### THE CHALLENGES OF INFERTILITY: HELPING COUPLES COPE, HEAL AND SURVIVE THE EMOTIONAL ROLLER COASTER

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	<ul> <li>Discover which coping strategies work best and for whom</li> </ul>	•
_	<ul> <li>Guide clients through the painful consequences of treatment failure, including grief, hopelessness and self-blame</li> </ul>	
_	<ul> <li>Develop strategies for helping couples handle the emotional, financial, physical, sexual, ethical and spiritual challenges</li> </ul>	•
liable for vchologists, v Therapists, 'ractitioners inside	<ul> <li>Recognize how couples are psychologically affected by infertility</li> <li>and the unique effects on men and</li> <li>women</li> </ul>	▲
Continuing	the Emotional Roller Coas	
leal	Helping Couples Cope, Heal and Survive	
	of Infertility:	
Š	The Challenges	

# The Challenges of Infertility: Helping Couples Cope, Heal and Survive the Emotional Roller Coaster

# Infertility: A Traumatic Experience for Couples and Individuals

Infertility creates one of the most distressing life crises that a couple will ever experience. The long-term inability to conceive a child can evoke significant feelings of loss. Dealing with the multitude of medical decisions and the uncertainties that infertility brings can create great emotional upheaval. Feelings of anxiety, depression, loss of control and isolation are common. Mental health professionals can serve a vital role in helping individuals and couples cope with the physical, emotional, financial and marital changes associated with infertility, as well as the medical treatments which are often painful and intrusive.

This seminar will teach clinicians the essential components of the infertility treatment process and how they can intervene at each stage to help individuals and couples cope. Attendees will learn how to create a uniquely supportive therapeutic environment; to help their clients utilize problem-solving strategies; and to assist them in working through grief, fear, depression, confusion, self-doubt and other common emotional experiences.

# **Course Director**



**MICHAEL E. SCHWARTZ, Ph.D.**, is a licensed psychologist with more than 15 years of diverse clinical training and experience. His practice is devoted to helping individuals, couples and families improve the quality of their lives. Dr. Schwartz has worked extensively in private practice and is highly skilled in cognitive-behavioral and expressive-supportive methods of psychotherapy. He works frequently with couples in crisis dealing with issues of stress, intimacy, life challenges, infertility and parenthood. Dr. Schwartz has known the challenges of infertility firsthand, and is highly equipped as teacher, therapist and fellow "patient" to guide other clinicians to a better understanding of how to assist this growing population. His practical

experience in medical psychology includes serving as Associate Director of Psychology and Postdoctoral Training Coordinator at the Bacharach Institute and as a Consultant for Atlantic City Medical Center, where he provided neuropsychological assessment and services to trauma and acute care patients.

A native New Yorker, Dr. Schwartz graduated from the Bronx High School of Science, earned a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology/Biology from NYU and received his Master's Degree in Clinical Health Psychology from Connecticut College, earning the Outstanding Graduate Student award. He completed his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology at the University of Delaware in 1993, during which time he gained extensive experience in teaching and clinical research and received an Excellence in Teaching award. Dr. Schwartz received specialized training in medical and rehabilitation psychology through an internship at Temple University Hospital and postdoctoral training at the Bacharach Institute for Rehabilitation in southern New Jersey.

# Who Should Attend

- Psychologists
- Psychiatrists
- Clinical Social Workers
- Licensed Professional Counselors
- Marriage and Family Therapists
- Pastoral Counselors
- Clergy
- Nurses
- Physicians
- Physician Assistants
- Nurse Practitioners
- Any professional helping couples with the challenges of infertility



# **COURSE CONTENT**

### **INFERTILITY: A BRIEF OVERVIEW**

- Female vs. male factor
- Effects of age
- Complicating conditions/causes
- Myths and misconceptions

### **ASSESSING THE PROBLEM**

- Finding a doctor
- Communicating with doctors and nurses
- When and if the couple should switch doctors
- Undergoing physical exams/testing

#### **BEGINNING TREATMENT**

- Drugs and their effects
- Ovulation induction/monitoring
- Surgical options
- Considering all the Assisted Reproductive Technologies (ARTs)
- Ethical concerns of parents

### **ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS**

- Third-party reproduction (donors, surrogacy, etc.)
- Adoption—psychological and financial concerns
- Accepting childlessness as an option

### **HOW MARRIAGES ARE AFFECTED**

- Financial strains
- Assessing blame
- Sexual intimacy/connection
- Working as a team and communicating effectively
- Keeping perspective

### LOSSES AND PSYCHOLOGICAL CONSEQUENCES OF INFERTILITY

- Loss of control
- Loss of self-esteem
- Loss of sexual identity
- Loss of hope
- Grief and mourning
- When to stop trying
- ◆ Self-blame
- Depression/sadness, anxiety
- Shame and embarrassment
- Female-male differences (symptoms)

### **HELPING COUPLES COPE**

- Psychotherapy
  - deciding what or whom will help
  - deciding on the most appropriate type of therapy
- Religion and its potential benefits
- Support groups
- Female-male differences (coping styles)
- Helpfulness of clinician's personal disclosure, if/when relevant

### INFERTILITY COUNSELING AS A NICHE

- Future trends and predictions
- Preparing to specialize
- Accessing the infertile population

### What You Will Learn

- Discuss how infertility is assessed, diagnosed and treated
- Identify the variety of options presented to infertile couples and how to support the decision-making process
- Assess the multiple challenges facing infertile couples in the areas of finance, physical health, emotional health, sexuality, communication and ethics
- Identify the psychological consequences of infertility and how women and men are differentially affected
- Develop strategies for helping couples cope through each stage of infertility, including diagnosis, medical treatment, acceptance of childlessness or consideration of alternative solutions such as adoption
- Discover how infertility counseling can be incorporated into clinical work

# Audio Products

If you would like to order the audio/manual package for this seminar, it is available for \$149, plus \$8 shipping and handling. If you are registered to attend this seminar, you may order a set of tapes/CDs for this program at \$49 each. Order online at our website, by faxing or mailing the registration form on this brochure or by calling (800) 397-0180. Supply may be limited. Please call to check for availability. Participant use of recording devices at the seminar is not permitted. Please allow 4 to 6 weeks following the seminar date for delivery.

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# Dates & Locations

### ASHEVILLE - July 16, 2007

Renaissance Asheville Hotel 1 Thomas Wolfe Plaza, Asheville, NC 28801 (828) 252-8211

KNOXVILLE - July 17, 2007 Holiday Inn Knoxville-Central 1315 Kirby Rd., Knoxville, TN 37909 (865) 584-3911

NASHVILLE - July 18, 2007 Cross Country Education Conference Center 9020 Overlook Blvd., Ste. 130, Brentwood, TN 37027 (615) 331-4422

# Course Hours

Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. The seminar **begins at 8:00 a.m.** and **concludes at 3:30 p.m.** Lunch is on your own from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. For late arrivals or early departures, please see amended certificate information under Continuing Education Credit.

# Confirmations & Cancellations

Confirmations of registration are sent via fax within three days of receipt in our office. If a faxed confirmation cannot be sent, a post card is mailed. If you have not received a confirmation within five days of the program, please call our office at (800) 397-0180 to verify registration. Cancellations received at least five working days before the seminar are refundable less a \$20 administrative charge per registrant. For cancellations received later, a credit will be issued toward a future seminar or product order. Please note that if you register and do not attend, you are still liable for full payment. Substitutions may be made any time.

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Registrants will not receive a certificate until payment has been received. If payment is not received ten (10) days prior to the seminar, the certificate may not be present at the seminar. If your payment is returned NSF it will be re-presented electronically and a processing fee will be charged as allowed by law.

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**Social Workers:** Cross Country Education provider #1005, is approved as a provider for social work continuing education by the Association of Social Work Licensure Boards (ASWB), through the Approved Continuing Education (ACE) program (approved through



Approved Continuing Education (ACE) program (approved through 1-27-09). Cross Country Education maintains responsibility for the program. Social workers will receive 6 continuing education clock hours for participating in this course. Licensed social workers should contact their individual state jurisdiction to review the current continuing education requirements for licensure renewal. Visit ASWB's website at www.aswb.org for more information.

**Counselors:** Cross Country Education is an NBCC Approved Continuing Education Provider (ACEP<sup>TM</sup>) and may offer NBCC approved clock hours for events that meet NBCC requirements. (NBCC Provider #5904) The ACEP solely is responsible for all aspects of the program. Six (6) contact (clock) hours are being awarded for completion of this program.

**Psychologists:** Cross Country Education is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. Cross Country Education maintains responsibility for this program and its content. This program offers 6 CE credits for psychologists. Full attendance is required to receive credit for psychologist, variable credit for partial attendance may not be awarded based on the APA guidelines.

**Nurse Practitioners:** Cross Country Education is accredited by the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners as an approved provider of nurse practitioner continuing education. Provider number: 060313. This course is offered for 6.0 contact hours.

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Association, an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation. Provider #044013109, this course is offered for 6.0 contact hours. Cross Country Education is an approved provider with the Iowa Board Of Nursing, approved provider #328. This course is offered for 7.2 contact hours. Cross Country Education is approved by the California Board of Registered Nursing, Provider #CEP 13345, for 7.2 contact hours. Cross Country Education is an approved provider by the Florida Board of Nursing, provider #50-466. This course is offered for 7.2 contact hours.

**Marriage and Family Therapists and other professions:** This seminar qualifies for 6 continuing education hours as required by many national, state and local licensing boards and professional organizations. Save your course outline and certificate of completion, and contact your own board or organization for specific filing requirements.

**All professionals:** In order to process continuing education, please bring the appropriate license/certification number to the seminar.

**Amended certificates:** Please note that the credit hours listed above are offered by Cross Country Education and/or boards/associations for a full day's attendance. In the event of late arrival and/or early departure, amended certificates indicating the actual number of credit hours earned will be provided upon calling Cross Country Education.

**ADA:** If you require ADA accommodations, please contact Cross Country Education at least two weeks before the seminar date so that arrangements can be made.

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