Dear Patients of the Shady Grove Fertility Donor Egg Program,

Our screening of candidates for egg donation at Shady Grove Fertility is quite extensive – in fact only ~3% of donors who apply are finally accepted to be in the donor database to cycle! Besides their detailed personal and medical history and comprehensive ovarian function testing, this donor screening includes a number of interviews and visits, detailed family history, and extensive psychological, infectious disease, drug, and genetic screening.

Recently, we have markedly increased the degree and sophistication of our donor genetic screening as improved technologies have become available. This type of genetic screening is not yet frequently done on couples who are planning on having a baby, may be done today more frequently on couples who come to infertility care, but is a routine part of our screening for donor egg candidates. **Over 100 genetic disorders for which a donor may be a carrier are now screened at Shady Grove Fertility.** This is an important advance in donor screening which we are pleased to provide.

Many people in the population – perhaps including even each of us - are carriers of a number of genetic mutations. We do not have any disease, but all of our cells –including eggs and sperm - are carriers for it. The more comprehensive the screening, the more mutations are picked up. If the donor is a carrier, half of her eggs will carry the particular mutation and half will not. If the carrier mutation in the donor’s egg is matched with the same carrier mutation found in half the sperm, on average 25% of the offspring will therefore have that disorder. (These are called Autosomal Recessive Gene Disorders). The clinical consequences of any such genetic disorder present a broad range, from very serious to the very very minor, and quite a number even may be clinically non-existent. A donor, even if she is a carrier of some genetic (autosomal recessive) mutation for which we screen, may be considered to be chosen by you if the male partner is screened and found negative for the same mutations.

As it takes considerable time to run, analyze and review the genetic screening results, the only way to provide you with information upon which you can make a decision about choosing any particular donor is to also have the male partner screened as early in the process as possible to see which mutations, if any, he might carry. It is then that you can decide, with the help of trained genetic counseling from Counsyl which donor might be most suitable to you among choices you may have. (Counsyl is the name of the independent laboratory we have used for genetic screening these past years for all of our donor and non-donor genetic screening. It is also important to remember that these genetic screening tests while highly accurate and reliable and markedly reduce risk, unfortunately cannot bring a level of absolute certainty in screening anyone, either the donor or the male partner for genetic mutations.)

The only way to have you be ready to match with a donor who has completed her prescreening and is in the donor database ready to be selected is to have the male genetic screening performed and results available to you and to us in advance. To provide this additional level of screening, we have been working extensively with Counsyl, and they have agreed to help facilitate the screening of the partners in our Donor Egg Program in a number of ways:
1) **At your Comprehensive Visit to Shady Grove Fertility, a blood sample can be obtained on the male partner and appropriate Counsyl forms completed** through the Counsyl website. Or, if you have already undergone your consult, a Counsyl test kit can be ordered and sent directly to your home, where you can collect a saliva specimen and send it directly back to Counsyl.

2) A negotiated (and quite reduced) cost of $299, for cash-paying patients, or a maximum out of pocket cost of $99 for patients with insurance, has been accepted by Counsyl for our Donor Egg Patients.

3) Counseling from a trained Counsyl genetics counselor, and our input, is available to you **without charge** to discuss any genetic mutations that may be found in the donor and/or male testing once it has been performed.

4) The genetic screening for the male partner is now part of the overall pre-screening we utilize to try to provide you with the most successful and safe donor egg therapy. **An Access Code to the donor database to choose a donor can only be provided once all of the prescreening, now including male genetic screening, is completed.**

5) While we strongly urge male genetic testing as above, should you **not** wish to participate, then a **WAIVER, signed at Shady Grove Fertility by both the male and female recipient couple** (if applicable) in lieu of the blood drawing must be completed. This Waiver will clearly specify that unless you chose one of the fewer donors with no mutations of any kind, then without knowing the mutations in the male partner, you risk having a child with that genetic disorder.

As discussed above, the donor screening and matching is a multifaceted process, and while the newer technologies available has made this more complex, we also hope you will agree it has also made it more comprehensive and safe.

We remain open to your questions, and look forward to a safe and successful outcome to your treatment with us.

**The Donor Egg Team of Shady Grove Fertility Center**