

The Wonder of It All: Fearfully and Wonderfully Made

By Mark Jurkovich

At the Creation Museum opening of new exhibits that I attended (fall 2019, see [ARKY's News Jan 2020, page 1](#)), they also announced their next project. It was for their exhibit on the wonder of life, especially developing life in the womb. As a thank you for contributing that night, donors were given a copy of the newly released DVD by Dr. David Menton titled "Fearfully & Wonderfully Made: When Human Life Begins". This video opened my eyes to further wonders of God's loving, creative handiwork.

In every step along the way from ovulation to conception to birth, Dr. Menton pointed out marvels of God's ingenious and loving design for the propagation of life. I will try to touch on the highlights in this article, but I encourage you [order a copy](#) for yourself.

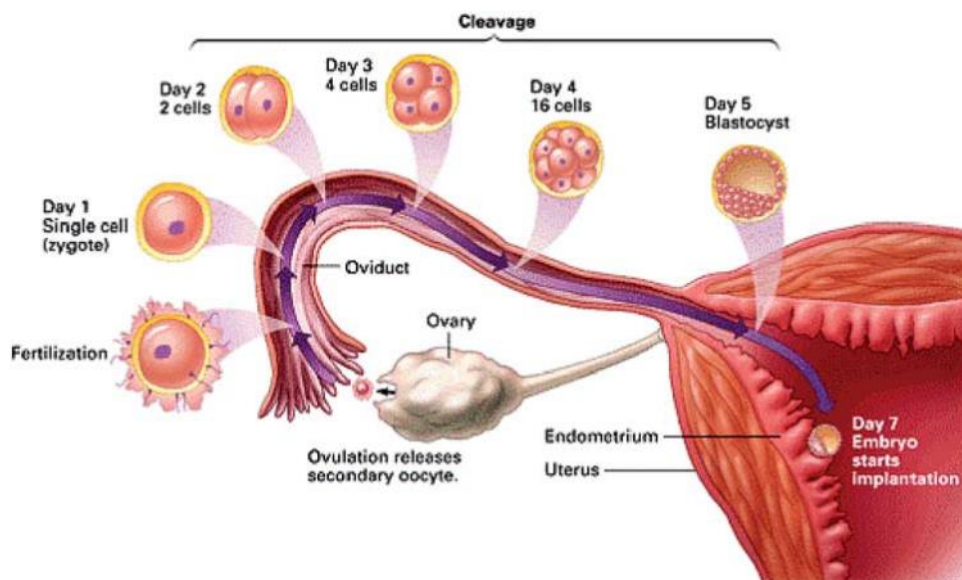
Starting at the ovaries, David pointed out that normally they take turns producing an egg with each producing one every other month. But when one stops functioning, the other will take over and produce an egg every month! Each female by the way is born with around a million undeveloped eggs (called primordial follicles). Every month 30-40 of these will start developing, but with only one (sometimes two; fraternal twins) reaching maturity. The one making it to maturity will accumulate fluid in it, growing to the size of a grain of salt, visible to the naked eye. This fluid is to serve as the initial nutrition source for a fertilized egg.

When the mature egg is released from the ovary, it leaves behind what is called a ruptured follicle, which serves another purpose by producing hormones telling the rest of the system to prepare for the egg. This rupture, however, also leaves a scar. But this is one of the only places where scars (one new one each

month) are dissolved, eventually going away! If not, the whole system would eventually break down as the ovary becomes one big scar.

Throughout the talk, Dr. Menton made frequent references to the irreducible complexity of conception and development in the womb. He never used those words but would say things like "how's dumb luck working for you now?" in reference to those who claim all this came by chance. This dissolving of the scars was the first place Menton mentions it.

The funnel at the end of the oviduct actually positions itself to catch the egg about to be released. It then takes about a week for the egg to make it all the way down the oviduct (also known as the fallopian tube). Several key things must then be in place to move the egg



down the duct. The duct is lined with cilia that moves in a sequential wave motion, otherwise the egg would not move down. But also needed are other cells that surround the egg (called cumulus oophorus) which make the egg 'sticky' enough for the cilia to move it. Without any one of these (cilia, wave motion, 'sticky' cells) reproduction would not happen.

What about the fertilization process itself? Once again there are many steps that all need to be in place by God's marvelous design. First the sperm needs to be prepared by

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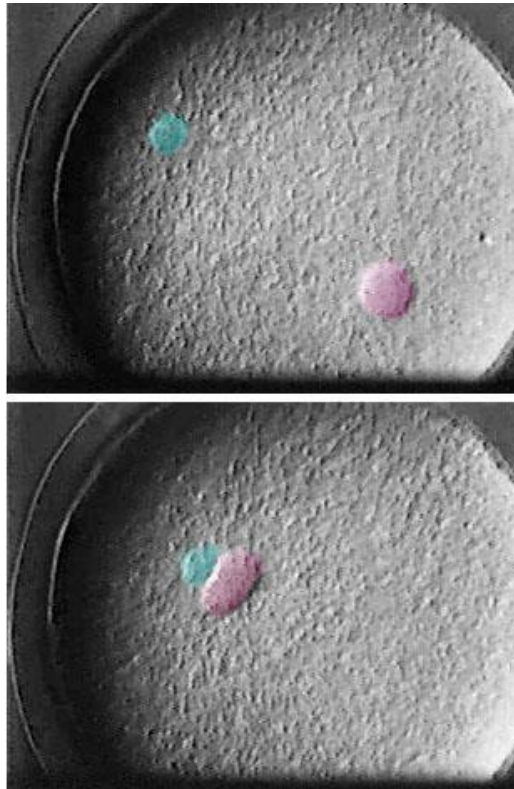
chemicals in the female for at least 12 hours before it is “capacitated” and ready to be accepted by the egg. Out of the millions of sperm, typically only a few dozen make their way to the egg. Then the sperm must release a special enzyme to digest its way through the cloud of cells around the egg, then another enzyme to make it through the shell of the egg. Even then, it will not get through unless the egg allows it by meeting certain criteria; that it is a sperm, that it is capacitated, that it is the right species, and that another sperm has not already been allowed in. Once allowed in, only the chromosomes enter, the tail and everything else stay outside.

But conception is not complete yet. Once inside, the two pronuclei of the egg and sperm must touch each other and merge their chromosomes. That is when a new life begins.

The journey in the womb, however, is barely begun. As the journey down the oviduct continues, the zygote starts to divide and continues to divide into more and more cells. But the amazing thing is, the zygote maintains the same size, otherwise it would get stuck in the tube! The developing baby does not begin to increase in size until safely implanted in the womb.

Before implantation, the zygote starts subdividing its cells in what is called the blastocyst stage. The “inner cell mass” is the developing baby. What is the rest for? It will become the placenta.

There is much more that is covered in the video, especially on the marvelous design of the placenta and its



Pronuclei before and after contact

many functions. But I will leave you to watch the DVD for yourself.

One last item I would like to touch upon that was mentioned in the video is that the developing baby goes through four different methods for receiving its nutrition along the way. First is the ‘yolk’ part of the egg that nourishes the baby until implantation, then temporary glands in the uterus nourish the baby until the placenta is ready, then the placenta takes over until birth, then of course is mother’s milk after birth until old enough to eat regular food.

Needless to say, the whole process which God has designed into the forming

of a new life is packed with wonder upon wonder. Truly we are all fearfully and wonderfully made.

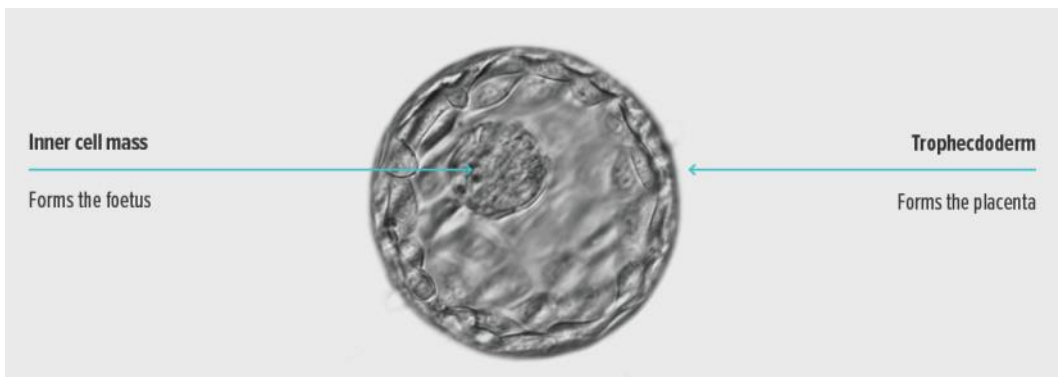
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Blastocyst: <https://www.lifefertility.com.au/resources/factsheets/blastocyst-culture/>

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Blastocyst stage