PRESS RELEASE

New Unit of Medically Assisted Reproduction opens in Portugal

LABORATORY OF THE NEW UNIT MALO CLINIC-GINEMED IS PIONEER IN SAFE SPEED SYSTEM, CLOSED SYSTEM OF CRYOPRESERVATION.

The latest numbers published by Eurostat in 2013 indicate that Portugal is the country with the lowest birth rate in Europe with 7.9 births per 1,000 population. It is estimated that 15% of couples in our country have infertility problems, affecting about one million people.

Lisbon, 5th of December 2014 – Inaugurated yesterday, MALO CLINIC-Ginemed was honored with the presence of the Ambassador of Spain in Portugal, Eduardo Junco, who visited the new unit’s facilities in Lisbon. MALO CLINIC-Ginemed (International Center for Assisted Reproduction) is born from the partnership between MALO CLINIC and Ginemed; institution specialized in human assisted reproduction. With over 20 years’ experience and 13 operating centers in Spain, Ginemed combines medical care with research being an international benchmark in the sector.

Lisbon has been chosen for the first international unit of the Spanish group, being located at the MALO CLINIC headquarters. “With the opening of this Unit in Lisbon, all of our patients from Portugal, which to date had to go to our centers in Seville and Huelva, see now easier their path to motherhood” – says Fernando Sánchez, Clinical Director of MALO CLINIC-Ginemed. “MALO CLINIC has a very strong R&D area and values partners that invest in research and innovation. Together we have created a center of reference in the world.” says Paulo Malo.

MALO CLINIC-Ginemed has a team of gynecologists, embryologists and nurses highly qualified who together with coordinating nurses accompany all the way in infertility therapy. The unit in Lisbon has the most advanced technology in Reproductive Medicine and also a Reproduction Laboratory, Consultation Offices, Recovery Rooms and Operating Room for the extraction of oocytes and embryo transfer.

THE MOST ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY IN REPRODUCTIVE MEDICINE

In the last decade assisted reproduction has managed to fulfill the dream of thousands of people and Ginemed presents success rates of around 50% of pregnancy in the first transfer. It pioneered the Egg Donation and registers excellent results in treating hormone-free.

The Ginemed laboratories were the first to use the closed cryopreservation system. This innovative system SAFESPEED, which arise from the research work of Ginemed with the
University of Seville and was presented at the 30th meeting of ESHRE - European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology in Munich, has brought greater security for the preservation of gametes (eggs, sperm and embryos), eliminating the direct contact with the liquid nitrogen and the possible risk of contamination, while maintaining the survival and fertility rates. Nowadays, in countries such as France the open vitrification system is no longer allowed, and this closed system is the only authorized to cryopreservation. Across Europe, public and private centers have training in Ginemed to implement this new system.

MALO CLINIC-Ginemed will adopt some of the initiatives already implemented in others units that will now be available for patients and professionals in Portugal:

**PROGRAM “SAFE PREGNANCY”**

The costs associated with infertility treatment are for many people an obstacle and furthermore the results are uncertain. Through the program “Safe Pregnancy”, the couple is informed about the value of the treatment plan. If a woman can’t get pregnant after the treatment is complete, the amount paid will be refunded.

**OPEN SYSTEM FOR PROFESSIONALS**

MALO CLINIC-Ginemed has a unique model of collaboration protocol with health professionals. Doctors may order technical support from the Medically Assisted Reproduction Unit laboratory and team and monitor the entire process of their patient. Once achieved pregnancy the patient returns to the appointments with her Gynecologist.

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About GINEMED: GINEMED is a Health Group specialized in Gynecology and Obstetrics, specializing in Assisted Reproduction. The Spanish group has combined for more than 20 years medical care and research as well as pioneered new techniques in Reproductive Health. With 14 centers in Spain and Portugal (Lisbon, Seville, Castilleja de la Cuesta, Dos Hermanas, Los Palacios y Villafranca, Mairena del Alcor; Umbrete; La Campana, La Puebla de Cazalla, Valencia, Huelva, Aracena, La Palma del Condado) in 2009 the group added an international department that serves patients from France, Italy and North Africa among others.