# *FERTILITY COUNSELING POSTGRADUATE COURSE (FCPG)*

## Live Teleconference
## Ten Monthly Sessions on Mondays
## September 2017 to June 2018

The field of fertility counseling is a rapidly growing specialty area in psychotherapy. Many clinicians are finding more patients presenting with reproductive issues and a complex history of reproductive loss. Whether infertility is a presenting problem or occurs during the course of therapy, clinicians need to understand challenges faced by clients as they navigate the world of assisted reproduction. Further, the fallout and aftermath for families who have struggled with infertility continues long after family building is resolved, and can impact relationships for generations.

The FCPG is a formal, live, interactive, teleconference-based program in fertility counseling for mental health professionals, physicians, nurses and other reproductive clinical care providers to address a broad range of issues seen in clients experiencing impaired reproduction and psychosocial functioning. Through didactic, interactive visual presentations and clinical case discussions, participants have the opportunity to integrate knowledge into practice. The FCPC will address the following topics including:

- Psychological and Medical Overview
- Assessment
- Treatment Approaches
- Third Party Assessment and Counseling
- New-age Families
- Pregnancy and Reproductive Loss
- Special Fertility Counseling Issues
- Transference and Countertransference
- Legal/Ethical Challenges
- Practice Building

Readings and discussion are based on the texts ***Fertility Counseling: Clinical Guide & Case Studies*** (2015) S.N. Covington (Ed.)*;* ***Frozen Dreams: Psychodynamic Dimensions of Infertility& Assisted Reproduction*** (2005) A Rosen, (Ed.) and selected articles. It is also recommended to have a copy of *Infertility Counseling: A Comprehensive Handbook for Clinicians 2nd ED* (2006), SN Covington and LH Burns, Eds as additional readings will be assigned from this text.

This course will be taught by Sharon Covington, LCSW-C and Linda Applegarth, EdD who have been internationally recognized leaders in the field for over 35 years.

***Sharon Covington, M.S.W.*** is Director of Psychological Support Services at Shady Grove Fertility, on the clinical faculty of Georgetown University School of Medicine, Dept of OB/GYN, and an associate investigator in Reproductive and Adult Endocrinology at the

NICHD/NIH. She has over 40 years clinical experience working with adults in individual, couple, and group therapy.

***Linda Applegarth, Ed.D.*** is Clinical Associate Professor of Psychology in the Depts. of OB/GYN & Psychiatry at Weill Medical College of Cornell University in NYC, and has been affiliated for 29 years with the Center for Reproductive Medicine where she has been Director of Psychological Services. Dr. Applegarth served on the National Resolve's Board of Directors for 10 years. In addition to her 40 years of clinical experience with individuals, couples, and groups, she is actively doing research in third party reproduction.

**Learning Objectives:**
1 Participants will integrate reproductive medical technology with the psychological impact of infertility on individuals and couples.
2. Participants will utilize relevant clinical approaches for clients who have had or who are currently experiencing impaired reproduction and reproductive loss.
3. Participants will apply their understanding of the long-range implications for families created through assisted reproductive technologies (ART).
4. Participants will assess and incorporate the ethical challenges occurring when counseling clients using assisted reproduction and/or working in a reproductive medical setting.
5. Participants will assess their own transference and counter-transference reactions when working with a broad range of reproductive issues.
6. Participants will be able to apply this knowledge to clinical work and practice.

The class will be conducted live by a HIPAA secure teleconference website. Materials will be provided via email for participants to download and keep in a notebook. Participants must have a PC or MAC computer with a WIFI bandwidth speed of 50 mb with a camera and audio.

The fee for the 10-month study group is $1800, which can be paid in two segments (September and February). As enrollment is limited, a $200 deposit is required to hold your place.

The *tentative* class will **on Monday from 11AM-2 PM EST** on: September 18, October 16, November 13, December 11, 2017; January 22, February 19, March 19, April 16, May 21, June 18, 2018.

*Because of changes within the ASRM/MHPG, we have needed to apply for 30 CEs through the American Psychological Association and are working towards APA approval. The Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners has approved this course for thirty (30) Category I Continuing Education Unit's, including three (3) of Ethics.*

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For more information or to sign up, please contact:
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Sharon Covington at sharon.covington@integramed.com or 1-301-279-9030