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Birth from In Vitro Fertilization

The Departments of Obstetrics & Gynaecology and Anatomy of The Chinese University of Hong Kong announce the birth of a baby boy delivered by caesarean section on 18th August 1987 at the Prince of Wales Hospital following treatment by in vitro fertilization (IVF) and embryo transfer.

The boy, weighing 3.0 kg and in good health, was born to a 29 years old woman who had been infertile for 5 years and suffered from endometriosis. Despite surgery and medical treatment, she failed to conceive and sought IVF therapy. On 13th December 1986, three eggs were collected from her ovaries by aspiration with a fine needle passing through her abdomen under ultrasound control and local anaesthesia. The eggs were fertilized with her husband's sperms and two embryos, one with two cells and the other with three cells, were formed after two days of in vitro culture. Both embryos were transferred back into the woman's uterus on 15th December 1986 and her pregnancy progressed normally.

Altogether 82 women were treated by IVF since December 1986 which resulted in another 8 successful pregnancies, of which 6 are still ongoing.

The University also announces a successful pregnancy from the procedure of Gamete Intrafallopian transfer (GIFT) which is an alternative treatment to IVF applicable to women with at least one patent fallopian tube. In late February this year, 4 eggs were collected from a 24 years old woman with a 4-year history of infertility and these eggs were replaced immediately in the fallopian tube with the husband's sperms. She became pregnant and expects to deliver in November.

The most important feature of GIFT is that fertilization takes place naturally inside the woman's body. In all IVF and GIFT procedures performed in the CUHK program, no donor eggs, sperms or embryos were employed.

The IVF team consists of clinicians, embryologists, technicians and nursing personnel of The Chinese University and the Prince of Wales Hospital. The two Departments in the University are generously supported by colleagues in the University's Chemical Pathology Department and the Lee Hysan Clinical Sciences Laboratory as well as other Government doctors and nurses in the Hospital.

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