

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-108-74438-6 — A Textbook of Clinical Embryology  
Edited by Eliezer Girsh  
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**Eliezer Girsh**

Barzilai Medical Center, Ashkelon



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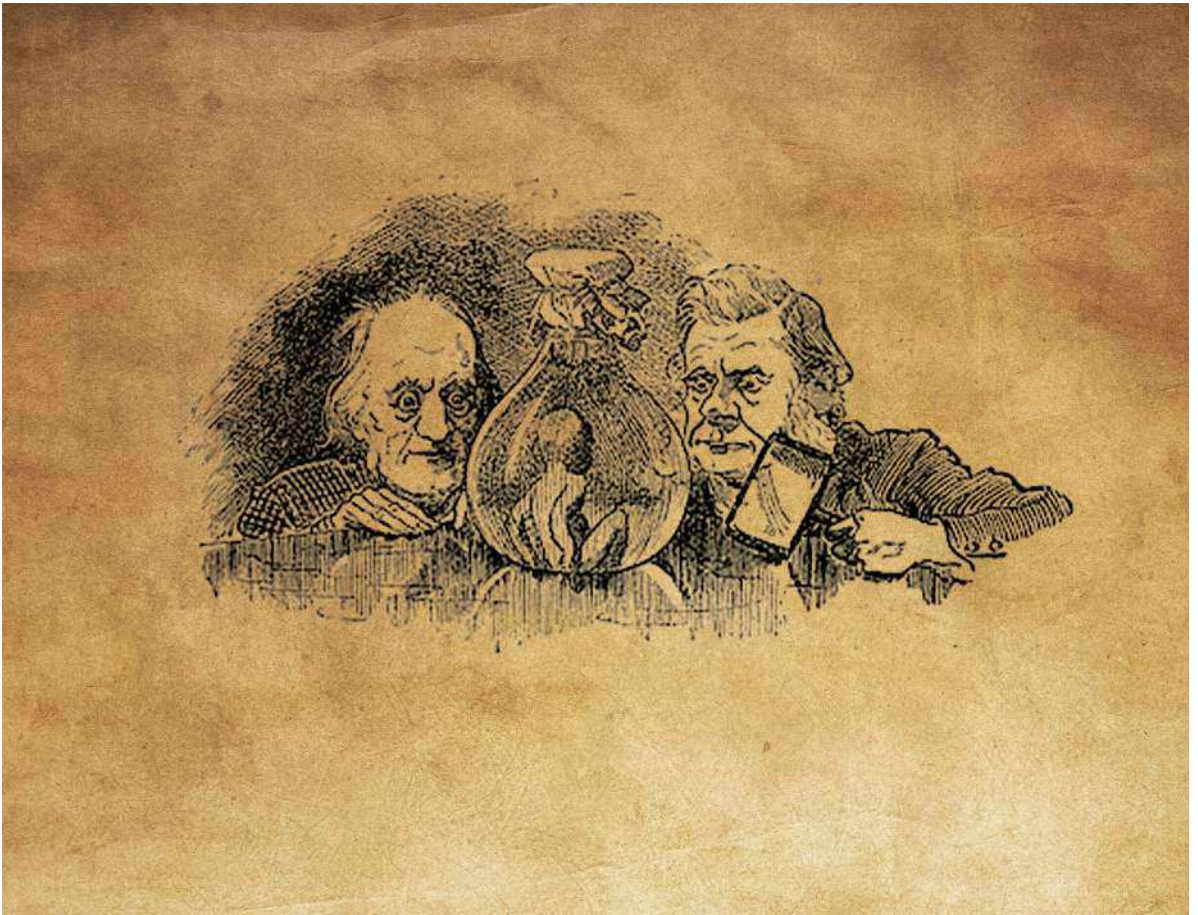
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In 1674, Nicolaas Hartsoeker found sperm cells in the seminal fluid under magnification. Observing human sperm through a microscope, Hartsoeker believed that he saw tiny men inside the sperm, which he called Homunculus. The theory of Homunculus (1694) claimed that a tiny, formed child exists in the head of a sperm cell, which becomes engulfed in the uterus, where it grows as in an incubator. The same idea underlies the base of IVF, i.e. to grow a child in a laboratory flask instead of in the mother's womb.

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