The Donor Sibling Registry- A Global Registry for Donor Families

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Since 2000, the DSR has connected more than 11,300 donor offspring with their half siblings and/or donors. Accordingly, they have been able to create and explore these new familial relationships as well as better understand their ancestry and medical backgrounds.

Behind the scenes, but very actively, the DSR’s research, education, and counseling services have been instrumental in creating momentum towards establishing positive reforms in the egg donor and sperm banking industries.

Many of us ask: “What is in the best interest of the child to be born?” and wonder how we can best serve the needs of the people conceived via donor conception. To address this, the DSR has conducted several research surveys, hearing from more than one thousand donor offspring to find out what was important to them, particularly in regards to the nature of their conception, donor anonymity, and connection with donor relatives.

The majority of the respondents believed that early disclosure was important. More than three-quarters recommended that parents not use anonymous donors. Most participants were very interested in learning more about the donor and any half-siblings they might have. The responses showed a strong preference for more openness in the donor world.

In the 14 years since its conception, almost 44,000 gamete donors, offspring and recipients around the world have registered on the DSR, seeking to find those with whom they share genetic ties. Wendy and Ryan will explain how the DSR has helped so many of these people find the answers they were searching for. They will also tell about the disturbing facts that have been revealed, such as groups of half siblings totaling more than 150, and genetic illness shared amongst many groups of half siblings.

Focus will be on donor offspring, parents, and sperm and egg donors in the areas of disclosure, terminology, reasons for searching, contact with half siblings and/or donors, and what advice donors, parents and offspring give on redefining this new phenomenon of expanding family. Ryan will share his
personal story of connecting with his formerly anonymous sperm donor and his half siblings and all of the members in his new "donor" family.