## Reproductive Resource Center "20 Years of Innovation"

By Kristen Doyle Photos by John Bean



or many couples, starting a family is something they dream about. When infertility obstacles get in the way of that dream, couples often seek treatment professionally to help make their dream a reality.

Dr. Celeste Brabec of the Reproductive Resource Center in Overland Park, Kansas, has made a career of helping couples go through the process of infertility treatments to have a baby. "What brings me the most joy about my job," Dr. Brabec shares, "is that it truly allows me to fully live and breathe the depths of human existence and emotion that God has created. Together, my patients and I have been given a gift, which is the opportunity to experience the full breadth of humanity, from its small defeats and tear-wrenching agonies to its simple joys and most joyous wonders like the birth of their first child."

Dr. Brabec is passionate about what she does for a living, and she attests that the other professionals she works with at Reproductive Resource Center all share that same passion. "Reproductive Resource Center stands out from other offices providing similar services, not only in the Kansas City area, but regionally and nationally. We just celebrated our 20th anniversary and I have been there for 10 of those 20 years. Some of our staff have been with us the entire 20 years! I work with some of the most amazing, incredibly bright, talented, caring, energetic and fun people."

As far as technology and innovation are concerned, Reproductive Resource Center prides itself for being at the top in the field of infertility treatment. According to Dr. Brabec, "Reproductive Resource Center was the first center in this region to offer the most high tech infertility services available in the world, including Intracytoplasmic Sperm Injection (ICSI), blastocyst transfer, blastocyst freezing, on-site embryo biopsy for pre-implantation genetic screening, and an on-site donor egg program. We are the only program in this part of the country to offer on-site embryo biopsy, and one of the only two to have a full-time, on-site Ph.D. laboratory director. As a matter of fact, it is not uncommon for our laboratory director to be called out to consult to other programs throughout the country to troubleshoot for them when they are having problems in their in-vitro fertilization (IVF) lab."

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Dr. Brabec continues, "Right here in your backyard, you've had a center with some of the highest pregnancy rates in the nation, and one of the lowest multiple pregnancy rates, for that entire 20 years. We are the only center in the metro area where all doctors are board-certified in infertility and voted as 'Super Docs' by other doctors in the Kansas City area. We continue to do more cycles per year than all of the other programs in the metro area combined, all with an extremely experienced staff. Maintaining high pregnancy rates result in lower costs for our patients, which they love. We often wonder why any couple with infertility would even consider going anywhere else. Those who have done their homework come here. If we do our job right, which of course we do, our patients are not our patients for long with pregnancy, they go on to see their obstetrician. No one wants to be our patient, but everyone loves to be our former patient! Many area centers have tried to copy us in many ways, but none have succeeded."

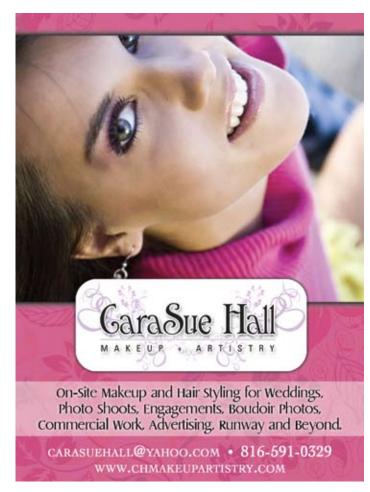
Reproductive Resource Center offers a vast range of services to patients seeking infertility treatment. "We provide comprehensive diagnostic testing and treatment for all causes of infertility, ranging from the simplest to the most complex," Dr. Brabec shared. "We offer ovulation induction, intrauterine insemination, IVF, ICSI, embryo cryopreservation, donor egg and donor sperm services, gestational carrier services,

infertility surgery and reproductive endocrinology. We have psychological services available, and are open to safe, proven complementary medicine."

Through her vast experience in her career working with couples who struggle with infertility at Reproductive Resource Center, Dr. Brabec has experienced so much. "I was honored to serve as a medical ambassador with a group of OB/GYNs from America who spent several weeks in China visiting with their women's healthcare providers, sharing with each other the best of Western and Eastern medicine."

She is grateful to have the chance to help couples to start their families, but it can be challenging. "The most difficult part of my job is coming to terms with the reality that there are so many unwanted and unplanned pregnancies. The patients I see want it and deserve it so badly, but they often have to struggle. I have learned that the little things are big things—the little moments are what give life meaning in its deepest sense. I am truly honored to know that women choose me and trust me to help them with their most honorable pursuit – that of starting a family. I don't for a moment take that lightly. It makes me continue to work hard and stay at the top of my game. The women I interact with daily – both those I see as patients and those I work with here in our office—are amazing. Their great strength provides inspiration. The things that keep me going are a great appreciation for what I have, a sense of humor and faith in God." HL

For more information about Dr. Brabec and the team of professionals at Reproductive Resource Center, please visit: Reproductive Resource Center, 12200 W. 106th St., Suite 120, Overland Park, KS 66215. Phone: (913) 894–2323. Fax: (913) 894–0841. www.rrc.com.





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