American Embryo Transfer Association

Suggestions for the Colleague Visit Program

For colleague visits to qualify for 5 CE credits for both the host practitioner and the visiting practitioner, it is required that these visits be of at least 1 business day in duration and an attempt to include at least one embryo collection/processing procedure should be made. Since reproductive physiology, superovulation, embryo collection, embryo grading, embryo processing, cryopreservation, recordkeeping and labeling are the cornerstones of our certification program, an exchange of ideas regarding these topics should be included in these visits. The following check list is included as an aid in making the visits a learning experience for both practitioners:

Recordkeeping: An observation as to how the host practitioner meets certification standards that require the practitioner to complete AB/AC/ABC form with all required information and keep these records for at least 6 years should be part of all colleague visit events.

Labeling: Since labeling requirements are such an important part of the certification program, procedures used for proper labeling of straws, cane tops, canes and goblets that meet or exceed IETS and AETA standards are additional areas of interest.

Reproductive physiology, superovulation, follicular wave management: During a colleague visit, an exchange of ideas concerning all of these areas could certainly provide a learning experience for both practitioners.

Embryo collection and handling: Recovery procedures, grading, washing and handling of embryos are additional areas that are very important to the certification program.

Cryopreservation: An observation of a freezing procedure and a discussion of the principles behind cryopreservation are suggested topics.

There are additional areas that could be considered, even though they are not officially part of the certification requirements. The following are just a few suggestions of the many potential topics that could be of value:

> Is the media storage adequate to insure the media maintains its quality until it is used? What steps are taken in very hot or very cold environments to minimize the negative effect on the embryo during all the different steps of the collection and processing procedure? When working in other less than ideal environments, what steps are taken to minimize the negative effects? What quality control procedures are in place? What forms are used to give instruction to the client or their employees? Are animal welfare, biosecurity and drug residue and safety issues adequately addressed in the practice? These are just a few of the many potential areas to consider for discussion.