

Francesca E. Duncan, PhD
Assistant Professor, Obstetrics and Gynecology
Executive Director, Center for Reproductive Science
Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University, Chicago, IL,

Dr. Duncan earned her doctorate in Cell and Molecular Biology from the University of Pennsylvania and completed a post-doctoral fellowship in reproductive science and medicine at Northwestern University. She is currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and the Executive Director of the Center for Reproductive Science at Northwestern University. She leads an independent laboratory focused on understanding the cellular mechanisms of how aging – both physiologic and iatrogenic - impacts reproductive potential at the levels of the gamete and ovary. Dr. Duncan is an active member of the Oncofertility Consortium – an international group committed to exploring and expanding the fertility preservation options for those with fertility-threatening conditions. She serves as the Basic Science Subgroup Leader of the Oncofertility Consortium's National Physicians Cooperative, and since 2009, she has co-authored >25 publications on fertility preservation-related topics including ovarian tissue transport, in vitro follicle growth, ovarian bioprosthesis, and non-invasive markers of egg quality. She co-authored the first chapter on Fertility Preservation in the revered medical textbook: Yen and Jaffe's Reproductive Endocrinology. She is also a Principal Investigator in the Center for Reproductive Health After Disease (P50 HD076188) where her research team is investigating the effect of radiation therapy on the extra-follicular ovarian microenvironment.