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Vrije Universiteit Brussel

FACULTEIT GENEESKUNDE EN
FARMACIE

Doctoraat in de Medische Wetenschappen

Academiejaar 2009-2010

UITNODIGING

Voor de openbare verdediging van het
doctoraatsproefschrift van

Willem VERPOEST

dinsdag 22 juni 2010

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

Willem VERPOEST

'The Clinical Reproductive Outcome of Preimplantation Genetic Diagnosis'

Op **dinsdag 22 juni 2010** om **17 uur**
in auditorium **P. Brouwer** van de
Faculteit Geneeskunde & Farmacie
Laarbeeklaan 103, 1090 Brussel

Situering van het proefschrift

Preimplantation genetic diagnosis (PGD) is a technique that allows genetic selection of embryos prior to pregnancy, with the aim of avoiding transmission of hereditary disorders in the offspring. The technique was applied for the first time in humans in 1990, and has developed at UZ Brussel since 1992. There are currently over 100 genetic conditions that can be diagnosed by PGD.

The research topic of the thesis is the clinical reproductive outcome of PGD, the factors that affect the outcome and the potential risks that are associated with this practice. The research methodology includes the application of life table analysis to assess cumulative live birth rate following PGD and multivariate regression analysis within this application, in a large cohort of PGD treatment cycles performed over 15 years of PGD practice. The strengths and weaknesses of this methodology in reproductive medicine and PGD are discussed extensively in the thesis.

Furthermore, the thesis presents an important subgroup analysis of the reproductive outcome of couples undergoing PGD for myotonic dystrophy type I (DM1), a disorder that is known to be associated with reproductive as well as obstetric issues.

The risk of monozygotic twinning in PGD is analysed, and the risks of perinatal complications are discussed. Current clinical reproductive practices such as single embryo transfer (SET) and ovarian stimulation in PGD are analysed.

Curriculum Vitae

Willem Verpoest was born in The Hague in May 1969. He studied Latin-Sciences at St.Lievens College, Ghent, followed by Medicine at the Catholic university of Louvain (KUL), where he graduated in 1995 with great distinction. He trained as a Specialist in Obstetrics and Gynaecology in several hospitals both in the United Kingdom and Belgium, and achieved his Certificate of Continued Specialist Training at the KUL in 2003. He obtained the degree of Subspecialist in Reproductive Medicine (EBCOG) in 2008.

Since 2002 he is member of the Reproductive Medicine team at UZ Brussel, initially as specialist registrar, followed by a fellowship, to be appointed medical co-director in 2008. He is mainly involved in reproductive genetics, reproductive endocrinology, clinical quality assessment and clinical education.

He is author and co-author of 27 peer-reviewed articles in international journals, author of two book chapters. He is associate editor of Facts, Views and Vision in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, and reviewer for numerous journals. He is board member of the Vereniging voor Fertiliteitsstudie and the Vlaamse Werkgroep Reproductieve Geneeskunde of the VVOG, and is member of ESHRE, ASRM, BSRM and VVOG.

Willem is married to Caroline Verlinde and proud father of Arthur and Alix Verpoest.