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Vrije Universiteit Brussel

FACULTEIT GENEESKUNDE EN FARMACIE

Doctoraat Medische Wetenschappen

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UITNODIGING

Voor de openbare verdediging van het
doctoraatsproefschrift van

Alastair SUTCLIFFE

24 oktober 2008

U wordt vriendelijk uitgenodigd op de openbare verdediging van het proefschrift van

Alastair SUTCLIFFE

'An International Collaborative Study of Intracytoplasmic Sperm Injection - Child and Family Outcomes – ICSI-CFO'

Op **24 oktober** om **17 uur**
in auditorium **P. Brouwer** van de
Faculteit Geneeskunde & Farmacie,
Laarbeeklaan 103, 1090 Brussel

Situering van het proefschrift

This large international study was conducted over a 30 month period and was jointly led by Dr Alastair Sutcliffe (UCL) and Dr Maryse Bonduelle (VUB).

ICSI-CFO arose due to an urgent need to investigate the health of children born after ICSI (invented at VUB) and conventional IVF (invented in the UK). There were theoretical concerns about the safety of ICSI. Methods; 1550 children were studied in 5 European countries (1/3 in UK, 1/3 in Belgium and the other 1/3 in Sweden, Denmark and Greece). These children were aged 5 years and consisted of approximately equal groups of ICSI conceived; IVF conceived and naturally conceived (NC) children. After training in London, paediatric/child psychologists pairs applied the extensive protocol of checks which included full neurodevelopmental scoring, laterality testing, congenital anomalies and other physical checks and finally assessment of general health, and tests of family relations. Findings; these ICSI conceived children born after 32 weeks gestation were found to be similar in most aspects of health to IVF comparison group and NC control group. There were more congenital anomalies and a higher tendency to access health service resources. However psychometric, laterality, neuromotor and general health checks were all normal. Conclusions; within the limitations of this large study, initially we can be confident that health of ICSI singleton mature children in Europe is generally satisfactory.

Curriculum Vitae

Dr Alastair Sutcliffe is Senior Lecturer in Child Health and an Honorary Consultant in Paediatrics at the General and Adolescent Paediatric Unit, Royal Free and University College Medical School, University College London, UK. He has been an advisor to the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority working party on assisted reproductive technology (ART) outcome in the UK. Dr Sutcliffe's major research interests are the outcome of interventions in early life and medicines and children. His work has been recognised by national and international societies and he was awarded the Established Clinician Award from the European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology in 1999; the Donald Paterson Prize from the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health in 2003; and the Best Abstract for Counselling and Psychosocial Aspects of Infertility and Reproductive Medicine from the British Fertility Society in 2004. Dr Sutcliffe has published over 40 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters and is an author of one book and an editor of a second book on ART outcomes. He is a reviewer for numerous journals including the Lancet, New England Journal of Medicine, Fertility and Sterility and Human Reproduction. Dr Sutcliffe's interest in outcomes of interventions in early life have resulted in the first published studies on outcome of embryo cryopreservation, twin-twin transfusion syndrome and preimplantation genetic diagnosis. To see Dr Sutcliffe talking on this topic see <http://www.uit2008.com/profile.php?sp=alastair>