

# RBMO

REPRODUCTIVE BIOMEDICINE ONLINE

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1 July 2020

## Reproduction, Technology and Society (RTS)

A new section in RBMO –  
call for papers

Dear Colleagues

The rapid rate of development and implementation of new and disruptive technologies in reproductive medicine often has profound implications beyond service providers and their patients, including policy makers, ethicists, regulators, and indeed society as a whole. At present social media serves as the primary forum for debate of these issues. It is clear to us at RBMO that there is an urgent need for a dynamic new academic platform which will serve to encourage rigorous and wider discourse over our ever-evolving discipline.

We are therefore delighted to announce that Reproductive Biomedicine Online (RBMO), the international journal founded in Cambridge by Robert Edwards more than 20 years ago, is extending its scope to include a dynamic new section to reflect the broader societal impact of technological innovations in reproductive medicine. Entitled "Reproduction, Technology and Society (RTS)", the section will feature studies and reports of those emerging developments which affect not just the scientists and clinicians working in reproduction, but individuals and society as a whole (see enclosed Editorial Panel).

RTS will be a self-contained section within the main body of RBMO, and will build further on the journal's reputation for rigour, authority and challenging established paradigms. Edited by distinguished specialists whose work has already paved the way for notable advances in reproductive medicine, Nick Macklon, Rita Vassena, Silvia Camporesi and Kamal Ahuja, the new section will bring together those papers from a broad context likely to generate discussion for both their scientific merit and societal implications.

We invite you to consider this opportunity for publishing your research as original papers, case reports, viewpoints and reviews in areas where the implications are social as well as scientific, personal as well as clinical. Topics that will find a home in this new section will often be challenging and controversial. They will include ethical and regulatory aspects of genetic technologies applied to ART, treatment developments for non-traditional families, delayed parenthood, surrogacy, cross-border care, personal and clinical opportunities from cryopreservation technology, analysis of the transnational bioeconomies of ART and the implications from technology-driven innovations such as direct-to-consumer genetic testing and fertility add-ons. All of these have implications for regulators and guideline development in a global market which will be explored in the new section.

Many of today's technological advances are based as much on the digital opportunities of the internet as well as in the IVF lab. Robotics, artificial intelligence algorithms, data analytics, quality management, and more direct-to-consumer services will all change how we

work and how our patients interact with us. Similarly, changes in the way that fertility services are provided and funded will have enormous impact: the growing clinic conglomerates, centralised laboratories; novel devices and web-based services – how will these affect reproductive medicine?

In short, we wish to see work where technology meets society in the context of reproduction, and their interaction is explored.

RBMO, with 12 issues a year and 7 established sections, is already well known for its independence and its talking-point publications. With the launch of our new and unique Reproduction, Society and Technology section we invite all authors and researchers, policy makers and commentators in our field to join us in this exciting endeavour. The enhanced marketing from Elsevier, our publisher, and editorial production strengths, means that we are all well placed to showcase your best work in a sympathetic and constructive way. We hope you will share our excitement at this new initiative and would encourage you to contact any of the editors listed below if you wish to discuss novel ideas or have any questions, or submit your contribution for our consideration directly via:

[editorialmanager.com/RBMO/default.aspx](mailto:editorialmanager.com/RBMO/default.aspx)

We look forward to hearing from you.

With best wishes,

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