Stanford



Liesl Nel-Themaat, PhD, HCLD, MBA

Clinical Associate Professor, Obstetrics & Gynecology - Reproductive Endocrinology & Infertility

Curriculum Vitae available Online

CONTACT INFORMATION

- **Administrative Assistant**

  Tracy Lindsay - AA

  Email tracyl@stanford.edu

  Tel 408.426.5483

Bio

BIO

Dr. Nel-Themaat has been in the field of assisted reproduction for more than 20 years, with the past 11 years in clinical IVF. She possesses a unique combination of a strong academic background, broad technical experience and extensive leadership, and management training. Through a multi-dimensional approach, she has helped to improve patient care and outcomes in Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART).

Dr. Nel-Themaat was most recently employed as the Regional IVF Lab Director for Shady Grove Fertility in Colorado and served as the IVF Lab Director at University of Colorado Advanced Reproductive Medicine. She received her PhD from LSU, Baton Rouge and recently completed an Executive Masters of Business Administration program at the University of Denver.

Her goal is to advance the field “by building strong, high performing lab teams, by carefully evaluating and adapting appropriately to industry trends, by training and educating the current and next generations, and by participating in collaborative research that enhances our understanding of reproduction.” In her free time, Dr. Nel-Themaat loves to spend time with her husband and two children, preferably in nature. With them, she enjoys skiing, hiking, biking, swimming and anything nature has to offer. She likes to cook out and introduce our American friends to South African cuisine, especially a “braai,” which is their version of a BBQ. During school holidays, she likes to visit family in South Africa, go on safari and enjoy the beautiful beaches. Dr. Nel-Themaat enjoys jamming on the piano, guitar, drums and microphone with her family. She also considers herself very competitive and loves playing and watching sports or playing board games.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Clinical Associate Professor, Obstetrics & Gynecology - Reproductive Endocrinology & Infertility
- Member, Maternal & Child Health Research Institute (MCHRI)

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **ICSI media buffers: is there room for improvement?** *Journal of assisted reproduction and genetics*

Campos, G., Nel-Themaat, L.
2026

- **BATTLE OF THE SEXES: RATE OF ANEUPLOIDY AND CLINICAL OUTCOMES ARE NOT AFFECTED BY EM-BRYO SEX IN A LARGE COHORT STUDY. Emily H. Frisch,1 Jiaqi Zhang,2 Johanna Wilson,2**
  Frisch, E. H., Zhang, J., Wilson, J., Zhao, H., Aghajanova, L., Nel-Themaat, L.
  ELSEVIER SCIENCE INC.2026: e46

- **Does Isolated Teratozoospermia = Normozoospermia?** *Fertility and sterility*
  Sellke, N., Nel-Themaat, L., Eisenberg, M. L.
  2026

- **Modeling human embryo implantation in vitro.** *Cell*
  Molè, M. A., Elderkin, S., Zorzan, I., Penfold, C., Horsley, N., Pokhilko, A., Polanek, M., Palomar, A., Sinha, M., Wang, Y., Quiñonero, A., Androulidakis, C., Acton, et al
  2025

- **Healthy euploid dizygotic twin birth after transfer of non-mosaic aneuploid embryos.** *Fertility and sterility*
  Tise, C. G., Verma, K., Rivera-Cruz, G., Chamanara, S., Gerber, S. K., Boyd, A., Mazzoni, R., Nel-Themaat, L., Behr, B., Milki, A. A., Lathi, R. B.
  2025

- **Blastocoel fluid as an alternative source of DNA for minimally invasive PGT and biomarker of embryo competence.** *Reproductive biomedicine online*
  Campos, G., Nel-Themaat, L.
  2024; 49 (4): 104322

- **A COST ANALYSIS OF HCG TRIGGER ALONE VERSUS DUAL TRIGGER FOR ACHIEVING LIVE BIRTH FOLLOWING IN VITRO FERTILIZATION.**
  Chung, E. H., Khorshid, A., Bavan, B., Lathi, R.
  ELSEVIER SCIENCE INC.2023: E124

- **MORPHOLOGY VERSUS PGT-A: HOW OFTEN DOES PGT-A IMPACT SELECTION OF THE EMBRYO FOR THE FIRST TRANFER?**
  Chung, E. H., Albers, S., Zhang, J., Nel-Themaat, L., Lathi, R.
  ELSEVIER SCIENCE INC.2023: E184-E185

- **The Reproductive Competence of Human Metaphase I Oocytes with Delayed Maturation In Vitro**
  Nguyen, E., Moon, J. H., Nel-Themaat, L., Lathi, R., Yu, B.
  SPRINGER HEIDELBERG.2023: 43A-44A

- **The developmental competence of human metaphase I oocytes with delayed maturation in vitro.** *Fertility and sterility*
  Moon, J. H., Zhao, Q., Zhang, J., Reddy, V., Han, J., Cheng, Y., Zhang, N., Dasig, J., Nel-Themaat, L., Behr, B., Yu, B.
  2022

- **Expression and T cell Regulatory Action of the PD-1 Immune Checkpoint in the Ovary and Fallopian Tube.** *American journal of reproductive immunology (New York, N.Y. : 1989)*
  Johnson, J., Kim, S., Sam, P. K., Asokan, R., Cari, E. L., Bales, E. S., Luu, T., Perez, L., Kallen, A. N., Nel-Themaat, L., Polotsky, A. J., Post, M. D., Orlicky, et al
  2022

- **The ART of cryopreservation and its changing landscape** *FERTILITY AND STERILITY*
  Pomeroy, K. O., Comizzoli, P., Rushing, J. S., Lersten, I. L., Nel-Themaat, L.
  2022; 117 (3): 469-476

- **ANTI-MULLERIAN HORMONE AND FOLLICLE STIMULATING HORMONE ARE POOR INDEPENDENT PREDICTORS OF LIVE BIRTH AFTER ASSISTED REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGY.**
  Siegel, D. R., Sammel, M., Nel-Themaat, L., Santoro, N. F., Polotsky, A. J.
  ELSEVIER SCIENCE INC.2021: E264-E265

- **In vitro fertilization and andrology laboratories in 2030** *FERTILITY AND STERILITY*
  Simon, C., Campbell, A., Gardner, D. K., Meseguer, M., Miller, K. A., Montag, M., Palermo, G. D., Cheung, S., Keating, D., Xie, P., Rosenwaks, Z., Rienzi, L., Innocenti, et al

2021; 116 (1): 2-3

- **In vitro fertilization and andrology in 2030: visions** *FERTILITY AND STERILITY*
  Campbell, A., Gardner, D. K., Meseguer, M., Miller, K. A., Montag, M., Palermo, G. D., Cheung, S., Keating, D., Xie, P., Rosenwaks, Z., Rienzi, L., Innocenti, F., Cimadomo, et al
  2021; 116 (1): 4-12

- **3D genomics across the tree of life reveals condensin II as a determinant of architecture type.** *Science (New York, N.Y.)*
  Hoencamp, C., Dudchenko, O., Elbatsh, A. M., Brahmachari, S., Raaijmakers, J. A., van Schaik, T., Sedeño Cacciatore, Á., Contessoto, V. G., van Heesbeen, R. G., van den Broek, B., Mhaskar, A. N., Teunissen, H., St Hilaire, et al
  2021; 372 (6545): 984-989

- **PUBLIC REPORTING OF CLINICAL OUTCOMES IN ASSISTED REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGY IN THE US FOR 2014-2017: REPORTING TO CDC ONLY IS ASSOCIATED WITH FEWER CANCELLATIONS AND LOWER SUCCESS RATES.**
  Thanh Ha Luu, Nel-Themaat, L., Tracy Truong, Polotsky, A. J.
  ELSEVIER SCIENCE INC.2020: E259

- **PD-1 RECEPTOR AND LIGANDS ARE CONCENTRATED IN THE EXOSOME FRACTION OF HUMAN OVARIAN FOLLICULAR FLUID.**
  Thanh Ha Luu, Cari, E., Rushing, J., Nel-Themaat, L., Polotsky, A. J., Johnson, J.
  ELSEVIER SCIENCE INC.2020: E104

- **Does Public Reporting Provide an Incomplete Picture of Success Rates of In Vitro Fertilization in the United States? Optional Reporting is Associated with Lower Cancelling Rates but Higher Cycle Success Compared to Mandatory Reporting.**
  Thanh Ha Bao Luu, Nel-Themaat, L., Tracy Truong, Polotsky, A. J.
  SPRINGER HEIDELBERG.2020: 288A

- **EXPRESSION AND FUNCTION OF THE PD-1 IMMUNE CHECKPOINT IN THE HUMAN OVARY AND FALLOPIAN TUBE.**
  Johnson, J., Cari, E., Sam, P., Bales, E. S., Ryu, S., Nel-Themaat, L., Kallen, A., Polotsky, A. J., Post, M. D., Orlicky, D. J., Jordan, K., Bitler, B. G.
  ELSEVIER SCIENCE INC.2019: E106

- **CURRENT STATUS OF REPRODUCTIVE LABORATORY PROFESSION: WORKLOAD, WELLNESS, EARNINGS AND JOB SATISFACTION.**
  Chang, T., Chang, C., Nel-Themaat, L., Smith, S. E., Zozula, S., Su, Y.
  ELSEVIER SCIENCE INC.2019: E69

- **Cloned embryos from semen. Part 1: In vitro proliferation of epithelial cells, on embryonic fibroblasts after isolation from semen by gradient centrifugation** *CLONING AND STEM CELLS*
  Nel-Themaat, L., Gomez, M. C., Pope, C., Lopez, M., Wirtu, G., Cole, A., Dresser, B. L., Lyons, L. A., Bondioli, K. R., Godke, R. A.
  2008; 10 (1): 143-159