

# ReproLogix™

## REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGIES

American Owned & Operated

### An Embryo Journey

*by Lohana Fernandez*

#### ***Ovum pick up.***

I am an oocyte, an egg from the female, that contains a lot of DNA and is being held within a follicle inside the ovary. Today I saw a strange object poking inside my follicle, feeling a strong pull from the needle, I get suctioned into a tube. Everything starts turning around me and it feels like a rollercoaster. After what felt like forever, the dizziness stopped and I am surrounded by a lot of eggs just like me. Some don't look as pretty as me and some don't have any cumulus cells surrounding them for protection. We wait a little bit in this tube before we are squeezed against a filter. Almost all the debris around us disappears and only the other eggs and I remained.

We get moved to a warm and nice liquid inside a petri dish where the eggs get scattered. I see another object suctioning all the good eggs that have a nice surrounding cumulus cells and good nucleus. Some of the not so good-looking eggs are also taken and only the dead ones stayed behind. We get moved up and down through several other liquids while our environment starts getting cleaner and cleaner. By the end we are put inside a vial that has all the nutrients and good conditions for us to grow. Our cumulus cells start growing in size and tell us to get ready to meet the sperm. Whoever that guy is.

#### ***In Vitro Fertilization***

Twenty-four hours have passed since we were placed inside an incubator. This place is warm, keeps us moist and in darkness, just what like the uterus would have been. A lab technician moves us to a plate filled with a different liquid that is making the cumulus cells react strangely. After a while we see the so-called sperm they were talking about. There are so many of them that are trying to get passed the cumulus cells. One finally manages to reach me and gives me more DNA and boy is this a lot of information to take in at once. Thankfully the lab technician puts me back in the incubator where I start learning all this new information. I see some of the other eggs are struggling with it, while others are just not accepting the sperm altogether.

#### ***In Vitro Culture***

After another 24 hours we are taken out of the incubator, by this point the cumulus cells have done their job and are no longer needed so the technician removes them. Some of my fellow eggs were not able to keep with us and are removed. After all the ordeal we are placed into another media plate, which I am very grateful for because our real job starts now and we will need all the nutrients we can. I start dividing into multiple cells, some eggs are going faster than others. Some stopped multiplying, wish I could ask them what happened. And lastly, some didn't end up accepting the sperm and went to sleep since their job was done.

On the sixth day after fertilization the lab technician takes us out again. By this point we can already distinguish which structures will more than likely become embryos, which ones degenerated and which ones are unfertilized. All dead and unfertilized are removed. I still need another day to develop, but some of my friends were thriving so good that they are ready to get frozen.

The next morning mostly all of us that would have become an embryo have done so far, some are staying a little bit behind. Hopefully they will make it by the afternoon. All embryos that are ready were either frozen or taken to the farm to be transferred to our new moms.

*A new journey begins for each embryo.*