Jonathan Van Blerkom is a professor in the department of Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology at the University of Colorado and IVF Laboratory Director at Colorado Reproductive Endocrinology in Denver. His studies have focused on molecular and cellular aspects of early mammalian development including human follicles, oocytes and embryos and has published numerous research articles and reviews and coauthored or edited books dealing with early mammalian development, including the human. His current research centres on the role(s) of mitochondria in early development and the molecular organization of the oocyte and embryo plasma membrane as related to developmental competence.