

FERTILITY CENTER DELIVERS HOPE

by Tina Smith

For more than a decade, the Fertility Center's doors have been open to Chattanooga couples struggling to start families. Hundreds of babies resulting from giving nature a nudge are now growing up in this community, and each represents a dream come true. Consistent success gives patients a solid reason to place confidence and trust in the Fertility Center physicians.

Families outside the Scenic City also got their start with help from Reproductive Endocrinologists Joey Bird and Barry Donesky. Patients frequently travel from northern Tennessee and even southern Kentucky as well as Georgia and Alabama in search of a hometown approach to the intimidating science of assisted reproduction.

Making a connection with a doctor is a critical step for infertile couples. It's also important for a woman who is caught off guard by hormone changes in her body or by a man who needs to understand his fertility options before undergoing radiation treatments.

Dr. Bird and Dr. Donesky blend honesty and openness with their expertise to help unravel the mysteries of infertility. The doctors also specialize in advanced gynecology, hormone therapy and fertility preservation. Through the Fertility Center, both men and women have found answers to tough questions -- *How can I get pregnant? How can I feel better? How can I ease my mind about the coming months? What are the risks? What are my chances for success? What are the odds against me?*

While moonlighting during his residency, Dr. Donesky prescribed a fertility medication for a patient. It worked, and he was hooked on "a happy specialty". Dr. Bird remembers his first rotation with a reproductive endocrinologist in medical school. "I fell in love with the patients and the way the doctor became a part of their stories," he says. "Through the pain, the treatments, the disappointments, the happy endings – that doctor was connected to those couples."

Dr. Donesky started the practice in 1994 and was joined by Dr. Bird two years later. The team opened a satellite office in Knoxville in 1998 where Dr. Donesky sees patients two days a week. Both doctors are certified members of the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology as well as the Board's subspecialty division of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility.

You won't see either doctor in a white coat at the office. The humility and warmth with which they approach their profession has given many patients the courage to consider unconventional treatments and procedures. Neither minds taking the extra time to explain things and answer questions to ensure that patients feel understood and in charge of their healthcare decisions.

Something else that sets the Fertility Center apart is how the doctors and their team focus on providing an extra measure of support to patients. Insurance coverage is carefully researched by staff members before a patient's first appointment, and any out-of-pocket costs are clearly communicated up front to avoid the stress of unexpected expenses. A massage therapist is on site full time, and counseling services are available free of charge. Additionally, a resource library housed in the lobby of the Chattanooga office offers informational and encouraging books and materials for patients to borrow. The practice's unique approach to service has become its trademark.

With capable but gentle hands providing care and fanning sparks of hope, Drs. Bird and Donesky look forward to another year of helping people become parents, experience better health and explore possibilities for the future.

For more information about the doctors and their practice, visit **[My FertilityCenter.com](http://MyFertilityCenter.com)**.