

MARY STEPHENSON BIOGRAPHY:



Dr. Mary Stephenson is an internationally renowned expert in recurrent pregnancy loss. Her extensive training in reproductive immunology and genetics has facilitated her ability to link her clinical work with the laboratory.

Over the past two decades, Dr. Stephenson has assessed therapeutic interventions for recurrent pregnancy loss and infertility. She recently completed the largest trial to date on the use of intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIG) in recurrent miscarriage. Although the results showed IVIG was not of benefit, preconception care and close monitoring resulted in an astounding live birth rate of 94%, based on the presence of an embryo with cardiac activity at 6 weeks.

Dr. Stephenson emphasizes the importance of finding out why miscarriage occurs. She recommends sending miscarriage tissue for chromosome testing to determine whether the miscarriage is “explained,” due to an abnormal number of chromosomes, or “unexplained,” when the normal number of chromosomes are found. Dr. Stephenson and her research team reported that miscarriage chromosome testing is a cost effective strategy, and recommends that such testing become the standard of care for women who have two or more miscarriages.

Dr. Stephenson has a longstanding research collaboration with Dr. Evica Rajcan-Separovic, a geneticist at the University of British Columbia, to identify submicroscopic chromosomal imbalances in miscarriages which may lead to the discovery of “miscarriage genes”.

In 2010, Dr. Stephenson co-authored the textbook, *Early Pregnancy*, which embraces a multidisciplinary approach to the evaluation and management of recurrent pregnancy loss. She is featured in the popular book by Jon Cohen, *Coming to Term: Uncovering the Truth about Miscarriage*.

Dr. Stephenson is the founding Chair of the Early Pregnancy Special Interest Group of ASRM. She is an Associate Editor for Human Reproduction and on the Editorial Board for Fertility & Sterility.

In recognition of her exceptional work, Dr. Stephenson has held leadership positions in state, national, and international associations. Recent positions include Chair of Postgraduate Programs for the American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM), and the North American representative to the European Society for Human Reproduction and Embryology (ESHRE), President of the Chicago Association of Reproductive Endocrinologists (CARE). Since 2005, she has been recognized with Best Doctors in America®. In 2011, Dr. Stephenson completed the prestigious *Hedwig van Ameringen* Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine (ELAM) Program.

In 2012, Dr. Stephenson assumed the position of Department Head of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Illinois at Chicago and was awarded the *Theresa S. Falcon-Cullinan* professorship. She particularly enjoys mentoring medical students, residents, fellows and junior faculty for careers in academic medicine.

MARY STEPHENSON RESEARCH LIST:

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