



Ontario Network  
of Experts in Fertility  
life through knowledge

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## **Multi-disciplinary Approach to Fertility Preservation**

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**Michael S. Neal**

Scientific Director, ONE Fertility, 3210 Harvester Rd. Burlington, Ontario

**[www.onefertility.com](http://www.onefertility.com)**

**[mneal@onefertility.com](mailto:mneal@onefertility.com)**

# Outline

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- Assisted Conception Options
- A team approach
- Education and Awareness
- Discussion



# Cancer and Fertility Crossroads

Increasing Cancer Survival Rates  
( $\geq 70\%$  for pediatric oncology)



Increased emphasis on Quality of Life



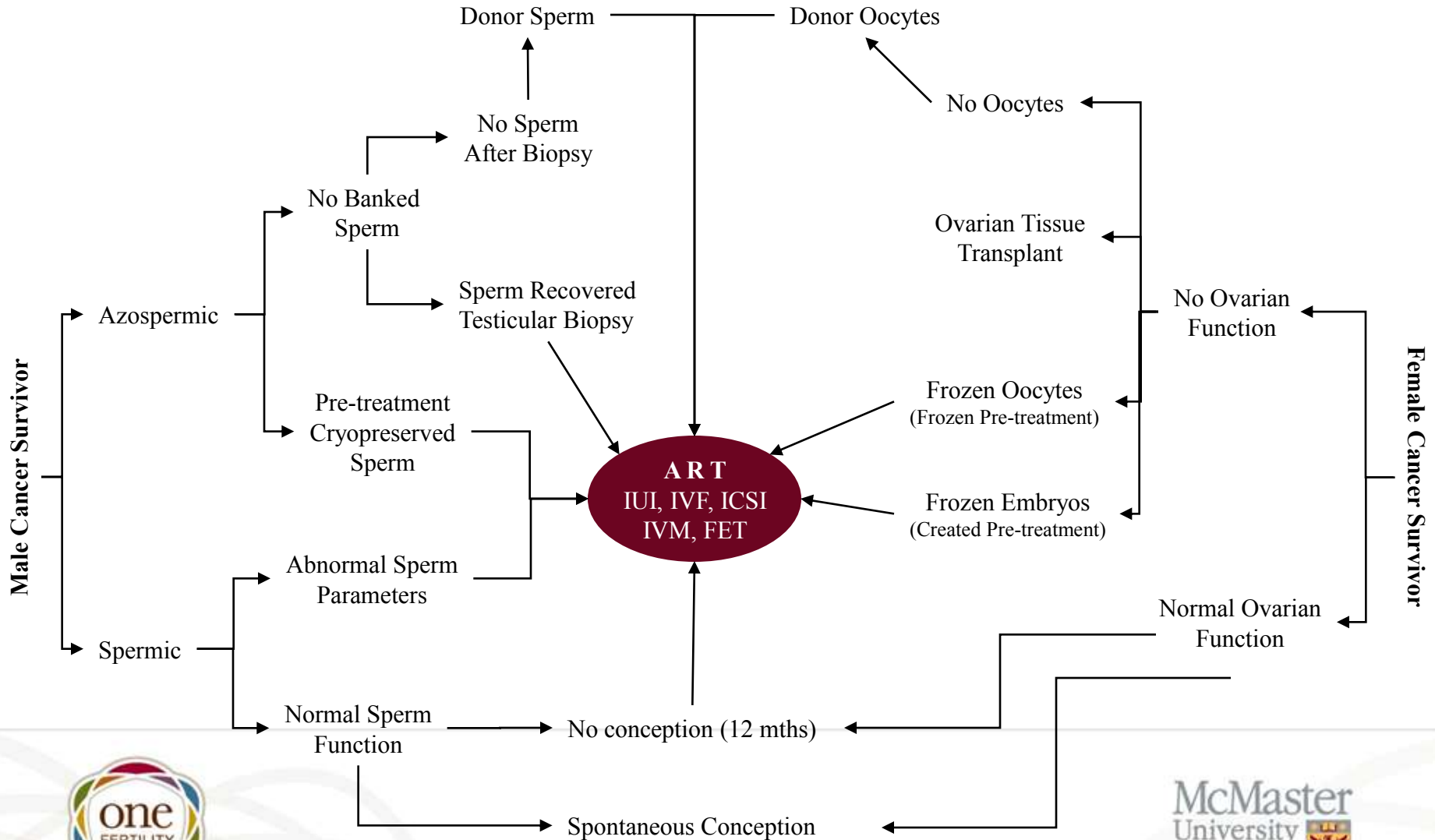
Advances in Assisted Reproductive Technologies (ART)



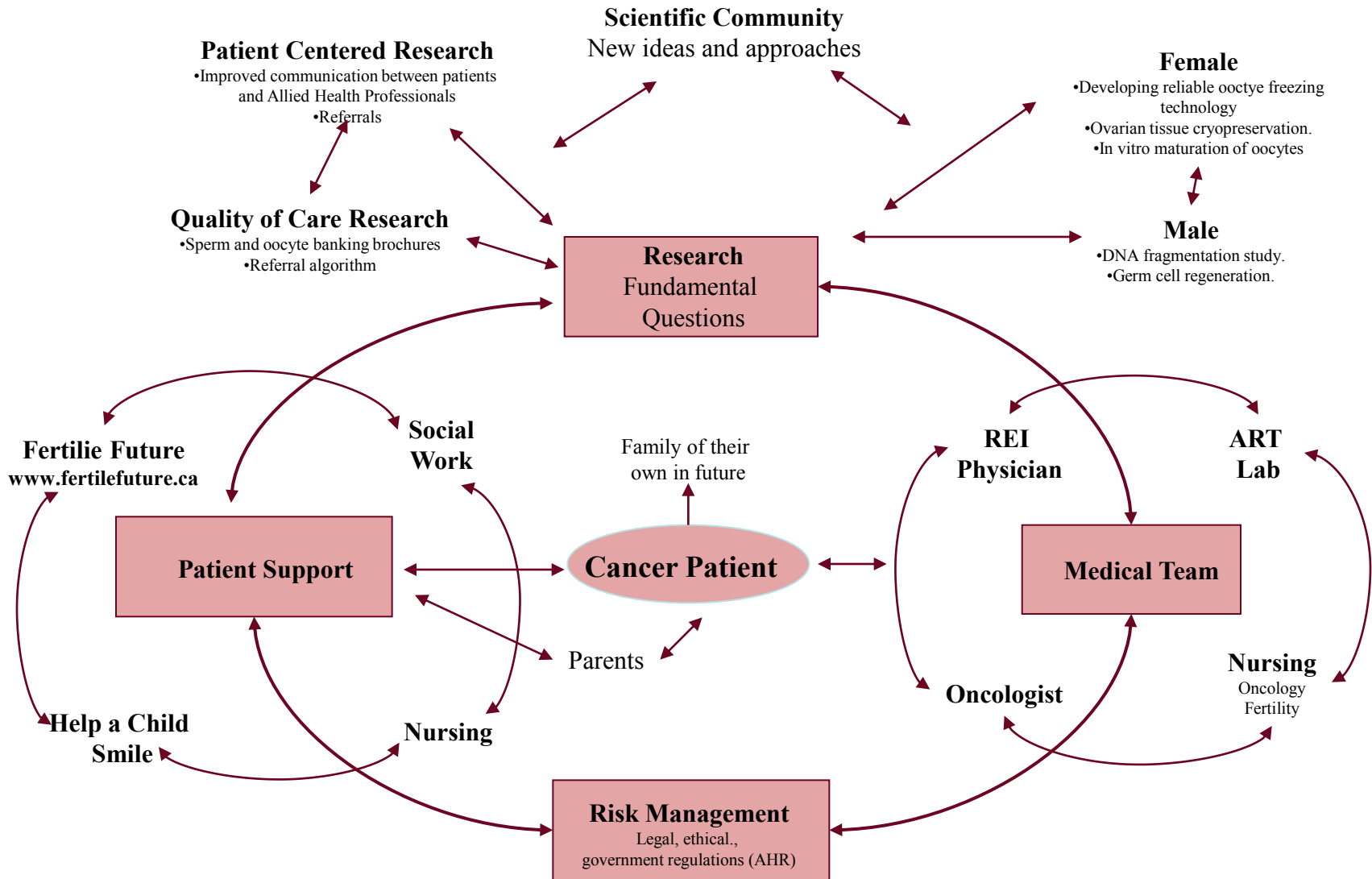
Greater need for Information and Understanding  
about Fertility Risks and Options



# Assisted Conception Options



# Multi-disciplinary Team Approach to Fertility Preservation



# Awareness of Fertility Preservation Options

Only 17.8% (146/821) newly diagnosed  
AYA cancer patients utilized sperm cryopreservation  
technology.

Neal et al., *Cancer* 2007

Awareness is the key to increased use of sperm banking  
for oncology purposes.



# Challenges and Ethical Considerations

Who initiates the discussion?

- physician, nurse, social worker

Age of the patient influences:

- consent process
- who should come to the clinic (Mom/Dad/Partner)

Consent for future use:

- what if no current partner



# Education

## Challenges

- survey of Oncology Nurses
- unprepared for discussions
- identified the need for staff and patient education

## Sperm Banking brochure

- resources about health literacy and patient education
- AYA male patients

## Patient Education Resources

- Writing Health Information for Patients and Families





# A word about health literacy

- “**Health literacy**” is used to describe literacy in the context of health and health care.
- Def'n: the ability to **access, understand, evaluate** and **communicate information** as a way to promote, maintain and improve health in a variety of settings across the life course.
- Best way to educate patients



# Plain language

- Clear communication is recommended to enhance health literacy
- A key communication strategy is to use “plain language” when speaking to and writing for patients and families
- Plain language is a way of organizing and presenting information so that it makes sense and is easy to read for the intended audience

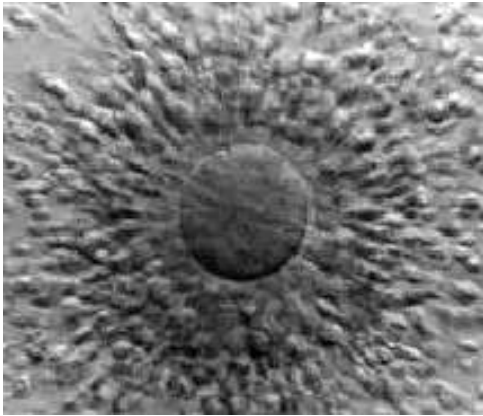


# Conclusions

- Cancer treatment can have a devastating effect on the reproductive system
- Awareness and Education is required for not only patients, but, allied health care professionals.
- Oncologists combined with a multi-disciplinary team of health professionals provides hope for the future fertility of oncology patients.



# Discussion



**Michael S. Neal**  
ONE Fertility, and Reproductive Biology Division,  
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology  
McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada  
[mneal@onefertility.com](mailto:mneal@onefertility.com)

