

News Release

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Technology Gives Hope to Infertile Couples

Researcher Develops Artificial Insemination Device to Improve Quality of Semen

One in ten couples worldwide have infertility problems, and approximately two million couples actively seek treatment.

Samuel Prien, Ph.D., a professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC), developed a device to improve the quality of semen used in fertility treatments. The ProTex patented technology encompasses the method of collecting sperm, as well as the container into which the sperm are collected.

“Traditional sperm collection methods consist of a plastic cup in a clinical setting,” Prien said. “We’ve tried to provide an environment which allows for a better-quality sample.”

In traditional collection methods, sperm cells are often “shocked” by pH or temperature changes. The new collection device features a more stable environment for the sperm with controlled pH levels, temperature and a collection of nutrients, creating an environment for the sperm cells that is similar to a male’s body. A better quality of sperm cells will be beneficial for both medical and veterinary purposes.

“Currently, for artificial insemination purposes, male patients are limited to collecting semen in a clinic,” Prien said. “This

