

SurroGay Newsletter

Summer Edition

22 June 2022

It's summer again! We are very happy to bring you news and information regarding how SurroGay is doing and what are our plans for the rest of the year!

Encounter 2022 in Sitges!

Last May 19th-21st we were finally able to organize the first SurroGay Encounter. We were thrilled and grateful that more than 60 people accepted our invitation and visited us in Sitges. The event was packed with conversations regarding the surrogacy process (of course), where the participants learned many new things about how the program works and gained insight from legal and social aspects of what makes this program an special and unique one.

We also had the time to get to know each other at the different social activities, during the day and the night! We look forward to start organizing the next year's edition.



SurroGay Milestones

It is that time of the year again to review our main milestones:

Summer '21: 2 babies born

Summer '22: 17 babies born (accumulated)

Summer '21: 29 active processes (from sperm delivery to pregnancy before 12 weeks)

Summer '22: 65 active processes (from sperm delivery to pregnancy before 12 weeks)

Summer '21: 6 pregnancies (over 12 weeks)

Summer '22: 13 pregnancies (over 12 weeks)

The grass looks always greener on the other side.

Yes! It is a natural thing to do. Comparing our processes to other people's. But don't use that as a reference to assume your process is not being taken seriously, or that we or the clinic has forgotten you. Every couple/single dad has their own particularities. Things like the quality of the sperm, the age of the biological dad, availability of the egg donor selected, the number and quality of the embryos created, the surrogate match, surrogate's availability, her reaction to the medications, are just a few of the factors that make every single process unique. The surrogacy process is not a linear and standard process; it is a process where hundreds of variables have influence on the speed of it. Just as each couple or single dads are unique, your baby will be unique, when all these variables align at the right time, they create the magic that will make it a miracle for you to hold your baby in your arms.



The Medical Staff.

As you know, Celagem has been expanding and to hold this growth, they have invited to work a team of talented, professional, and friendly staff who are the main contact with you, the intentional fathers.

Dr. Pedro, the director of the clinic, oversees the entire operations; he tries as much as possible to interact with all the intentional dads, but of course with the clinic growing, this is every day less possible. Luckily for us, it is Dr. Andrea, who leads the medical team. We love and admire Dr. Andrea, for her commitment and involvement in each process. Doctors Camille and Valeria are now the main source of information between the clinic and you, the intentional dads. Dr. Valeria and Dr. Camille are the ones updating us on the stage of your processes, but also, they are the ones who answer all the medical questions you might have. They are doctors; therefore, they can communicate trustworthy and official information on any medical situation you might have.

There are other two doctors, Andrea Rojas in Bogota, and Maria Fernanda Sanchez in Medellin, where the program has grown a lot and is expected to continue growing. Dr Juan completes the team, providing medical information to the future dads and answering their questions. We are still waiting for him to share his gym arms routine.

Translators.

We would like to inform you that we have French/Spanish translators available in both Medellin and Bogota.

SurroGay will be covering the cost of the translators for two very crucial moments after birth: registration at the notary and visit of the pediatrician after one week of birth. It is important that during these meetings the French speakers understand everything that's being said. In the case of anglophones, the medical/legal staff speaks English.

Before you travel to meet your baby, you will be put in contact with them: Diana in Medellin or Luis in Bogota. You could also hire them directly if you want their services at some other moment during your stay.

Let's keep it official.

We know the use of WhatsApp is widespread, and quick and very practical. But we would like to ask you to use e-mail for everything that can be considered official. This includes sending intake forms, copies of passports, medical analysis, bank account information, trip itineraries, spermogram results, birth certificates, apostilles, egg donor selection, or any other "official" information such as agreements on birth plans between the clinic and you, etc. Thanks!



Newborn kits for new dads.

We know we have been talking for a long time about setting up a system to make material needed by new dads available for rent. After the encounter in Sitges, we finally made a concrete plan, in a collaboration between SurroGay and private donations (financial and material in Bogota and Medellin) we will equip a team of past surrogates to start offering those materials for rent to new future dads. We are doing this in collaboration with the Association of Past Surrogates (Nanny & Co) recently created to increase their skills, support new dads in the care of their babies, and continue their development towards financial independence.

Escuela de Oficios.

Maria Isabel Restrepo, whom you know and love, is setting up the School of Trades and Crafts. This is a program that trains the surrogates and past surrogates in several trades and crafts to reach financial independence. Maria Isabel has developed and will lead this school. The school requires financial support from the future and current dads.

Since we believe this is a solidarity issue, we encourage all the dads and future dads who can and want, to donate to this school. Your own surrogate will get the first option to elect a training from the school, but she is not mandated to do so. If your own surrogate does not want to enroll in the school, your contribution will go to another surrogate that wants to. The idea behind this is to help someone, regardless.

The school fees, per surrogate, are of 150 USD per month. If you're interested, please contact us and we will share with you the program information and how to donate. The commitment should last a year. The contribution can also be partial, for example 50% of the monthly fee.

SurroGay in 2022 and further

SurroGay has grown, thanks to you and your trust to let us accompany you in the process of becoming fathers. As we announced in Sitges, we will be growing organically, without losing the direct contact with each one of you. Our main source of growth will be recommendations from other current members of SurroGay, so if you identify a potential future dad that could be a good fit for the network, send them our way.

SurroGay will continue to advocate and collaborate as much as we can with legal institutions in the countries where we have members. Our goal is also to improve the legal procedures to make it each year more and more accessible and simple for dads to complete their legal procedures at their home country.

In the second half of the year, we will be consolidating the support from volunteers that have kindly asked to help in the further development of the Network. There are very good initiatives proposed and we hope we can concretize most of them in the coming months.

Finally, we will remain personally involved in your individual processes, always on your side, as a team, so you can have the best possible experience in this road to fatherhood. We thank you for your support and commitment to the Network, it has been a dream come true to see it built and growing, and it's all thanks to our members.