

Curriculum Vitae of Professor Gábor Vajta

Personal Data

Name: Gábor Vajta
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Education

University: Semmelweis University School of Medicine, Budapest, Hungary, 1970-1976.
Degree: MD ("summa cum laude", 1976)
Specialisation: Human Pathological Anatomy and Histopathology, 1979 (Budapest).
Other degrees: PhD (Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest) 1988
DSc (The Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University, Copenhagen) 1999

Workplaces and positions (current)

2009- Vajta Embryology Consulting, Rakosi and Vajta Trust,
2009- Consulting Senior Scientist, Beijing Genomics Institute, Research Centre Shenzhen, China
2009- Consulting Senior Scientist, Institute of Genetics and Biotechnology, Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, University of Aarhus, Denmark
2009- Affiliated Professor, James Cook University, Queensland, Australia
2006- Honorary Professor of the Beijing Institute of Genomics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China.
2002- Affiliated Professor of the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University (KVL), Copenhagen, Denmark (New name from 2007: University of Copenhagen)

Workplaces and positions (past)

2007-2009 Academic Director at PIVET Medical Centre, Leederville, Perth, Australia
2001-2007 Senior Scientist at the Group of Population Genetics and Embryology
Leader of the Cloning Team, Department of Genetics and Biotechnology
Danish Institute of Agricultural Sciences, Research Centre, Foulum, Denmark
(New name from 2007: Institute of Genetics and Biotechnology,
Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, University of Aarhus, Foulum, Denmark)
1999-2001 Senior Research Fellow
Centre for Early Human Development
Monash Institute of Reproduction and Development, Monash University
Melbourne, Australia
1997-1999 Associate Professor at Section of Reproduction,
Department of Clinical Studies, KVL, Copenhagen
to work at Embryo Technology Centre, Danish Institute of Agricultural Sciences,
Research Centre Foulum, Denmark
1994-1997 Research Associate at Department of Clinical Studies, Section of Reproduction,
KVL, Copenhagen,
to work at Embryo Technology Centre, Danish Institute of Agricultural Sciences,
Research Centre Foulum, Denmark
1994 Senior Research Associate of the Faculty of Animal Breeding,
Pannon University School of Agriculture, Kaposvár.
1989-1993 Project Director of the Bovine In Vitro Fertilisation (IVF)
Laboratory of the Agricultural Biotechnology Centre, Gödöllő, Hungary.
1989-92 Deputy Director of the Institute for Animal Sciences, Agricultural
Biotechnology Centre, Gödöllő, Hungary
1976-1989: Assistant, then Associate Professor of the 1st Institute of Pathology and
Experimental Cancer Research, Semmelweis University
School of Medicine, Budapest, Hungary.
1982-1989: Project Director of the Experimental Liver Pathology laboratory.

1982-1983 Visiting Scientist (6 months) in Laboratory of Biochemistry of
Connective Tissue, University Paris Val de Marne, France.
1987-1988 Visiting Scientist (15 months) in Department of Biochemistry,
Mount Sinai Medical Centre, New York, USA.

Experience and research areas in human pathology, molecular biology, and immunology

Anatomical pathology

More than 2.000 autopsies performed
More than 20.000 autopsies observed and/or supervised

Histopathology

Approximately 10.000 biopsies and autopsy samples diagnosed
Extensive knowledge in special diagnostic tools including
electron microscopy (transmission and scanning EM),
immunohistochemistry, fluorescent, polarized microscopy,
microphotography (illustrations for books)

Experimental pathology

In vitro models for liver diseases (subject of PhD)
Rat and human liver cell isolation and in vitro culture
Transplantable tumours of rats and mice
Handling and treating experimental animals

Molecular biology, cell and tissue culture

All basic methods of molecular biology
Isolation and culture of primary cultures and cell lines; culture of organs

Experience in education

Lectures and practical demonstrations for medical students in Budapest
(25 university semesters)
Postgraduate courses for pathologists and internists in Budapest
Verbal examination (medical students) in Budapest
Lectures and practical demonstrations for veterinary students in Copenhagen and Foulum.
Postgraduate courses for embryologists in Brazil (3x), Chile, China (2x), Colombia, Denmark,
Hungary(5x), Italy, Japan, Singapore, and Spain

Other scientific activities

Author or editor of 5 books and theses
Inventor in 5 patent applications
Author or co-author of 161 peer reviewed articles or book chapters and more than 112 published
conference abstracts (*see list below*)
Reviewer of journals including
Human Reproduction; Reproductive Biomedicine Online; Reproduction;
Biology of Reproduction, Cryobiology; Reproduction, Nutrition, Development;
Reproduction, Fertility and Development; Theriogenology;
Animal Reproduction Science; Reproduction in Domestic Animals,
Cellular Reprogramming, etc.
Ad hoc scientific advisor of the Commission of the European Communities, Agricultural Section
(Brussels, Belgium)
Member of the Editorial Board of the journal "Cellular Reprogramming" (formerly "Cloning and
Stem Cells") since 2000.

Achievements in embryology (either personal or by supervised students)

Establishment of a new incubation method specially designed for the requirement of embryo production (Submarine Incubation System, SIS)
Investigation of the effect of factors (pH, pressure) on the development of embryos;

Participation in establishment of a bovine in vitro embryo production system with an overall efficiency of more than above 50% blastocyst/oocyte rate (among the highest published so far)

Comparative analysis of the effect of different biopsy and assisted hatching technologies on the freezability and further development of embryos;
Routine manual biopsy and vitrification of in vitro or in vivo produced bovine embryos;
cryopreservation of embryos by vitrification for direct transfer;
Ultrastructural analysis of morphological changes in embryos and oocytes following vitrification;

Establishment of a new vitrification method (Open Pulled Straw, OPS) which is one of most efficient way of cryopreservation of pre-compaction and pre-implantation in vitro and in vivo produced bovine embryos, porcine preimplantation embryos, cytoplasts and oocytes, as well as human oocytes, embryos and embryonic stem cells.

Establishment of a culture system for embryo development after hatching in vitro (Post-hatching Development, PHD system)

Establishment of a new embryo culture method (Well of the Well, WOW) the most efficient way for culturing single embryos or low number of embryos together, as well as embryos with damaged zona or zona-free embryos.
Human application results in considerable improvement of blastocyst and pregnancy rates.

Establishment of a highly efficient parthenogenetic activation and embryo culture system in cattle and pigs producing up to 60 and 85% blastocyst per oocyte rates, respectively

Establishment of a new somatic cell nuclear transfer method for mammals (Handmade cloning; HMC) the most efficient cloning method used so far. Pregnancies and offspring in numerous countries of 5 continents have already been achieved,.
Production of the first cloned animal of Africa and Scandinavia.
Transgenic pigs as models for various human diseases were produced with putative genes responsible for Parkinson and Alzheimer disease, Psoriasis, Arteriosclerosis and Diabetes Mellitus.
The technology may mean a new possibility for automation of the somatic cell nuclear transfer procedure.
The birth of the first transgenic piglets containing the Alzheimer gene (29th October, 2006) was rewarded as the *Most important Scientific Achievement in Denmark in 2007.*

Establishment of pregnancy with cryopreserved handmade cloned porcine embryos
Birth of first (in the world) piglets on 29th October, 2006

Contribution in exploitation of stress for stress tolerance principle in embryology by testing the effect of High Hydrostatic Pressure (HHP) and osmotic stress to increase cryosurvival, fertilizing ability and developmental competence of oocytes, spermatozoa and embryos.

Contribution in establishment of a compact timelapse embryo monitoring system (Primo Vision) that is the most cost-effective way to monitor embryo development in vitro during the whole preimplantation

period, and may dramatically improve the efficiency of embryo selection, consequently pregnancy and birth rates in humans.

Ongoing collaborations (only main partners listed)

BGI, Shenzhen, China (Dr. Yutao Du; Prof. Huanming Yang; Prof. Lars Bolund)

University of Aarhus, Denmark; Faculty of Agricultural Sciences (Prof. Henrik Callesen)

University of Aarhus, Denmark; Department of Human Genetics (Prof. Lars Bolund)

University of Aarhus, Denmark; Institute of Exp. Clinical Research (Prof. Jens C. Djurhuus)

University of Copenhagen, Denmark; Institute of Anatomy (Prof. Poul Hyttel)

Embryonics International, Singapore (Prof. Soon Chye Ng)

Reproductive Biology Associates, Atlanta, Georgia USA (Dr. Peter Z. Nagy)

G.E.N.E.R.A. Associazione Professionale, Rome, Italy (Dr. Laura Rienzi, Dr. Filippo Ubaldi)

IVI, Valencia, Spain (Dr. Ana Cobo)

Sydney IVF, Sydney, NSW, Australia (Dr. Teija Peura)

Australian Reproductive Technologies, Rockhampton, QLD, Australia (Dr. Simon Walton)

Cryo-Innovation Ltd, Budapest, Hungary (Dr. Csaba Pribenszky)

Kaáli Institute, Győr, Hungary (Dr. Tamás Kőrösi)

Kaáli Institute, Budapest, Hungary (Dr. Szabolcs Mátyás)

Forgács Institute, Budapest, Hungary (Dr. Vince Forgács, Dr. Anikó Reichart)

Publications of Professor Gábor Vajta

Total listed below: 273 (including books, book chapters, patents, abstracts)

Total in Web of Science	140
Sum of times cited	2.506
Average per publ.	17.9
H index (June 28, 2010)	25

Total in PubMed: 107

Books, theses (5)

Guest Editor of Theriogenology, Vol. 67, issue 1, 2007: Proceedings of IETS Pre-Conference Symposia Kyoto, Japan, 6 January, 2007.

VAJTA, G. (1989): Experimental in vitro models for liver diseases. PhD Thesis. Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest, Hungary (*in Hungarian*).

VAJTA, G. (1997): Bovine in vitro embryo production, biopsy and cryopreservation. Recent advancements. Doctor of Veterinary Sciences Thesis. KVL, Copenhagen, Denmark.

VAJTA, G. (2003): Attack of the Cloners. Scientia, Budapest. 110 pages (*in Hungarian*)

VAJTA, G. (2004): Confessions of a Cloner. Noran, Budapest. 320 pages, 50 pictures and an educational video on CD (*in Hungarian*)

Publications on the field of embryology

1. International Patents (5)

DEMTEK A/S, VAJTA, G. (1997): Method and apparatus for culturing cells and tissues. PCT International Application No DK97/0001, filing/priority date January 7, 1997.

DEMTEK A/S, VAJTA, G. (1998): Method and auxiliaries for cryopreservation of biological material such as egg cells. PCT International Application No DK98/00375, filing/priority date: September 3, 1998.

DANISH INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES, VAJTA, G. (2000): New method for embryo culture, the Well of the Well system. PCT International Application (submitted in May, 2000)

I. M. LEWIS, G. VAJTA, T. TECIRIOGLU (innovators), MONASH UNIVERSITY, MELBOURNE, VIC, AUSTRALIA (applicant): A method for nuclear transfer. PCT International Application No 4AU02/00491

AARHUS UNIVERSITY AND DANISH INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES, DU, Y., KRAGH P.M., BOLUND, L., VAJTA, G. (2005): Cell nuclear transfer. P1094DK00 (submitted September, 2005).

2. Journal articles, book chapters (in English; 124)

VAJTA, G., MACHÁTY, Z., BÁRÁNDI, ZS., VARGA, ZS. (1992): Embryos derived from in vitro fertilization of oocytes of pregnant cows. Theriogenology 37: 811-816.

- BÁRÁNDI, ZS., VAJTA, G., MACHÁTY, Z., VARGA, ZS., CSEH, S., SOLTI, L.(1992): In vitro fertilization as a new tool of preserving the Hungarian Grey Cattle. In: Alderson, L. and Bodó, I., eds.: Genetic Conservation of Domestic Livestock Vol. II. pp. 271-274. C.A.B. International, Wallingford, UK.
- MACHÁTY, Z., VAJTA, G., BÁRÁNDI, ZS., SOLTI, L. (1992): Developmental potential of biopsied preimplantation bovine embryos produced in vitro. ARTA Assisted Reproduction Technology and Andrology 3: 249-256.
- BÁRÁNDI, ZS., SOLTI, L., CSEH, S., VARGA, ZS., MACHÁTY, Z., VAJTA, G. (1993): Comparison of bulls of the endangered Hungarian Grey cattle breed concerning their fertilizing ability in vitro. Anim. Reprod. Sci. 31: 13-19.
- MACHÁTY, Z., PÁLDI, A., CSÁKI, T., VARGA, ZS., KISS, I., BÁRÁNDI, ZS., VAJTA, G. (1993): Biopsy and sex determination by PCR of IVF bovine embryos. Journal of Reproduction and Fertility 98: 467-470.
- VARGA, ZS., BÁRÁNDI, ZS., VAJTA, G., MACHÁTY, Z. SOLTI, L., CSEH, S., SEREGI, J. (1993): In vitro fertilization in Hungarian Grey Cattle. Reproduction in Domestic Animals 28: 252-257.
- VAJTA, G., HOLM, P., GREVE, T., CALLESEN, H. (1995): Direct in-straw rehydration after thawing of vitrified in vitro produced bovine blastocysts. Veterinary Record 137: 672.
- VAJTA, G., HOLM, P., GREVE, T., CALLESEN, H. (1996): Overall efficiency of in vitro embryo production and vitrification in cattle. Theriogenology 45: 683-689.
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- VAJTA, G. (1997): Vitrification of bovine oocytes and embryos. Embryo Transfer Newsletter 15 (2): 12-18.
- VAJTA, G., HOLM, P., GREVE, T., CALLESEN, H. (1997): Comparison of two manipulation methods to produce in vitro fertilized, biopsied and vitrified bovine embryos. Theriogenology 47: 501-509.
- VAJTA, G., BOOTH, P.J., HOLM, P., GREVE, T., CALLESEN, H. (1997): Successful vitrification of early stage bovine in vitro produced embryos with the open pulled straw (OPS) method. Cryo-Letters 18: 191-195.
- VAJTA, G., HYTTTEL, P., CALLESEN, H. (1997): Morphological changes of in vitro produced bovine blastocysts after vitrification, in-straw direct rehydration and culture. Molecular Reproduction and Development 48: 9-17.
- VAJTA, G., HOLM, P., GREVE, T., CALLESEN, H. (1997): Survival and development of in vitro produced bovine blastocysts following assisted hatching, vitrification and in-straw direct rehydration. Journal of Reproduction and Fertility 111: 65-70.
- VAJTA, G., HOLM, P., GREVE, T., CALLESEN, H. (1997): The Submarine Incubation System, a new tool for in vitro embryo culture. A technique report. Theriogenology 48: 1379-1385
- VAJTA, G., BOOTH, P.J., HOLM, P., JACOBSEN, H., GREVE, T., CALLESEN, H. (1997): The use of vitrified Day 3 embryos as donors in bovine nuclear transfer. Cryo-Letters 18: 355-358.
- VAJTA, G., HOLM, P., GREVE, T., CALLESEN, H. (1997): Vitrification of porcine embryos using the Open Pulled Straw (OPS) method. Acta veterinaria scandinavica 38: 349-352.
- BOOTH, P.J., VAJTA, G., HOLM, P., GREVE, T., CALLESEN, H. (1997): Vitrification and post-thaw in vitro survival of cloned bovine embryos. Veterinary Record 140: 404.

- VAJTA, G., KUWAYAMA, M., HOLM, P., BOOTH, P.J., JACOBSEN, H., GREVE, T., CALLESEN, H. (1998): A new way to avoid cryoinjuries of mammalian ova and embryos: the OPS vitrification. *Molecular Reproduction and Development* 51: 53-58. (230 citations, Dec. 17, 2007)
- VAJTA, G., LEWIS, I.M., KUWAYAMA, M., GREVE, T., CALLESEN, H. (1998): Sterile application of the Open Pulled Straw (OPS) vitrification method. *Cryo-Letters* 19: 389-392.
- HOLM, P., SHUKRI, N. M., VAJTA, G., BOOTH, P., BENDIXEN, C., CALLESEN, H. (1998): Developmental kinetics of the first cell cycles of bovine in vitro produced embryos in relation to their in vitro viability and sex. *Theriogenology* 50: 1285-1299.
- HUNTER, R.H.F., VAJTA, G., Hyttel, P. (1998): Long-term stability of the bovine block to polyspermy. *Journal of Experimental Zoology* 280: 182-188.
- HYTTEL, P., THOMSEN, P. D. HAY-SCHMIDT, A., LAURINCIK, J., VIUFF, D., TERKELSEN, O., VAJTA, G., FAIR, T., CALLESEN, H., GREVE, T. (1998): Activation of the ribosomal RNA genes in pre-implantation bovine embryos. *Reproduction in Domestic Animals* 33: 331-342.
- HYTTEL, P., VIUFF, D., LAURINCIK, J., AVERY, B., KING, W.A., FAIR, T., THOMSEN, P.D., HAY-SCHMIDT, A., VAJTA, G., CALLESEN, H., OCHS, R.L., GREVE, T. (1998): Ribosomal RNA gene activation in pre-implantation bovine embryos. *Gametes: Development and Function*, A. Lauria, F. Gandolfi, G. Enne, L. Gianaroli, eds., Sero Symposia, Rome, Italy, pp. 417-438.
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- VAJTA, G., RINDOM, N., PEURA, T.T., HOLM, P., GREVE, T., CALLESEN, H. (1999): The effect of media, serum and temperature on the in vitro survival of bovine blastocysts after Open Pulled Straw vitrification. *Theriogenology* 52: 939-948.
- BOOTH, P. J., VAJTA, G., HØJ, A., HOLM, P., JACOBSEN, H., GREVE, T., CALLESEN, H. (1999): Full-term development of nuclear transfer calves produced from Open Pulled Straw (OPS) vitrified cytoplasts. *Theriogenology* 51: 999-1006.
- HOLM, P., VAJTA, G., MACHÁTY, Z., SCHMIDT, M., PRATHER, R. S., GREVE, T., CALLESEN, H. (1999): Open Pulled Straw (OPS) vitrification of porcine blastocysts: simple procedure yielding excellent in vitro survival, but so far no piglets following transfer. *Cryo-Letters* 20: 307-310.
- PEURA, T.T., LANE, M.W., VAJTA, G., TROUNSON, A.O. (1999): Cloning of bovine embryos from vitrified donor blastomeres. *Journal of Reproduction and Fertility* 116: 95-101.
- VAJTA, G. (2000): Oocyte and embryo vitrification. *Reproduction in Domestic Animals Supplement* 6: 45-48.
- VAJTA, G. (2000): Vitrification of the oocytes and embryos of domestic animals. *Animal Reproduction Science* 60-61: 357-364.
- VAJTA, G. (2000): Cryopreservation of oocytes and in vitro produced embryos. *Arquivos da Faculdade de Veterinária UFRGS*, 28 (Supplement): 80-88.
- VAJTA, G., PEURA, T.T., HOLM, P., PÁLDI, A., GREVE, T., TROUNSON, A.O., CALLESEN, H. (2000): A new method for culture of zona-included or zona-free embryos: the Well of the Well (WOW) system. *Molecular Reproduction and Development* 55: 256-264.

- HYTTEL, P., VAJTA, G., CALLESEN, H. (2000): Vitrification of bovine oocytes with the Open Pulled Straw method: Ultrastructural consequences. *Molecular Reproduction and Development* 56: 80-88.
- JACOBSEN, H., SCMDIT, M., HOLM, P., SANGILD, P.T., VAJTA, G., GREVE, T., CALLESEN, H. (2000): Body dimensions, birth and organ weights of calves derived from in vitro produced embryos cultured with or without serum and oviduct epithelium cells. *Theriogenology* 53:1761-1769.
- VAJTA, G., LEWIS, I.M., HYTTEL, P., THOUAS, G.A., TROUNSON, A.O. (2001): Somatic cell cloning without micromanipulators. *Cloning* 3: 89-95.
- BOOTH, P. J., HOLM, P., VAJTA, G., GREVE, T., CALLESEN, H. (2001): Effect of two activation treatments and age of blastomere karyoplasts on in vitro development of bovine nuclear transfer embryos. *Molecular Reproduction and Development* 60:377-383.
- ISACHENKO, V., ALABART, J.L., NAWROTH, F., ISACHENKO, E., VAJTA, G., FOLCH, J. (2001) The Open Pulled Straw vitrification of ovine GV-oocytes: positive effect of rapid cooling or rapid thawing or both? *Cryo-Letters* 22: 157-162.
- REUBINOFF, B.E., PERA, M. F., VAJTA, G., TROUNSON, A.O. (2001): Effective cryopreservation of human embryonic stem cells by the open pulled straw vitrification method. *Human Reproduction* 16: 10, 2187-2194.
- CALLESEN, H. VAJTA, G., GREVE, T., MADDOX-HYTTEL, P. (2002): Reproductive technologies in farm animal breeding and production. DIAS Report no. 38 Animal Husbandry, Danish Institute of Agricultural Sciences, 77-84.
- VIEIRA, A.D., MEZZALIRA, A., BARBIERI, D.P., LEHMKUHL, R.C., RUBIN, M.I.B., VAJTA, G. (2002): Calves born after OPS vitrification of immature bovine oocytes *Cryobiology* 45:91-94.
- VAJTA, G. (2003): Vitrification of domestic animal embryos. *Proceedings of the 5th World Conference of A-PART, Tokyo, Japan*, pp. 133-138.
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