

Excel with CELL

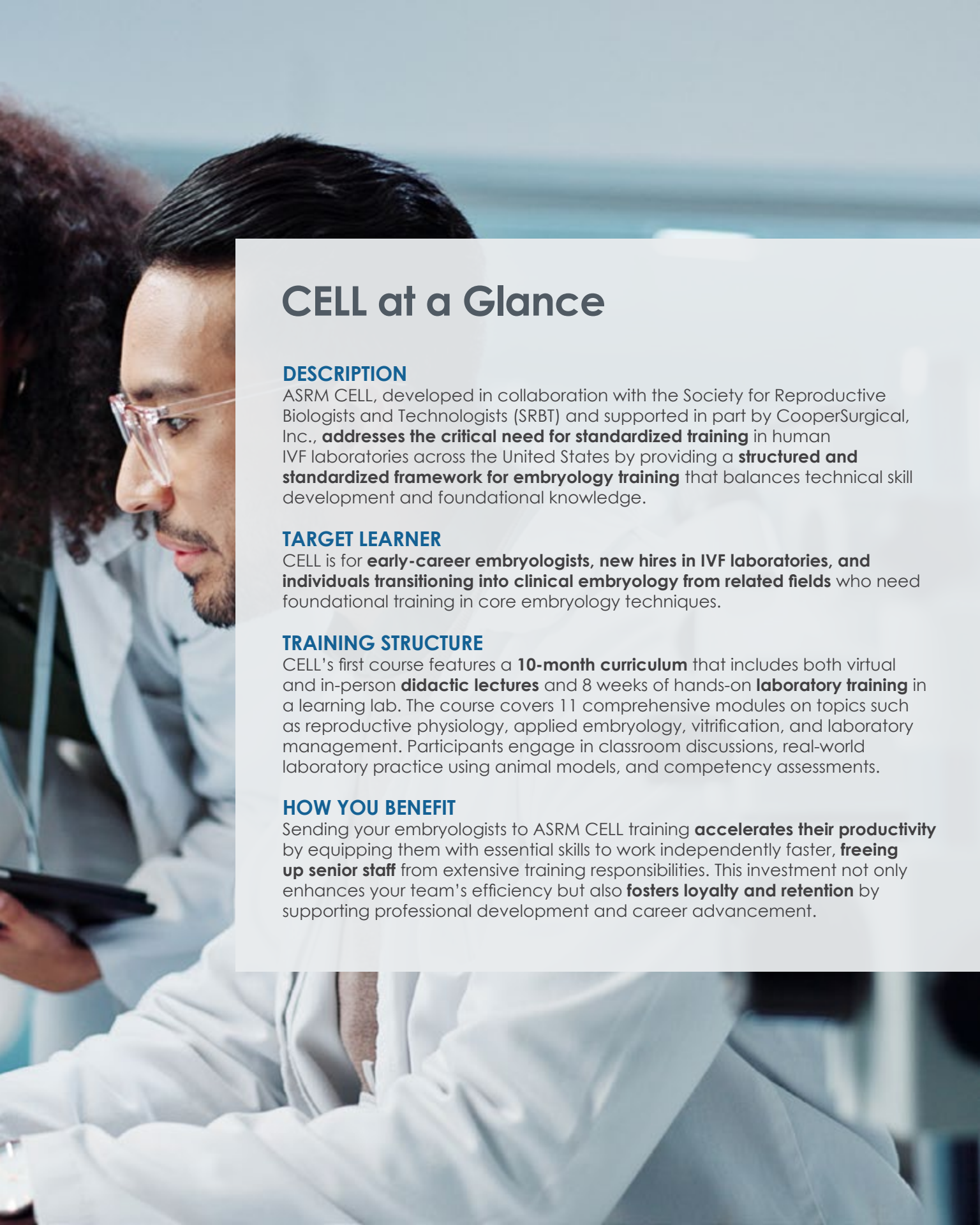
Elevate your lab's performance with skilled, self-reliant embryologists trained by the ASRM Clinical Embryology Learning Laboratory.



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 open on a desk, and a pair of safety glasses is visible. 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.



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 8 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 2026

JANUARY 2026

January 13

Orientation Virtual

Virtual, one (1) week

January 20 and January 27

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

February 2 - February 13

Two (2) 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

FEBRUARY/ MARCH 2026

February 17 - March 10

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

March 17

Virtual didactic

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

- Stimulation Protocols in Assisted Reproductive Technology
- Advances in Stimulation Protocols

March 23 - April 3

Onsite didactic

Module 4: Module 4: Female Reproductive Physiology and Endocrinology On-Site Didactic

APRIL/MAY 2026

April 7 - April 21

Module 5: Patient Preparation and Culture Conditions in Human IVF

Virtual Didactic

- 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

April 28 - May 19

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
- Optimizing Cleavage-Stage and Blastocyst Selection: Balancing Morphology and Genetic Testing
- IVF Workflow: From Oocyte Retrieval to Embryo Transfer—An Integrated Approach

May 26, 2026

Virtual didactic

Module 7: Reproductive Genetics and Testing

Virtual Didactic

- Mendelian Genetics in Reproductive Medicine
- DNA and Chromosome Structure

JUNE 2026

June 1 - June 12

Hands-on Training for Modules 5-7

On-Site Didactic

- Embryo Biopsy Techniques: Best Practices for Pre-implantation Genetic Testing (PGT)
- Specimen Preparation for PGT: Optimizing Embryo Handling and Genetic Analysis

June 16 - June 23

Virtual didactic, one (1) week

Module 8: Micromanipulation

Virtual Didactic

- Micromanipulation of Gametes and Embryos in ART
- ICSI
 - Assisted Hatching

CELL Training Timeline 2026

JUNE/JULY 2026

June 30 - July 7

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

July 14 - August 4

Virtual didactic

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
- Laboratory Safety, Troubleshooting, and Emergency Planning
- Regulatory Compliance in IVF: Accreditation, Inspection, and FDA Requirements
- Ethical, Legal, and Religious Dimensions of Infertility Treatment and Third-party Reproduction
- Bridging Science and Ethics: Research Oversight and Institutional Review Boards in ART
- Religious Perspectives on Assisted Reproductive Technologies and Family Building

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2026

August 4 - August 11

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

August 18

Virtual

Knowledge Check **Virtual**

A 2-hour Multiple Choice Online Knowledge Check (70 Questions)

August 24 - September 4

Hands-on Training for Modules 8-11

On-Site **Didactic**

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?

Preference will be given to applicants from SART member clinics that can demonstrate full support for the trainee’s participation, including covering tuition, travel/lodging, and time away from the lab. Applicants must hold a bachelor’s degree and be currently working or seeking work in an IVF or related laboratory. While employment at a SART member clinic is preferred, other qualified applicants will be considered.

HOW DOES SOMEONE ENROLL IN CELL TRAINING?

SART Member laboratories wishing to enroll an embryologist in the 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 2026 CELL training is 10 months.

WHAT ARE THE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROGRAM?

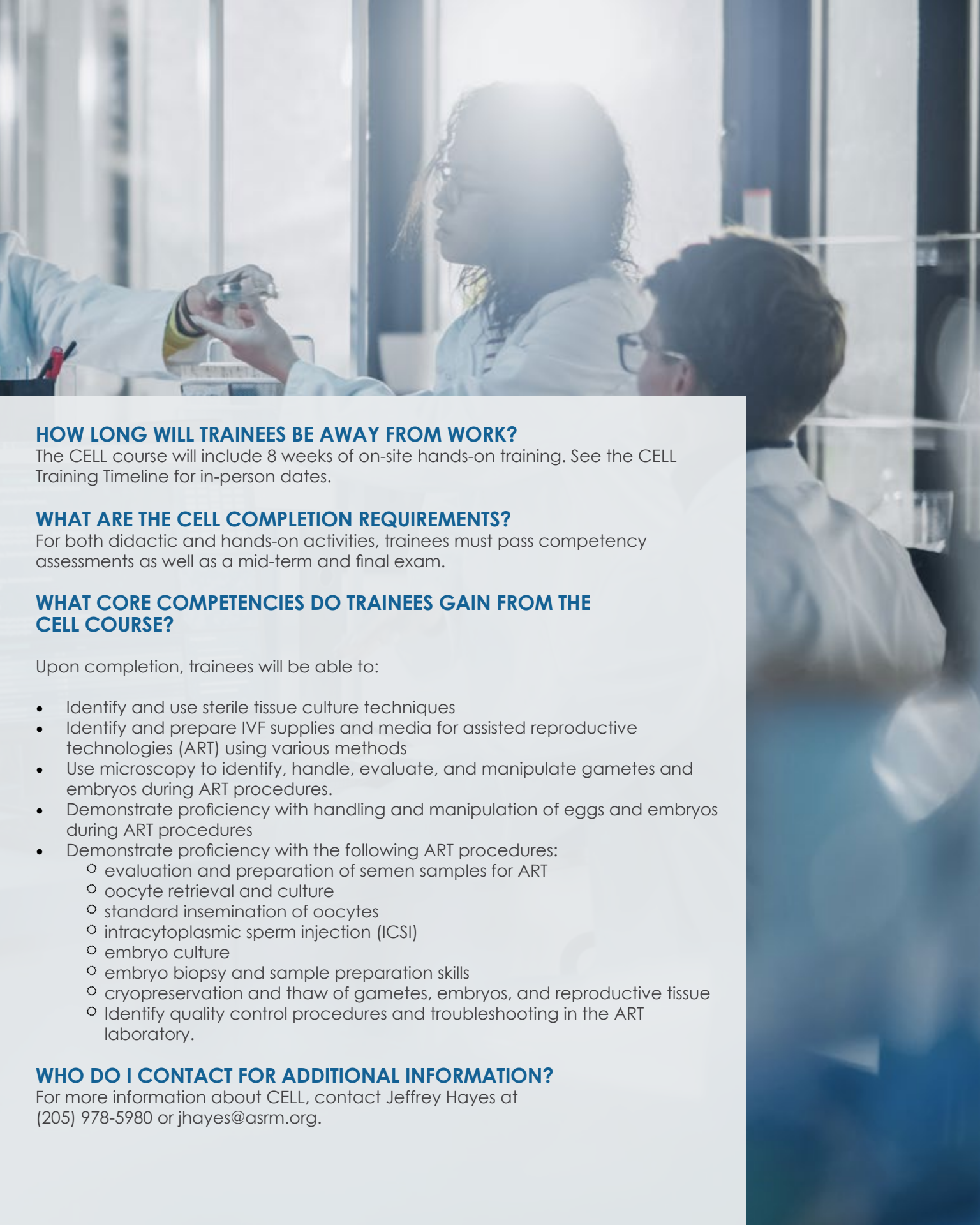
Tuition for the 2026 is \$18,500, due in full by January 13, 2026. Tuition does not include travel and lodging expenses. Transportation to the training center and meals on site will be provided.

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 8 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

JANUARY 13, 2026

- Tuition due date for 2026
- Course Orientation begins

JANUARY 20, 2026

Course launch date



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