


Excel with CELL

Elevate your lab's performance with skilled, self-reliant embryologists trained by the ASRM Clinical Embryology Learning Laboratory.



A woman with curly hair and glasses, wearing a lab coat, is looking at a tablet in a laboratory setting. In the foreground, a laptop is visible on a desk, and a pair of safety glasses is resting on it. The background shows laboratory equipment and a clean, professional environment.

Empower Your IVF Lab for Long-Term Success

Imagine a stronger, more efficient IVF lab where your embryologists are confident, independent, and equipped with the skills to excel. The ASRM Clinical Embryology Learning Laboratory (CELL) makes this vision a reality. Through its 10-month program of expert-led lectures and hands-on laboratory training, CELL reduces the training burden on your senior staff, accelerates skill acquisition, and builds loyalty among your team. By investing in CELL training for your junior embryologists, you're not just improving employee expertise—you're fostering a more productive, cohesive, and future-focused laboratory.

A background image showing a man with glasses and a woman in a lab setting, both wearing white lab coats. The man is in the foreground, looking down, and the woman is behind him, also looking down. They appear to be in a laboratory or clinical setting.

CELL at a Glance

DESCRIPTION

ASRM CELL, developed in collaboration with the Society for Reproductive Biologists and Technologists (SRBT) and supported in part by CooperSurgical, Inc., **addresses the critical need for standardized training** in human IVF laboratories across the United States by providing a **structured and standardized framework for embryology training** that balances technical skill development and foundational knowledge.

TARGET LEARNER

CELL is for **early-career embryologists, new hires in IVF laboratories, and individuals transitioning into clinical embryology from related fields** who need foundational training in core embryology techniques.

TRAINING STRUCTURE

CELL's first course features a **10-month curriculum** that includes both virtual and in-person **didactic lectures** and 10 weeks of hands-on **laboratory training** in a learning lab. The course covers 11 comprehensive modules on topics such as reproductive physiology, applied embryology, vitrification, and laboratory management. Participants engage in classroom discussions, real-world laboratory practice using animal models, and competency assessments.

HOW YOU BENEFIT

Sending your embryologists to ASRM CELL training **accelerates their productivity** by equipping them with essential skills to work independently faster, **freeing up senior staff** from extensive training responsibilities. This investment not only enhances your team's efficiency but also **fosters loyalty and retention** by supporting professional development and career advancement.

CELL Training Timeline 2025

JUNE 2025

June 17

Orientation Virtual

Virtual, one (1) week

JULY/AUGUST 2025

July 8 and July 15

Virtual didactic, two (2) weeks

Module 1: Introduction to Male Reproductive Physiology and Endocrinology Virtual Didactic

- Male Reproductive Anatomy and Physiology
- Hormonal Control of Male Reproduction
- The Male Factor in Reproductive Success
- Infertility Diagnosis in Men

July 21 - August 8

Three (3) weeks on-site didactic in the classroom and hands-on laboratory

Module 2: General Organization of the ART laboratory On-Site Didactic

- Microscopy Training and Skills
- Understanding ART Laboratory Equipment
- Mastering Sterile Techniques
- Macro- and Microscopic Handling of Human Gametes and Embryos
- pH and Buffer Systems in Reproductive Medicine
- Making Culture Dishes
- Chain of Custody in IVF

Module 3: Practical Applications of Male Reproductive Biology in Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) On-Site Didactic

- Semen Collection in ART
- Semen Analysis
- Understanding Sperm Morphology
- Preparing Sperm for ART
- Sperm Cryopreservation
- Troubleshooting Sperm Preparation
- Optimizing Sperm Motility
- Advanced Microscopy Techniques in Reproductive Medicine

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2025

August 12 - September 2

Virtual didactic, three (3) weeks

Module 4: Female Reproductive Physiology and Endocrinology Virtual Didactic

- Female Reproductive Anatomy and Physiology
- Regulation of Reproduction
- Sex Determination and Gonadal Differentiation
- Developmental Disorders of Sex
- Primordial Germ Cells, Oogenesis, and Folliculogenesis
- Ovarian Biology and Follicular Development
- Fertilization, Oocyte Activation, and Early Embryonic Development
- From Fertilization to Implantation: Critical Stages in Early Pregnancy

September 9 - September 30

Virtual didactic, three (3) weeks

Module 5: Patient Preparation and Culture Conditions in Human IVF Virtual Didactic

- Stimulation Protocols in Assisted Reproductive Technology
- Advances in Stimulation Protocols
- Evolution of Culture Media
- Quality Control in Embryo Culture Media
- Culture Media Optimization
- Environmental Factors in Embryo Culture
- The Role of Culture Media in ART Success Rates

OCTOBER 2025

October 7 - October 21

Virtual didactic, three (3) weeks

Module 6: Applied Embryology Basics

Virtual Didactic

- Oocyte Retrieval
- IVF Insemination Strategies
- Fertilization Assessment
- Grading Cleavage-Stage Embryos
- Blastocyst Development
- Embryo Transfer

NOVEMBER 2025

November 3 - November 21

Practical Applications of Modules 4-6: Three (3) weeks on-site with hands-on training, interactive discussions, analyzing images, and other activities in the classroom

Midterm Assessment

DECEMBER 2025

December 7 - December 9

Virtual didactic, two (2) weeks

Module 7: Reproductive Genetics and Testing

Virtual Didactic

- Mendelian Genetics in Reproductive Medicine
- DNA and Chromosome Structure
- Epigenetics in Reproduction
- Pre-implantation Genetic Testing

December 16

Virtual didactic, one (1) week

Module 8: Micromanipulation

Virtual Didactic

Micromanipulation of Gametes and Embryos in ART

- ICSI
- Assisted Hatching

Holiday Break

Two (2) weeks

CELL Training Timeline 2026

JANUARY 2026

January 6

Virtual didactic, one (1) week

Module 8: Micromanipulation, cont.

Virtual **Didactic**

Micromanipulation of Gametes and Embryos in ART

- Embryo Biopsy Techniques
- Specimen Preparation for PGT

January 13 - January 20

Virtual didactic, two(2) weeks

Module 9: Cryobiology & Cryopreserved Tissue Banking in ART

Virtual **Didactic**

- Principles of Cryobiology
- Advances in Embryo and Oocyte Cryopreservation
- Preserving Fertility
- Cryobanking in Reproductive Medicine

January 27

Virtual didactic, one (1) week

Module 10: Laboratory Management

Virtual **Didactic**

- Integrating the IVF Laboratory: The Role of the Laboratory Within the IVF Clinic
- Ensuring Excellence: Quality and Risk Management in the IVF Laboratory

FEBRUARY 2026

February 2 - February 27

On-Site **Didactic**

Practical Applications of Modules

8-10: Four (4) weeks on-site didactic and hands-on training on laboratory management, micromanipulation, cryopreservation, thaw, and troubleshooting

February 2

Virtual didactic, one (1) week

Module 10: Laboratory Management, cont.

On-Site **Didactic**

- Laboratory Safety, Troubleshooting, and Emergency Planning
- Regulatory Compliance in IVF: Accreditation, Inspection, and FDA Requirements

MARCH 2026

March 3

Virtual didactic, one (1) week

Module 10: Laboratory Management, cont.

Virtual **Didactic**

- Ethical, Legal, and Religious Dimensions of Infertility Treatment and Third-party Reproduction
- Bridging Science and Ethics: Research Oversight and Institutional Review Boards in ART

March 10

Virtual didactic, one (1) week

Module 11: The Future of ART

Virtual **Didactic**

- Emerging Technologies and Ethical Challenges in Human Assisted Reproductive Technologies
- Professional Growth in Clinical Embryology: Advancing Careers in a Rapidly Evolving Field

March 17-24

Preparation for Finals

March 31

Final Assessment

Center of Excellence



About the Training Center

For the initial CELL cohort, ASRM is grateful for the opportunity to utilize CooperSurgical's embryology training center in Livingston, NJ, for the hands-on laboratory training sessions. CooperSurgical has generously donated the facility and supplies as in-kind support for this new endeavor.

The CooperSurgical Center of Excellence is a hands-on fertility laboratory training facility in Livingston, NJ that aims to make worldclass embryology and laboratory training accessible to all. The Center of Excellence hosts practical trainings and workshops across the country to help embryologists and IVF laboratory staff learn new skills, improve techniques and optimize performance. Training in the CooperSurgical Center of Excellence ensures that CELL students learn best laboratory practices on state-of-the-art equipment from highly skilled education professionals with extensive experience in ART clinical procedures.



CELL FAQ

HOW IS CELL DIFFERENT THAN OTHER EMBRYOLOGY SCHOOLS?

CELL will provide graduate-level in-depth education combined with hands-on practice to transform young embryologists into contributing team members who understand the “whys” and “hows” of ART in the IVF Laboratory. The CELL course runs concurrently with work in the home laboratory, allowing for potential immediate application and, most importantly, retention of skills learned.

HOW ARE TRAINEES SELECTED?

Trainees will be selected from SART member clinics that commit to supporting the trainee's full participation in all aspects of the course, including tuition, travel/lodging, and time away from the lab. Applicants must hold a bachelor's degree and work in the clinic's laboratory.

HOW DOES SOMEONE ENROLL IN CELL TRAINING?

SART Member laboratories wishing to enroll an embryologist in the 2025-2026 CELL cohort should contact Jeffrey Hayes at jhayes@asrm.org for additional information and an application.

WHAT IS THE CELL TRAINING DURATION?

The duration of the 2025-2026 CELL training is 10 months (40 weeks).

WHAT ARE THE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROGRAM?

Tuition for the 2025-2026 is \$18,500, due in full by June 9, 2025. Tuition does not include travel and lodging expenses. Transportation to the training center and meals on site will be provided.

HOW MANY TRAINEES WILL BE ACCEPTED?

8-10 trainees will be accepted in the initial CELL cohort.

WHAT DO PARTICIPANTS GET FOR PARTICIPATING IN CELL?

Upon completing all requirements and passing the evaluation, participants receive an ASRM Certificate of Completion in Clinical Embryology. In addition, participants get 10 weeks of specific hands-on guided lab sessions led by experts from SRBT and across the field. Participants will also receive free access to the ASRM EDGE tool for one year plus one year of free ASRM and SRBT membership.



HOW LONG WILL TRAINEES BE AWAY FROM WORK?

The CELL course will include 10 weeks of on-site hands-on training. See the CELL Training Timeline for in-person dates.

WHAT ARE THE CELL COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS?

For both didactic and hands-on activities, trainees must pass competency assessments as well as a mid-term and final exam.

WHAT CORE COMPETENCIES DO TRAINEES GAIN FROM THE CELL COURSE?

Upon completion, trainees will be able to:

- Identify and use sterile tissue culture techniques
- Identify and prepare IVF supplies and media for assisted reproductive technologies (ART) using various methods
- Use microscopy to identify, handle, evaluate, and manipulate gametes and embryos during ART procedures.
- Demonstrate proficiency with handling and manipulation of eggs and embryos during ART procedures
- Demonstrate proficiency with the following ART procedures:
 - evaluation and preparation of semen samples for ART
 - oocyte retrieval and culture
 - standard insemination of oocytes
 - intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI)
 - embryo culture
 - embryo biopsy and sample preparation skills
 - cryopreservation and thaw of gametes, embryos, and reproductive tissue
 - Identify quality control procedures and troubleshooting in the ART laboratory.

WHO DO I CONTACT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION?

For more information about CELL, contact Jeffrey Hayes at (205) 978-5980 or jhayes@asrm.org.

Important Dates

MARCH 3, 2025

Employer informational session for prospective CELL trainees

APRIL 14, 2025

Application deadline for the 2025-2026 CELL cohort.

JUNE 9, 2025

Tuition due date for 2025-2026

JUNE 17, 2025

Course Orientation

JULY 8, 2025

Course launch date

For more information
about CELL,
contact
Jeffrey Hayes at
(205) 978-5980 or
jhayes@asrm.org.

