

# Curriculum Vitae

**CHRISTIANA  
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## Personal Statement

An accomplished lab director/senior embryologist, UK educated and trained with over 15 years of hands-on experience in the field. DHA & HAAD Licensed + Certificate in Clinical Embryology awarded by the UK Association of Clinical Embryologists (ACE). Extensive experience and knowledge in all aspects of advanced fertility treatment including trophoctoderm biopsy & vitrification. An efficient leader with a thorough understanding of advanced IVF lab processes and quality control with a proven track record of implementing lab protocols leading to high IVF success rates. Member of the British Fertility Society (BFS) and the European Society for Human Reproduction and Embryology (ESHRE). Elected member of the ESHRE Committee of National Representatives (representing Cyprus 2016-2020). Co-founder of the Association of Clinical Embryologists in Cyprus (ACEC). Fertility awareness advocate – founder of Nurture HF, an online fertility education platform for IVF resources & education (@nurture.hf). Member of the Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists (RCOG) Women's Voices Panel. Member of the Dissertation Assessment Committee for the Advanced Course in Clinical Embryology offered by the National & Kapodistrian University of Athens.

## Work Experience

**Senior Clinical Embryologist – Dubai Fertility Center** **March'22 – present**  
**Dubai Health Authority, Government Of Dubai**

*Latifa Hospital Grounds, Ibn Al Zahrwi Street, Al Jaddaf, Dubai 81712, UAE*

- Perform all day-to-day IVF laboratory duties & ensuring excellence of care for all gametes & embryos
- Perform quality control and monitor KPIs
- Support the team in achieving long term operational goals
- Write, review & amend standard operating procedures (SOPs)
- Responsible for all import/export management & administration
- Train & oversee junior staff
- Participate in scientific research/meetings both within the Dubai Health Authority

**Laboratory Director at Samaa Fertilization Center** **April'19 – January'22**

*Villa 654, Al Wasl Street, Al Safa First, Dubai 81712, UAE*

- Consultant embryologist for laboratory design & set-up: embryology/andrology/cryobank
- Implementation of total quality management system (QMS): write up of all SOPs, patient information booklets, implementation of controlled traceability system, key performance index (KPI) management system & validation processes.

**Deputy Laboratory Director - Fakh IVF (NMC Healthcare)** **February'18 – December'18**

*Villa 2, Tawam Roundabout, Al Markhaniya, Al Ain 31453, UAE*

- In charge of the set-up, overall management, QA/QC of the group's new IVF Laboratory
- Ensured the smooth operation of all IVF procedures in line with HAAD guidelines & regulations.

**Laboratory Director - The ISIS Clinic / RGS UK & Cyprus** **July'10 – February'18**

*6 Ioannis Clerides Street, 1070 Nicosia, Cyprus*

- Responsible for introducing exclusive blastocyst culture + vitrification for all patients in 2011.
- Responsible for introducing the first PGD/PGS trophoctoderm biopsy program in CY - trained all embryology staff & advised other clinics in the country.
- Responsible for launching RGS (ISIS clinic's international fertility program)
- Carried out regular embryology seminars/lectures at key national/international institutions + organizing local and international patient information events (e.g. London Fertility Show).
- Managed & coordinated egg/sperm donation/surrogacy programs:

## Work Experience Continued.

- Lead coordinator of egg/sperm donation program: recruitment and screening of potential egg donors - liaising with international donor agencies (Ukraine + USA). Preparing patient/donor treatment schedules. Donor/recipient matching; liaising with patients.
- Lead coordinator of surrogacy program: in-house and international.

### Laboratory quality control: QA/QC plus Research & Development:

- Data collection and analysis – KPIs - extensive experience in audits (HFEA/MoH)
- Training of junior staff – lecturing both in-house and at local colleges/universities.
- Experience in writing research grant applications (two research grants submitted in collaboration with the Cyprus Institute of Neurology and Genetics).

### Senior Embryologist

Sep '06 – April'10

### The London Bridge Fertility, Gynaecology and Genetics

1 St Thomas Street, London Bridge, London SE1 9RY, UK

- All laboratory day to day duties
- Gamete storage management; import & export of gametes both within and outside the EEA. Experience with applying for HFEA Special Directions.
- Laboratory quality control & training of junior staff.

## Educational History

- ❖ **Human embryonic stem cell MPhil/PhD student** **October'04 – May'06**  
**Awarded full PhD Scholarship from the University of London**

### Tissue Engineering and Regenerative Medicine Center

### Imperial College London, Division of Investigative Science

Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, 369 Fulham Road, London SW10 9NH, United Kingdom

### Nanomedicine Lab, University of London School of Pharmacy

29/39 Brunswick Square. London WC1N 1AX United Kingdom

- Culture of human embryonic stem cells (incl. feeder free research).
- Molecular biology techniques incl. PCR, RT-PCR, RNAi.
- Gene detection (immunocytochemistry, *in situ* hybridization, viral and liposomal transfection); fluorescence microscopy, incl. confocal microscopy and time lapse imaging systems & data analysis.
- Ensured efficient laboratory procedures; Departmental seminars and presentations.

- ❖ **MSc in Prenatal Genetics and Fetal Medicine** **September'02 – September'03**  
**University College London, Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology**  
Placement at the **Roslin Biocenter**, Edinburgh, Scotland.

**Thesis: "SiRNA inhibition of Cripto, a marker of undifferentiated human embryo stem cells".**  
**Grade: Distinction**

- ❖ **BSc (Hons) in Human Biology** awarded **First Class Honors** **September'99 – June'02**  
Middlesex University, School of Health, Biological & Environmental Sciences

**Dissertation: "The disappearing male: Male infertility and the Y chromosome".**  
**Grade: Distinction**

## Additional Info

## References upon request

- Chairwoman of 'Female & Male Fertility Preservation Session' at the 34<sup>th</sup> ESHRE in Barcelona Spain, 2018.
- Basic Life Support Certificate October 2022 – Dubai.
- Head of the organizing committee of the first conference on 'New Developments in IVF and PGD' in Cyprus in February 2016 with 6 international speakers including Professor Joyce Harper / Dr Dagan Wells / Dr Elpida Fragouli / Dr Alan Thornhill and over 200 delegates.
- Successfully completed two *PGD/embryo biopsy and New Developments in IVF* workshops run by Professor Joyce Harper (UCL in 2011 & 2014) and *Embryo/Oocyte Vitrification* Workshops (at The Bridge Centre 2009-2010).
- Native English speaker, fluent in Greek and proficient in German.