**A Survey of 1700 Sperm Donor Recipients (women who have used donor sperm).**

**Introduction**

Since the Donor Sibling Registry (DSR) was founded in 2000, more than 35,000 gamete donors, offspring and recipients have registered, seeking to find those with whom they share genetic ties. More than 9,000 have connected.  Research has already been published on egg and sperm donors and offspring.  Now the DSR seeks to present research concerning a survey of 1700 recipients of donor sperm.

**Materials and Methods:**

An online survey was conducted between 10/09-1/10, open to both members of the DSR and others.  The survey was designed using the DSR’s nine years experience in working with donor families. Ninety-nine questions covered the following focus areas: pre-insemination decisions including counseling, choosing donors, anonymity and disclosure, contact with donor relatives, balance of rights of donors and sperm banks, and issues of regulation. Questions carried pre-determined tick box options and included some space for respondents to also comment.

**Results**:

1700 responded to the survey with 92.8% completing every question.  61.7% of respondents were DSR members.  85% were USA residents. 87.9% already had donor children, 2.2% were pregnant,  9.9% had suffered miscarriage or stillbirth.  61.5% did not have any pre-insemination counseling, and only 28.4% of their partners received counseling.  Only 57.6% of those counseled were told that children would likely have curiosity about their paternal heritage, and 31.7% were advised to tell children that genetics don't make a family. When choosing a donor 65.2% cited donor health as the most important factor.  73% used anonymous donors with 47.8% explaining that this was because they were not offered open donors at the time, and 14.2% were not even aware that there were open donors.   48.5% thought anonymous donors were more likely to lie about attributes.  61.2% who used an anonymous donor, now wish they had used an open donor. 53% of families had connected with half siblings. 7.8% said they had learnt the identity of their donor and 4.4% had contact with him.  97% are interested in knowing the identity of the donor.  91.1% believe that offspring are not bound by any promise recipients gave to not seek out the donor.  Lack of  sperm banks  interest in monitoring how many children are born from donors is seen by 45.1% reporting no request by their sperm bank to report births.  Only 5% of recipients felt it was appropriate to use a donor to procreate as many as 25 children (cohorts up to 150 can be found on the DSR). However, 43.2% of recipients would prefer donors limited to a maximum of ten offspring, and 32.4% would allow the limit to be ten families.  Regarding donor medical testing, 83.9% say that they would pay more for sperm with more genetic testing.  67.1% believe sperm banks should be legally required to comprehensively genetically test all sperm donors. 78% of respondents want donors to be psychologically tested.

**Conclusions**

This study, the first ever to look at a large group of recipients, gives insight into their attitudes, concerns and experiences. Most respondents and their partners were never offered any counseling.  Health information was the most important factor when choosing a donor.  The overwhelming majority wanted all donors to be genetically and psychologically tested. Respondents felt that low limits should be placed on the number of children born from any one donor. Many respondents had made contact with their children’s genetic half siblings, and most felt that offspring had the right to seek out their donors. This survey offers the opportunity to learn about attitudes and decisions of parents regarding choosing donors, disclosure, anonymity and industry regulation that can greatly affect the future lives of donor conceived people.