

Dialogues in Oncofertility: Amplifying the Voices of our Field

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Welcome to the e-magazine, *Dialogues in Oncofertility*. The mission of this international magazine and digital hub is to provide a record of the scholarly work done by members of the Oncofertility Consortium members around the globe. With so many journals to choose from, why start a new digital hub for our field? There are three main reasons which I provide in the following paragraphs which are broadly categorized to ensure that oncofertility remains visible, valuable and viable. By aggregating our work products, some of which are in the form of traditional papers, some of which are abstracts and short editorials or commentaries, and in other cases where videos are the output, we can ensure that all of us are able to find the information we need to enable a strong and vibrant community of scholars, scientists, and clinicians. In the end, our voices can be amplified in a way that provides meaning to our work and hastens the dissemination of knowledge to our globally engaged members. So, if this is our goal, what are those pressing reasons that make this e-magazine relevant?

First, we have to maintain the **visibility** of our field. The field of oncofertility is very small compared to the fields of reproductive medicine and cancer, but it is a critically important field that intersects with both topics. That said, it is often hard for papers from our field to be easily accepted by one discipline. To address this concern, *Dialogues in Oncofertility* is dedicated to this topic with all of its intersectionality – from science to medicine; social science to humanities; patient perspectives to policy – this journal covers all topics. Similarly, the number of patients within our field is small and the ability to do large scale scholarship can be limited. We've done a great job of partnering on many projects (1-5), but some papers that have low response rates for survey data, low numbers of patients for analytical assessments, or prismatic but single patient case studies simply can't find their way into the traditional literature. The *Dialogues in Oncofertility* is a place for this work to be made visible to everyone in our field.

Secondly, we want to make sure that each asset that is created is **valuable** and is an enduring part of our field. There is often great value in the videos of surgeries or the abstracts presented at our meetings. But up to this point, that information resided in PDF or video format in the meetings section of our website. By placing the materials in the *Dialogues in Oncofertility*, the data will have increased value to the field, simply because everyone can find that information, not just those who traffic through a meeting website.

Finally, in creating a DOI registry for the submissions, we contribute to the overall **viability** of the people who are doing the work within our field. The work of our oncofertility members is hard and data collection may be over years. In my own lab, we have been collecting serum from young women with lymphoma who are being treated with Gleevac and measuring AMH to determine ovarian reserve. This is an important study that follows up on basic science work, but the number of patients is small and the time frame for serum collection is long. The folks doing the work, a terrific hematology/oncologist, an REI and a fantastic clinical coordinator, have the long view, but the ability to ultimately publish this work is low given the collection is in

small numbers from a single site – that said, funding for a national or global study could not be obtained by anyone, prior to the collection of this decade long project. There are many examples of this kind of hard fought for data collection and analysis that doesn't fit in the traditional literature but IS of enormous value and the clinicians/scientists/technicians doing the work, and the patients who are consented to the study do need an intellectual home – *Dialogues in Oncofertility* is that home.

So how will submissions work? All submissions will be handled electronically and must be submitted through the website in an acceptable digital format. Once the submission is received, I will review with my team to make sure all resources are scholarly, educational, and related to our mission. Once the article has been accepted to the *Dialogues in Oncofertility*, it will be published on the website and then a DOI will be created. A DOI is a universally accepted Digital Object Identifier and is the way each object in our repository will be curated. This allows each item to be listed with federal agencies where funding was obtained for the work. All journal articles have DOIs and here we have the capacity to use DOI's for a variety of works including, videos, abstracts, posters, and a whole host of other resource types. This is a game-changer for our field and for our investigators.

So visible, valuable, and viable are my three v-mission statement and when you add all of this up with a **vibrant** community of scholars, I believe the *Dialogues in Oncofertility* will be an important **voice** for our work. Let me know your thoughts on the e-magazine and its format! Email me tkw@northestern.edu or follow me on twitter @teresakwoodruff and @oncofertility or [subscribe to our oncofertility blog](#).

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