

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM IN THE MANAGEMENT OF INFERTILITY IN MEN WITH SPINAL CORD INJURY: UPDATE

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INTRODUCTION

Spinal cord injury (SCI) occurs most often to young men in their family planning years. Fertility is severely impaired in these men. There is widespread lack of knowledge about sperm retrieval in men with SCI and management of couples with an SCI male partner. These couples often are not offered the options or the opportunities to achieve a pregnancy with less expensive, less invasive, and simpler methods of assisted conception that are typically offered to those with a non-injured male partner. An educational program was developed by our group and funded by the Craig Neilsen Foundation to address this unmet need.

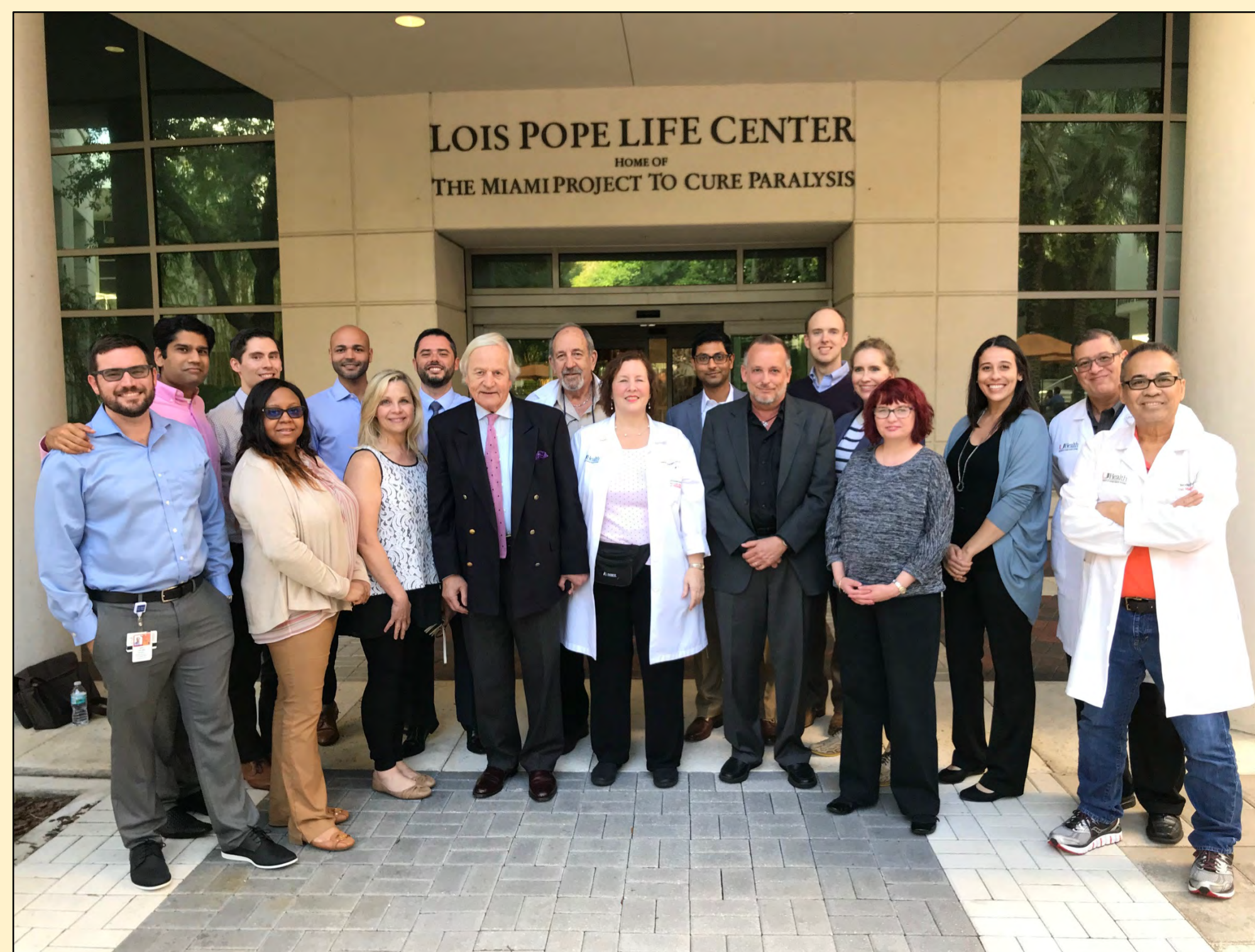
METHODS

The three-year educational program is currently in its third year. The program covers all aspects of the management of infertility in men with SCI, with an emphasis on methods of semen retrieval. The training is performed at our center or at outside centers. The course offers a maximum of 7.5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits and includes:

- A half-day of didactic instruction.
- Live demonstrations, including:
 - Semen retrieval by penile vibratory stimulation (PVS)
 - Semen retrieval by electroejaculation (EEJ)
 - Management of autonomic dysreflexia
 - Management of retrograde ejaculation
 - Microscopic evaluation of sperm quality
- Teaching materials are supplied to trainees for use in future training.

WHERE IS TRAINING PERFORMED?

Training is performed at our center at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine in Miami, Florida, or at your center.



WHO SHOULD BE TRAINED?

Training is recommended for any practitioner working with male patients with spinal cord injury, including physicians and allied health personnel such as nurses, physical therapists, occupational therapists, etc.

RESULTS

- 1) From July 2016 to May 2018: 76 professionals attended the full program in Miami from USA, Canada, UK, Brazil, Chile, Israel and India . Two remaining sessions will be held in July and December 2018.
- 2) The program was presented in 2017 at the following meetings: AUA, ASA, ASCIP, and ASIA, with approximately 660 professionals attending.
- 3) Abstracts and posters were presented at ASRM, SESAUA, and internationally at ESHRE and ISCoS.
- 4) Training outside Miami was held in San Antonio, Austin, Dallas, Minneapolis, Boston, Vancouver. Future training visits will be held in Denver and Wake Forest.

CONCLUSIONS

Providing simple and safe methods of semen retrieval in men with SCI, and understanding couples' management requires knowledge and training. This educational program offers professionals and health care providers the opportunity to master these skills and deliver optimal service to patients. Training will be available through December 2018.

CONTACT

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