

## **Marking an Ovary: Establishment of Somatic Ovarian Cell Lineages and the Oocyte Reserve**

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Human ovary contains only a finite number of oocytes that is set around the time of birth. Overtime, this ovarian reserve is gradually exhausted, ultimately limiting women's fertility and their reproductive lifespan. Understanding how this ovarian reserve is established in embryos, and how the somatic cell environment affects the definitive stock of oocytes is therefore of great importance. In this presentation, I will discuss new findings from the mouse models that reveal the process of ovary organogenesis and the intricate nature of the establishment of the definitive stock of ovarian reserve through the action of transcriptional control and somatic-germ cell interaction.