

her life spotlight

KU Center for Advanced Reproductive Medicine

By Lisa Allen
Photos by Kami Brady

Talk to successful people in various professions and you will learn that their motivations are as varied as their office decor; some are driven by personal experience, others by an unquenchable thirst for knowledge and still others by the public acclaim that seems to come naturally with high profile positions. Talk to Dr. Sacha Krieg, M.D., Ph.D., who recently joined the University of Kansas' Center for Advanced Reproductive Medicine, about the impetus behind her career strides and you will find a duality that puts a very human face on an increasingly difficult and technical medical specialty.

The Center for Advanced Reproductive Medicine offers a variety of fertility services in the areas of general infertility, recurrent pregnancy loss, in vitro fertilization, surrogacy, donor egg in vitro fertilization, advanced reproductive surgery and reproductive endocrinology in order to provide each patient with the individualized care they need. In October 2010, Dr. Krieg joined the faculty and brings with her extensive experience gleaned through her work at one of the largest IVF units in the United States at Stanford University.

New to Kansas City, Dr. Krieg brings to the Midwest not only her most recent fellowship experiences but also her primary desire to witness the happy outcome of working with women eager and determined to start families. The combination of the inherently interesting population she works with on

“Because every woman deserves a chance.”

a daily basis and the complex medical problems that contribute to infertility and pregnancy loss gives Dr. Krieg the motivation necessary to spearhead the first program in the region for the care and treatment of recurrent early pregnancy losses.

Dr. Krieg joins Dr. S. Samuel Kim, M.D., FACOG, an internationally renowned specialist in reproductive endocri-



nology and infertility. With 20 years experience in clinical reproductive medicine and surgery, Dr. Kim is also a highly esteemed scientist whose reputation as a pioneer in ovarian tissue cryopreservation and transplantation has been recognized worldwide. He spearheaded the founding of the International Society for Fertility Preservation (ISFP). Dr. Kim is the current Head of the Division of Reproductive Endocrinology at the University of Kansas Medical Center (KUMC) and the Director of Center for Advanced Reproductive Medicine, KUMC.

Specializing in reproductive endocrinology and infertility, Dr. Krieg is hoping to expand the in vitro fertilization program as well and notes the excellence of the Embryology Lab as one of the many factors that sets this practice above the others. Approaching the care of each patient not only from a strictly medical view, Dr. Krieg and her staff focus on the lifestyle challenges that accompany some women's journey to becoming a mother. Dr. Krieg cites Nurse Judy Gay, R.N., Recurrent Pregnancy Loss Nurse, as a vital part of the program's success, noting her development of a mind/body program that nurtures each patient. Also part of the team are Turri Hall, R.N., and IVF Coordinator and Jaime Burkott, R.N. and Donor Egg IVF Program Coordinator.

Dr. Krieg notes that each member of the team respects the journey that some families face when trying to become parents and it is evident that the team as a whole makes every effort to support each patient in any way possible. A perfect example

is their willingness to schedule appointments as early as 7:30 a.m., thereby preventing the uncomfortable conversations that might arise if an employee were to ask off for multiple medical appointments.

Being sure that relationships are nurtured at each step of the process is also a primary goal at the Center for Advanced Reproductive Medicine. "There are frequent ultrasounds," said Dr. Krieg, and with that the opportunity for staff members to really get to know their patients and thereby help them deal with the stress that comes along with the process. By keeping the procedures all in one location, the team is able to make the journey a bit less stressful and the aesthetics of procedure and recovery rooms lend a less institutional feel to help ease patients. Access to a therapist helps alleviate emotional issues as well.

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Perhaps more important than physical surroundings, though, is that by building rapport with each patient, Dr. Krieg and her staff can also educate. When it comes to recurrent miscarriage, Dr. Krieg wants women to know that treatment options can mean the chances of a subsequent pregnancy ending in a live birth increase to approximately 80-90 percent. She wants women who suffer from recurrent pregnancy loss to remain hopeful and offers encouragement: "It takes stamina,



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As one of only a few programs in the country providing specialized care to patients suffering from recurrent miscarriages, Dr. Krieg's practice and the team that she has assembled provide a welcome respite for those struggling with the heavy emotional and physical issues that sometimes accompany the

desire to have a child. A look at the Center's website will reveal that their slogan proclaims: "Because every woman deserves a chance." With plans to continue to grow not only the IVF program but the Recurrent Pregnancy Loss program as well, Dr. Krieg and her staff are on a mission to prove that sometimes marketing slogans really are true. ■

Center for Advanced Reproductive Medicine is located at 10777 Nall Avenue, Suite 200, Overland Park, KS 66211. Please call 913-588-BABY or visit www.kumc.edu/carm/ for more information.

