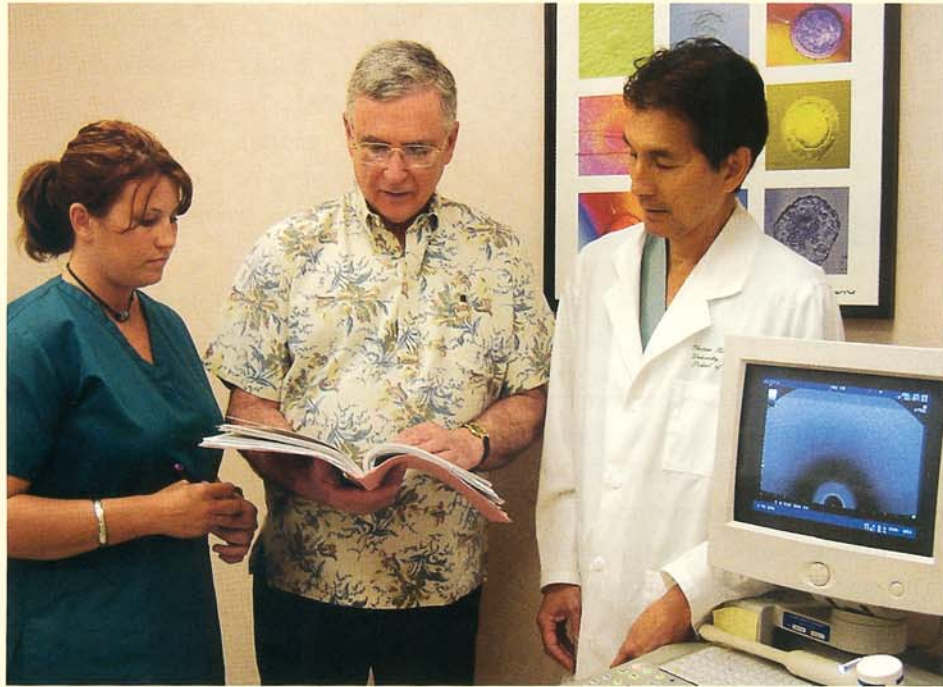


## THE BABY MAKERS



Pacific In Vitro nurse Adrian Pulido with Carl Morton, M.D. and Thomas Kosasa, M.D.

### THE NURSES OF PACIFIC IN VITRO FERTILIZATION INSTITUTE ARE INSTRUMENTAL IN THE WORK OF MAKING PEOPLE PARENTS

By Noella Querubin

When Adrian Pulido began her nursing career working in obstetrics and gynecology, she met many women who were unsuccessful at becoming pregnant and could personally relate to their emotional struggles. That work experience and successfully conceiving two children as a result of fertility drugs were all part of her decision to become a nurse in the field of assisted reproductive technology. She is one of several nurses at the Pacific In Vitro Fertilization Institute who take the mission of their clinic to heart.

Along with the highly qualified physicians and laboratory personnel, the nurses of Pacific IVF are an

essential part of a team that enables women to conceive children through medical technology. Nurses have daily contact with couples through a lengthy process that can take months. "We talk them through it and let them know we're always here," Pulido explains. "We're open seven days a week if they need to talk or have any medical questions. It's an emotional thing, but very exciting and rewarding."

#### *"You're Not Alone"*

In initial meetings, nurses are key in letting patients know that they are not alone in their challenge to conceive. Nurses inform them that more than approxi-

Photo courtesy Pamela Chun



Michael and Pamela Chun with son Noah

mately 6.1 million couples in the U.S. experience fertility problems, many of which are facing similar challenges emotionally, psychologically, and financially. Pulido says patients are different in their needs for support. "It's nice to be able to help people in a happy sense," she says. "We're helping them come to grips with what available options they have."

#### *There Every Step of the Way*

Pacific IVF is a leader in the industry with one of the highest pregnancy rates in the country, according to Thomas Kosasa M.D., Pacific IVF doctor and a nationally recognized authority on artificial reproductive technology. The nurses pride themselves on the fact that they too are very knowledgeable on the subject of assisted reproduction. They attend medical conferences on the Mainland regularly and keep close contact with physicians and experts in IVF from around the world.

The nurses also learn a lot from being there every single step of the way, supporting both doctors and patients. They are even present during the transfer of embryos into the uterus. "They're the ones who are setting up the instruments and the ones holding the patients' hands," says Pacific IVF doctor Carl Morton M.D.

Morton also suggests that nurses are just as important to the patients as doctors. "When the patient comes in, commonly they will ask the nurse a question instead

of the doctor," he says. "When they call with questions or problems they usually ask for a nurse by name. There's a great deal of interpersonal interaction with patients that you don't always see with other nursing specialties."

#### *Family Friends for Life*

Nurses of the Pacific IVF develop a special bond with patients that often last well beyond the birth of a child. Even couples who are unsuccessful at conceiving become lifetime friends. With 1,800 babies born through the technology at Pacific IVF Clinic, they enjoy relationships with many grateful families who keep in touch.

People like Pamela and Michael Chun say they are forever indebted to the nurses at Pacific IVF for their role in helping them have a healthy son, Noah, who recently celebrated his third birthday. "Nurses aren't always recognized for their important role in the process, but in our case, they really made the whole experience more pleasant and less stressful," Pamela says.

The number of happy couples who show their gratitude has now presented an interesting challenge for the staff, according to Morton. "One of the problems we have here is that we have a tendency to gain weight," he laughs. "Our patients are constantly bringing us *malasadas* or cakes. Everyday there's something. In fact, we had brownies from Wahiawa yesterday."