

FOR PEOPLE WHO DREAM OF BEING PARENTS, THERE'S NEW HOPE

If you're faced with infertility, just meeting Dr. Robin Poe-Zeigler is a relief. You feel her compassion and commitment right away. Known for her comforting care as well as her unrivaled results, "Dr. Robin" is one of the region's most experienced and respected reproductive endocrinologists. As founder and director of The New Hope Center for Reproductive Medicine, she's helped hundreds of couples realize their dreams of a family.

After losing her mother to breast cancer, Poe-Zeigler had initially planned to specialize in oncology. "Her death brought me into medicine," says Dr. Robin. "I needed to help women." As it turned out, she found her place and passion in reproductive medicine, focusing on birth and offering women new hope.

Dr. Robin completed her fellowship in 1995 at the renowned Jones Institute in Norfolk, then moved to Minnesota to assist in developing the Donor Egg Program at the Midwest Center for Reproductive Health. After returning to Hampton Roads, she opted to open her own practice, and in 1997, The New Hope Center was born.

Part doctor, part detective, Dr. Robin is expert at uncovering and treating conditions that lead to reproductive roadblocks. One look at her patient files attests to her attention to detail—some are as thick as the phone book. "I know my patients!" she says with assurance. Her superior sleuthing skills uncover critical clues that others might miss, leading her to an accurate diagnosis, the key to prescribing effective treatment.

"Robin is just so knowledgeable," says Diane Hurney, New Hope's embryologist.

"Most physicians aren't as well versed with the lab aspect. She's truly an all-around infertility specialist."

In Dr. Robin's experience, many infertility problems can be treated successfully with conventional therapies like medications, surgical repair of reproductive organs or intrauterine insemination (IUI).

Couples faced with more complex infertility issues, such as blocked or absent fallopian tubes or a low sperm count, may need advanced assisted reproductive technologies, or ART. Some of the most sophisticated options available, ART is a special class of techniques including in vitro fertilization (IVF), intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI), assisted zona hatching (AZH), embryo cryopreservation, egg donation and gestational carriers (surrogacy). "With these advanced reproductive techniques, we can offer patients more hope than ever," says Dr. Robin. In fact, 1 in 100 children in America today is conceived through ART treatments.

Dr. Robin and The New Hope Center team are especially sensitive to what couples coping with infertility go through. They're dedicated to offering patients compassionate, uncompromising care and every hope for having a baby. "There's a level of commitment here that you just won't find anywhere else," explains Jan Coughlin, New Hope's nurse practitioner.

The center is known for offering the same high quality technological services found at bigger clinics, while providing significantly more personalized attention. Courtney Morton, now Dr. Robin's physician assistant, did her rotation in women's health at The New Hope Center during medical school. "I was impressed by the amount of time spent with patients," she says. "I didn't see that in any of my other rotations."



Dr. Robin Poe-Zeigler

"No clinic can guarantee results, but we do everything possible to offer couples the optimum outcome," says Dr. Robin. The New Hope Center is staffed with its own embryologist and anesthesiologist and is fully equipped with on-site andrology and embryology laboratories as well as custom IVF surgery suites. "That means our patients have the comfort and convenience of having almost all tests and procedures performed right here," explains Dr. Robin. "And, having our own surgery suites allows us to schedule procedures in the best interests of the patient—even if that happens to be on a weekend. In IVF, timing is everything," she adds. "One day can make all the difference."

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