



## KNOW THE MASTER

PROF. DAVID GARDNER

THE GLUE MAN

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### PROF. DAVID GARDNER- THE GLUE MAN

Professor David Gardner is a preeminent figure in the field of reproductive biology and IVF technology.

#### EARLY LIFE AND EDUCATION

Gardner completed his PhD in 1987 at the University of York under the supervision of Professor Henry Leese. After his PhD, he moved to Harvard Medical School in 1988 to work with Professor John Biggers. The following year, he relocated to Monash, Australia, to collaborate with Alan Trounson and Carl Wood. In 1997, he became the Scientific Director of the Colorado Centre for Reproductive Medicine in Denver. Gardner was inspired to pursue a career in fertility science after meeting the father of IVF, Robert Edwards. He was immediately drawn to the field and the potential it had to help people. His work there, particularly on human embryo culture conditions, has had a profound impact on the practice of IVF globally.

#### IVF REVOLUTION

Gardner's contributions to the field of IVF are nothing short of transformative. The Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital journal highlights his pivotal role in developing the Gardner scoring system, a revolutionary method for assessing embryo quality based on their morphology. This system, now widely adopted globally, has significantly improved IVF success rates by enabling the selection of the most viable embryos for implantation.

His most notable contribution is the invention of EmbryoGlue, a revolutionary embryo transfer medium, two decades ago.

#### ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

In 2007, Prof Gardner returned to Australia, taking up the position of Professor and Chair of the Zoology Department at the University of Melbourne. He was promoted to the level of Distinguished Professor in the School of BioSciences at the University of Melbourne in 2018. Additionally, he holds the position of Scientific Director at Melbourne IVF and is the Group Director of ART, Scientific Innovation, and Research at Virtus Health.

### PUBLICATIONS AND INFLUENCE IN REPRODUCTIVE BIOLOGY

Gardner's contributions to the field have been recognized through numerous awards and honors. In 2017, he was elected as a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science (FAA), one of Australia's highest scientific honors. He also received the Distinguished Researcher Award from the American Society of Reproductive Medicine. In June 2022, he was awarded the Order of Australia (AM) for his significant contributions to reproductive medicine.

Overall, Professor Gardner is one of the most highly cited scientists in reproductive biology and medicine, with over 310 papers and chapters published, and has edited 16 books on IVF and embryology. His works have accumulated over 33,000 citations, reflecting his influence and the high regard in which he is held in the scientific community.

### HOPE AND PREDICTIONS FOR THE FUTURE

"Research into fertility science is essential," Gardner said. "For people who aren't infertile, it's hard to understand what a devastating effect infertility has on a person, on a couple, on their whole extended family. It's as real as any disease in its impact and the more work and the more funding we can find for this kind of research, the more couples we can help."

His words encapsulate his optimistic vision: "I truly hope, but I also predict, that we will see a lot more technology come into the IVF laboratory... Artificial intelligence is a phenomenal way of actually helping us interpret all of the things that are happening... It's going to benefit our clinical works and of course our patients' journeys."

Ref: Virtus Health: Pioneers of fertility innovations: in conversation with Prof David Gardner 24/07/23



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