexico) however not all divisions and services are represented in those locations. Please refer to our web site for additional information regarding our products and services: [www.givf.com](http://www.givf.com)
2. CLI is not able to confirm the statement that the same donor had previously donated at Zygen Laboratories and California Cryobank. However, if the donor number from the CLI donor in question is forwarded to CLI management they will follow up with the donor.
3. CLI has NEVER changed any donor numbers. It cannot be done. Donor numbers are written on the vials that contain the semen. Once frozen, the numbers cannot be changed without thawing the vials and then refreezing them. Such a process would render the semen unacceptable for distribution. CLI is also AATB accredited and this practice would be in direct violation of the AATB standards which require that a unique identifier be assigned to each donor.
4. CLI was acquired by GIVF from John Olson in 2002. The 2000 numbers were from donors that were recruited following the acquisition and were not from other banks. Some donors with pregnancies listed are b/c they have children of their own and have created pregnancies as their samples were used.
5. CLI, IC and Follas have NEVER used ReproTech Ltd. as a freezing facility. In fact, ReproTech Ltd. an independently owned company does not operate a freezing facility they are a storage facility only.
6. ReproTech Ltd. was located in the same building as CLI in Roseville, MN until 2007. In 2007, they moved to a new location in Minneapolis/St. Paul.
7. CLI and ReproMed Ltd. were both started by John Olson. CLI donors and ReproMed donors were shared with distribution in the US and Canada. The first ReproMed donor was donor #3000. The CLI affiliation with ReproMed Ltd. was discontinued in 1999. ReproMed Ltd. is currently independently owned and operated. There are currently no shared donors between CLI and ReproMed Ltd. ReproMed and CLI have one donor (# 3040) in common on both catalogs currently. All other donors that CLI and ReproMed had in common are sold with ReproMed.
8. CLI has and continues to distribute semen produced by some of the following banks. Supplies of these donors are limited and once they are gone, there will be no additional units available from CLI. Clients interested in future specimens on these donors will have to contact the original bank to check availability. InternationalCryogenics, Inc. (ICI), Follas Laboratories, and Park Avenue Fertility (PAF), Reproductive Resources, University of Nebraska (currently out of business), Washington Fertility Study Center (currently out of business). (NOTE: The sperm banking division of Follas Laboratories was sold to General BioTechnology LLC and is currently doing business as Genome Resources). Donors from the other banks, were/are distributed with the same donor number as the originating bank. The CLI profiles on the donors were created with information supplied by the originating banks.
9. CLI has NEVER had any donors listed on the Biogenetics donor catalogue.
10. CLI has NEVER distributed California Cryobank (CCB) donors and likewise CCB has not distributed CLI donors.
11. Fairfax Cryobank DID NOT purchase Follas Laboratories or any other bank (see above) . GIVF of which Fairfax Cryobank is a division, owns CLI. GIVF has not purchased any other cryobanks.
12. Each cryobank has its own donor numbering system. Therefore, several banks can have the same donor number on a past or current catalogue, however, they are not the same person.
13. Can Am Cryoservices, Inc. in Hamilton, ON distributes donor semen throughout Canada produced by Fairfax Cryobank and Cryogenic Laboratories, Inc. The samples are produced in the US and imported into Canada. All donors and their samples must meet strict Health Canada regulations regarding screening and infectious disease testing. Some donors are distributed both in the US and Canada at the same time. They would have the same donor number in both the US and Canada.

14. GIVF egg donor program is separate from Fairfax Cryobank sperm donor program. In addition, Fairfax Cryobank sperm donor program is separate from the CLI sperm donor program. Likewise, egg donor screening is different than sperm donor screening. All three programs are FDA registered and FDA inspected.  
15. CLI NEVER had an affiliation with the University of Utah for donor sperm.

8/4/08 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/10954>

A member recently wrote to ask about Fairfax Cryobank and which other clinics they have bought up or sold sperm for. Here is the information that we've collected about who shares/sells/buys sperm:  
-Zygen and CCB donor (different numbers at each bank) retired and showed up at CLI as a new donor, under a new number.  
-CLI has listings on Biogenetics (these change numbers). CCB has listings on Biogenetics and Zygen (these change numbers).

7/26/08 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/10911>

I used Zygen in Tarzana as well. I wish that the profiles that they provided had more personal information about the donors. I know that other sperm banks have handwritten notes, or an essay written by the donor. Some even get photos of the donors when they were kids as part of the profile package. I didn't realize at the time how important those things would be. Zygen focused more on the health history and ages of parents and grandparents, etc. Very little about the donor himself. Zygen was recommended by our doctor at Kaiser because the quality of the frozen sperm was outstanding. (which was true as the excellent motility and thawing ability was always remarked upon by the doctors performing the inseminations).  
My daughter was conceived in 1995 (born in 96) from a donor whom we'd used his last vials and was retired. She is our only child and we too would love to have any kind of contact with siblings and or donor. And as you said, even just a photo would be wonderful.

7/25/08 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/10898>

My husband passed away when my son was 9, and I told him about his conception when he was 10 years old. He is now 18 and I asked him if he was interested in finding any siblings or the donor father. Which was Zygen Laboratories in Tarzana Calif. in the year of 1989. I do have his donor number, but I check on the web site and see that nobody has that donor number up. It doesn't affect him at all that he conceived that way. I already had one son from my husband, and then my husband got ill and this was the only way for us to have another child, and I am so glad I had him, He is handsome, sensitive, smart, strong, and I just adore him. I love him so much! I would like to thank the donor. What he does say is that he would just like to see a picture. I find that interesting that they cannot put pictures on the profiles. If there were a way to just be able to see a picture. If there are siblings, he would be curious to meet them, but like I said a picture is worth a million words. JUST A PHOTO.....

5/9/08 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/10593>

Re: Limiting number of children born per donor...Why again?  
None of this matters if a single donor is donating at several different labs. Each and every lab can impose their own rules about limiting the number of offspring per donor, but like in our case, where our donor donated at 3 different major labs (CCB, ZYGEN, CLI), then there is absolutely no way of tracking how many 1/2 sibs there actually are. (We are still unsure if these labs shared our donor's samples with one another or if he actually donated at them--the labs all say he was THERE in person!)  
And that goes without saying how many parents are not reporting their pg's and live births to their labs. I think that there is no way to track 1/2 sibs at this point without serious change and process!!!!  
I am sure the actual numbers of 1/2 sibs with certain donors is ASTONISHING!!!

5/3/08 <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/10554>

Zygen posts on its web site that they may destroy records 5 years after the last sample has been released. They

have indicated that, while this is their policy, they have never destroyed records. In my experience with Zygen, records could not be located three years after my son was born. I now know (thanks to DSR) that the last sample (that I'm aware of) was released less than a year before this time so the records should have been intact according to their policy. They told me they could not find the file for this donor. I made another attempt with Zygen to find more information about his donor in 2007 after finding my son's siblings and again, I was told that records could not be located. If they were not destroyed, why was there no record of this donor? There are at least three children by this donor.

5/3/08 | <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/10551>

From Zygen Client Services:

"We have the option to shred the donor's information 5 years after his last sample is released and/or sold from our laboratory. This is what we have on website. So far we have not destroyed any records by choice, but it is a policy we have. I apologize if there is any inconvenient."

5/1/08 | <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/10543>

Zygen Laboratories in Los Angeles publishes their policy on their website regarding the destruction of donor records after 5 years of using up last samples.

10/1/07 | [http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR\\_Discussion/message/3992](http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DSR_Discussion/message/3992)

I think that you are very wise to be seeking feedback prior to making a decision about which spermbank to use. The choice of spermbank is critical since their competency in screening donors is crucial as is their accurate description of donors so that you are making an informed choice.

I would really not be too concerned about choosing locally as choosing right!

I could never under any circumstances recommend the spermbank I used (the NECC) since they did not properly screen my donor or if they did they didn't divulge his very significant medical issues. They also lied very substantially about his education and personality. They also told me he was identity release when he was not. If I was the only one reporting these NECC problems then maybe I would think it was a one-off case but I know of several other women reporting the same problems.

So my best recommendation is to try to look through the old DSR messages and use the search facility to check out the names of spermbanks you might want to use. Note carefully the negative feedback. In general you can pretty much ignore positive feedback since all spermbanks have great customer service upfront and 96% of children are born normal. So even if the spermbanks didn't screen at all, then nineteen out of every twenty kids from their sperm would be born just fine. Spermbanks should be screening their donors at a level to significantly reduce the incidence of hereditary disorders.

A very important factor you should consider is if the spermbank take affected donor sperm out of circulation when congenital abnormalities or disorders are reported. In my case an offspring was reported with problems prior to my children's birth, yet I was not informed about the issue despite being in good contact with the NECC. They ever gave me the option of considering an abortion. Then when I and another mother reported problems with later offspring, nothing was noted upon the medical file and the sperm was still sold for several years until I began legal proceedings.

Spermbanks are definitely not all equal and since you are buying a product sight unseen and will have a child as an outcome, you owe it to yourself to be very, very careful and heed the warnings of the people who actually make the effort of posting to this site.

It is certainly worth while spending the effort to do your due diligence in order to reap the benefits and fun of raising a healthy child.

- > Right now I'm still trying to decide on a spermbank. I know this
- > site is mainly for the purpose of contacting other possible siblings
- > and families, so I'm hoping no one minds, but is there any chance
- > anyone on here has had recent experience with either Northwest
- > Andrology and Cryobank (Spokane, WA) or Zygen Laboratories and
- > Cryobank?

3/25/06	<a href="http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/6601">http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/6601</a>
<p>Yesterday I called the lab (ZYGEN) I used that birthed my 14 year old and was FLOORED when they told me there have been 40 recorded pregnancies with my son's genetic dad. To me, all that does is just give the donor all the more reason NOT to contact offspring. That would be too overwhelming for the guy! (Even if only 1/2 of them came forth, or counting miscarriage, we're still talking 20 +/- offspring) Lab is only interested in the money, not caring about these kind of consequences. Labs don't care if large numbers discourage Donor disclosure.</p> <p>There should be some sort of REGULATION on the number of pregnancies, except for families that want to create full siblings, then I would not regulate them.</p>	

3/23/06	<a href="http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/6542">http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/6542</a>
<p>You posted on another website that you used Zygen ###. This is also CCB ####, which I used, and CLI ###.</p>	

3/9/06	<a href="http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/6339">http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/6339</a>
<p>I know that Zygen, CCB and CLI are all linked somehow.</p> <p>Our donor donated (in person) at Zygen in 1994 and CCB in 1994 and 1998. Now CLI reports he is a "newer" donor, meaning that they just received his vials. I very much doubt he also donated at CLI, as he is in CA, as the other 2 labs are. I am guessing CLI "bought" the extra vials from one of these banks.</p>	

3/9/06	<a href="http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/6338">http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/6338</a>
<p>CCB donor #### (he is retired now, but you can do a search for him) CLI donor #### (active).</p> <p>Zygen donor ### (also retired now, but his profile is still on their homepage as a "sample" donor profile). All of the info is the same and the baby pics at CCB and CLI are the same--Zygen didn't offer pics at the time!</p>	

3/6/06	<a href="http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/6284">http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/6284</a>
<p>I just found our donor's profile at a 3rd cryobank! All the information is the same, age, weight-a few pounds off at each, however, the health, occupation, ancestry, religion, fav animal, location raised, siblings, etc....all the same! His audio is the same too!</p> <p>How can this be? Are cryolabs sharing samples? Two of the labs are in Ca, and this one is on the East coast....so I am absolutely stumped and stunned!</p> <p>The 3 banks he is at are CCB, Zygen and now CLI!</p>	

3/31/04	<a href="http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/3119">http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/3119</a>
<p>I came across another cryolabs donor's profile (CCB), and it is EXACTLY THE SAME info as our donor, used at a different lab (Zygen Labs), but in the same city/region (Southern Ca). The donor was the same age, height, weight, education/major, features, birth city and birth year and blood type. Is this strange? I thought it was weird that I had no matches under the lab I used, and now see that there are 5 other siblings with the other lab, if this is indeed our donor. I am upset that no one ever told me that donors can donate anywhere. I guess there is no way to track them! =(</p>	

8/28/03	<a href="http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/1990">http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/DonorSiblingRegistry/message/1990</a>
<p>They seem to be one of the least known about labs, but I can't say enough about how wonderful they have been to us! I just can not believe that we haven't had a match, yet. And I had been told that our donor had a reported 25 pregnancies back in 2001, and then they retired him.</p>	