



GRAZIELLA BRACONE

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Senior Consultant with over 15 years in the field of assisted reproduction technologies, specializing in IVF laboratory management, quality assurance, and strategic consulting for the development of fertility centers across Europe.

I had the honor of becoming familiar with the field of assisted reproduction under the guidance of one of the "fathers" of reproductive medicine in Italy, Professor Carlo Flamigni. I then worked under the direction of Professor Stefano Venturoli on research projects in the field of cryobiology, with a particular focus on the cryopreservation of human ovarian tissue. After that, I decided to deepen my expertise in andrology and IVF laboratory techniques and moved to Milan, where I worked at the largest assisted reproduction center in Italy, and one of the leading centers in Europe. After one year of intensive training, I began working there as a reproductive biologist and embryologist. Later, my path led me to Switzerland, where I joined the University Hospital of Zurich under the direction of Professor Bruno Imthurn, working as an embryologist. One year later, I took over the management of the IVF laboratory at the Lucerne Cantonal Hospital, the largest hospital in Central Switzerland, under the leadership of Professor Jürgen Weiss. In Switzerland, I also founded and directed my own assisted reproduction center, the GEA IVF Laboratory, which operated under cantonal authorization. After three years back in Italy, I decided to embrace a new professional challenge and moved to Germany to contribute to the establishment of a new Fertility Center. I am experienced in all techniques of assisted reproduction, including the management of IVF and andrology laboratories a field I have been deeply engaged with for more than ten years.

Proven track record as a Senior Consultant supporting the creation and successful launch of two IVF clinics in the EU (Switzerland and Germany), offering in-depth expertise in laboratory setup, regulatory compliance (including EU Tissues and Cells Directives, ISO standards), staff training, and clinical-laboratory process optimization.

Core competencies:

- Strategic Consulting for Fertility Center Development and set up
 - Clinical and Laboratory Workflow Optimization
 - IVF Laboratory Management
 - Staff Training & Team Leadership
 - Quality Assurance & Regulatory Compliance
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Languages

- Italian (Native speaker)
- Englisch (Fluent)
- German (Good)

Mitglied

- ESHRE
 - ALPHA Scientist
 - SIERR
 - AGRBM (activation in progress)
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Experience

Employed from May 2025 – present – full-time (100%) permanent contract

[Set-up new Fertility Center](#)

Fertility Center – Germany

Validation of classified / controlled environments (clean rooms, GMP regulated areas). Selection and negotiation of stainless-steel instruments and furniture compliant with hygiene and safety regulations. Stabilization and qualification of process parameters to ensure reproducibility and regulatory compliance. Strong network across the industry (vendors, regulatory bodies, peer labs) to support sourcing, benchmarking, and continuous improvement

Employed from September 2023 – until April 2025 – full-time (100%) project-based position

[Project Manager](#)

Responsible Research Hospital, Campobasso – Italy

The objective was the establishment of a new fertility center

Employed from September 2021 – until May 2023 – full-time (100%) permanent contract

[IVF and Andrology Laboratory Director](#)

Chianciano Salute SpA, Chianciano Terme – Italy

Actively involved in all IVF and andrology laboratory procedures, team training, outcome optimization in relation to KiPs, quality management, and supporting the company's marketing strategy.

Employed from May 2019 – until May 2021 – full-time (100%) permanent contract

[IVF and Andrology Laboratory Director – Founder – Shareholder – CEO](#)

GEA IVF AG, Cham – Switzerland

Holding a cantonal license for the operation and management of an assisted reproduction laboratory. Daily active in all IVF and andrology laboratory procedures, team training, outcome optimization (KiPs), quality management, and company marketing strategy in a leadership role.

Employed from April 2013 – until April 2019 – full-time (100%) permanent contract
IVF and Andrology Laboratory Director (July 2013 – April 2019)
Embryologist (April – June 2013)
Lucerne Cantonal Hospital (LUKS), Lucerne – Switzerland
Daily active in all IVF and Andrology Laboratory techniques, team training, performance improvement (KIPs), and quality management.

Employed from April 2012 – until March 2013 – full-time (100%) fixed-term one-year contract
Embryologist
University Hospital Zurich (USZ), Zurich – Switzerland
Daily involved in all IVF and Andrology lab procedures, as well as in research activities.

Employed from March 2006 – until March 2012 – full-time (100%) Semi-subordinate Work Contract
Embryologist (march 2007 – march 2012)
Trainee embryologist (march 2006 – march 2007)
IRCCS Humanitas, Rozzano Milan – Italy
After one year of intensive training at Italy's largest fertility center (at the time managing 2,500 cycles/year – now over 5,000), I was actively involved in all assisted reproduction techniques daily.

Employed from September 1999 – until February 2006 – full-time (100%) project-based position
Research Biologist
University Hospital S. Orsola Malpighi, Bologna – Italy
Involved in research focused on ovarian tissue cryopreservation and long-term culture of ovarian cortex.

Education

2022 – PRESENT
PhD Candidate (Final Year)
University of Siena, Siena – Italy
Research focused on Artificial Intelligence (AI)

2019
Master's Degree in Biotechnology of Human Assisted Reproduction and Embryology
University of Valencia & IVI Center, Valencia – Spain
Thesis: Embryo transfer on day 3 versus day 5

2006
National Board Examination for Registration as Biologist – License No. TOU_A1865
Alma Mater Studiorum – University of Bologna, Bologna – Italy

2004
Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Biology (6-S and LM-6)
Alma Mater Studiorum – University of Bologna, Bologna – Italy
Master's Thesis: The role of NAC (N-Acetyl-L-Cysteine) in the long-term culture of ovarian tissue in oncology patients

Certifications

- 2024
[Project Management and Business Planning](#)
SDA Bocconi School of Management, Milan – Italy
- 2024
[4th Training Course in Quality Management](#)
EDQM – European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines & HealthCare
- 2022 – updated 2025
[Quality Manager in Fertility Centers](#)
ICMED
- [QUARTs Committee](#). I was part of the QUARTs committee, responsible for the evaluation and accreditation process of assisted reproduction centers in Switzerland, with the aim of ensuring quality, safety, and transparency standards in ART (Assisted Reproductive Technology).
- 2010
[Certified Clinical Embryologist](#)
ESHRE – European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology

Technical Laboratory Skills

- ✚ Extensive experience and expertise in all IVF laboratory techniques, andrology, and cryobiology
- ✚ Skilled in cryopreservation of ovarian tissue
- ✚ Experience in optimizing culture conditions
- ✚ Sperm selection using advanced and personalized techniques
- ✚ Strong background in process optimization and performance monitoring (KPIs)
- ✚ Specialist in setting up new fertility centers, qualification processes, and quality control.

Comparison of quartz vials with polypropylene vials for rapid cryopreservation of human ovarian tissue.

J Ovarian Res. Sep 26;9(1):59. **2016**

Scheiner D, **Bracone G**, Imesch P, Fink D, Hehl J, Imthurn B.

doi: 10.1186/s13048-016-0268-1.PMID: 27670300

Human Ovarian Tissue Cryopreservation as Fertility Reserve

Chapter Book: Topics in Cancer Survivorship - Edited by Ravinder Mohan. **2012**

Elena Albani, **Graziella Bracone**, Sonia Di Biccari, Domenico Vitobello, Nicola Fattizzi and Paolo Emanuele Levi-Setti

doi: 10.5772/22644

Incidence of congenital anomalies in 2351 IVF/ICSI babies

Poster session Volume 96, Issue 3, Supplement S265-S266September **2011**

P.E. Levi Setti · A. Baggiani · S. Castelli · **G. Bracone** · A. Marras · E. Albani

doi: 10.1016/j.fertnstert.2011.07.1015

Validation of the cryopreservation procedure before storing human ovarian tissue in cancer patients

Placenta 32(3) **2011**

G. Bracone, E. Albani, D. Vitobello, S. Di Biccari, E. Gismano, G. Siesto, P.E. Levi-Setti

doi:10.1016/j.

Optimization of protocols for human ovarian tissue cryopreservation with sucrose, 1,2-propanediol and human serum.

Reprod Biomed Online. 2010 Dec;21(6):819-28. Epub Aug 1. PMID: 21050819, **2010**

Fabbri R, Pasquinelli G, Keane D, Magnani V, Paradisi R, Venturoli S.

doi: 10.1016/j.rbmo.2010.07.008.

Human oocytes cryopreservation and DNA damage during aging

September, Fertility and Sterility 90, **2008**

E. Albani, J Barbieri, V. Parini, G. Morreale, **G. Bracone**, P.E. Levi-Setti

doi:10.1016/j.fertnstert.2008.07.1289

Cryopreservation of human ovarian tissue.

Cell Tissue Bank; 7(2):123-33. **2006**

Raffaella Fabbri, Gianandrea Pasquinelli, **Graziella Bracone**, Catia Orrico, Barbara Di Tommaso, Stefano Venturoli

doi: 10.1007/s10561-005-1968-8

Fetal calf serum versus human serum: ultrastructural evaluation of protein support influence on human ovarian tissue cryopreservation.

Ultrastruct Pathol. Jul-Aug;30(4):253-60, **2006**

Fabbri R, Pasquinelli G, **Bracone G**, Orrico C, Paradisi R, Seracchioli R, Venturoli S.

doi: 10.1080/01913120600820187.PMID: 16971350

Cryopreservation of ovarian tissue

Chapter Book: Biotechnology of Human Reproduction 1st Edition, **2003**

by Alberto Revelli (Editor) et al.

Raffaella Fabbri, **Graziella Bracone**, Cosetta Iannascoli, Stefano Venturoli