

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910874676403321
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Titolo	Molecular Mechanisms Determining Mammalian Oocyte Quality : Oocyte Developmental Competence, Aneuploidy, and Clinical Relevance / / edited by Ahmed Z. Balboula
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cham : , : Springer International Publishing : , : Imprint : Springer, , 2024
ISBN	9783031551635 9783031551628
Edizione	[1st ed. 2024.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (135 pages)
Collana	Advances in Anatomy, Embryology and Cell Biology, , 2192-7065 ; ; 238
Disciplina	599
Soggetti	Reproduction Physiology Cytology Reproductive health Reproductive Physiology Cell Biology Reproductive Medicine
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di contenuto	Chapter 1. Predicting Infertility: How Genetic Variants in Oocyte Spindle Genes Affect Egg Quality -- Chapter 2. Regulation of Oocyte mRNA Metabolism: A Key Determinant of Oocyte Developmental Competence -- Chapter 3. Mechanisms of DNA Damage Response in Mammalian Oocytes -- Chapter 4. How do Environmental Toxicants Affect Oocyte Maturation via Oxidative Stress? -- Chapter 5. Molecular Mechanisms Determining Mammalian Oocyte Quality with the Treatment of Cancer Therapy -- Chapter 6. Telomere Elongation during Pre-implantation Embryo Development.
Sommario/riassunto	As the age of childbearing increases, reduced female gamete (egg) quality has emerged as the primary cause of infertility in women. This book addresses molecular mechanisms that regulate oocyte quality as well as intrinsic and extrinsic factors that compromise these

mechanisms. Eggs are produced through a unique cell division called meiosis. Oocyte meiosis is initiated early in fetal life. Shortly before birth, the oocyte undergoes a prolonged arrest at prophase I until the age of puberty, at which selected oocytes resume meiosis I. Following meiotic resumption and during oocyte maturation, tight regulation of nuclear and DNA-related mechanisms ensures proper homologous chromosome segregation prior to another arrest at metaphase II. Any errors prior to completion of meiosis I can lead to chromosome segregation errors and aneuploidy, the most common genetic cause of miscarriage and congenital disorders such as Down syndrome. In addition to nuclear maturation, several cytoplasmic processes are orchestrated to support cell division and to generate developmentally competent eggs capable of supporting fertilization and early embryonic development. The interaction between these nuclear and cytoplasmic processes is critical for producing good-quality oocytes. This volume in the Advances in Anatomy, Embryology and Cell Biology book series presents current reviews by leading experts. It offers valuable insights for researchers, physicians and Ph.D. students interested in reproductive biology, particularly oocyte quality and meiosis.

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