# NuSep

(ASX: NSP)

# **Transforming IVF**



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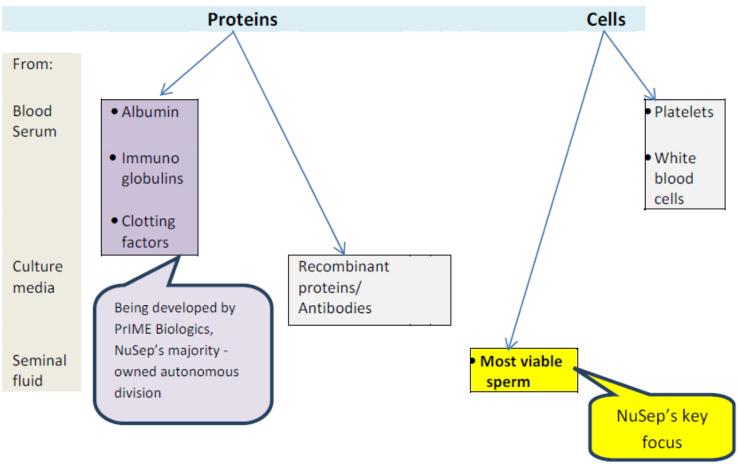


#### What Does NuSep Do?

- Utilises proprietary polymer-based membranes and an electric field (electrophoresis) for separating high value biological substances from fluids.
- Our technology can separate large molecules such as proteins, whole organisms such as viruses and individual cells such as spermatozoa.
- Now commercialising the technology, which has been proven to work.
- Most advanced application, for spermatozoa (SpermSep), has potential use in human IVF and in IVF and Artificial Insemination in animals.
  - 1st commercial product, for animal fertility, is in clinical trials
  - Next product will be validated in further human IVF in-vitro trials starting in the new year
- Also developing new membranes and animal fertility diagnostics.

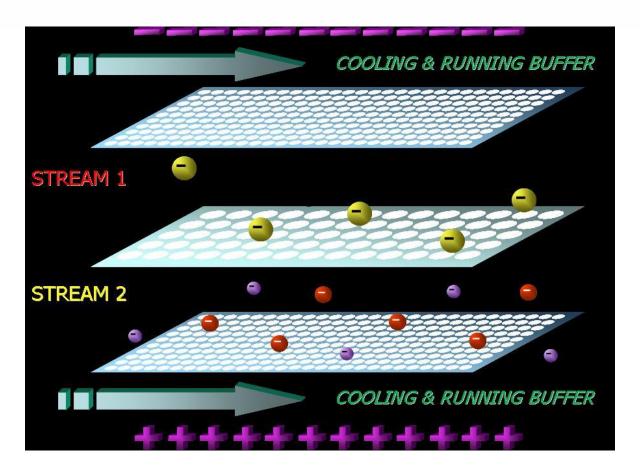


# NuSep technology can separate an array of high value biological entities





#### Separates By Size & Charge



NuSep charge and size based separation



#### Why Is NuSep Technology Unique?

#### To our knowledge, **no other group:**

- has a proven method for separating cells, viruses and proteins.
- can provide commercial quantities of product using a combination of membranes (for size separation) and electrophoresis (for charge separation).



# **NuSep Advantages By Application**

Application	<b>Current Methodology</b>	NuSep's Technological Advantages			
		Cheaper	Faster	Easier	Other
IVF (human & animal)	Density gradient centrifugation (DGC)	✓	✓	✓	<ul><li>Less damage to sperm</li><li>Selects most viable sperm</li></ul>
Plasma fractionation	Concentration/ fractionation + chromatography	✓	✓		<ul> <li>More flexible: can process 10 – 10,000 litres.</li> <li>Higher yield &amp; purity, hence less chromatography steps required</li> </ul>
Recombinant protein purification		✓	✓		



#### **Commercialising The Technology**

NuSep has developed multiple devices for specific separation applications.



Pilot scale GF100



CS10



BF400



# Medium Term Strategic Focus SpermSep



# What Is SpermSep?

- SpermSep is a NuSep business working in Assisted Reproduction Technologies (ART).
- It selects samples of the healthiest, most viable sperm cells from semen samples.
- SpermSep services both the human IVF and the animal ART sectors.

#### SpermSep

IVF (In Vitro Fertilisation for humans)

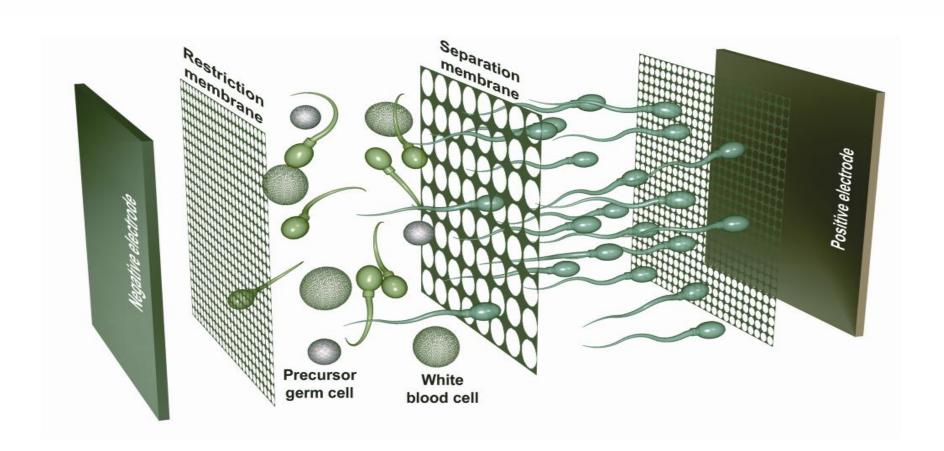
AI (Artificial insemination for livestock)







## **How SpermSep Works**





#### SpermSep Addresses Current Problems

- Current IVF and AI sperm selection methods involve two damaging steps to the sperm cells:
  - centrifugation applies damaging shear forces;
  - culturing in a media containing trace heavy metals, particularly copper leads to oxidative damage to DNA
- DNA-damage to the sperm cells increases the risk of
  - infertility
  - birth defects
  - cancers and neurological diseases developing later



#### **SpermSep Benefits**

- Addresses the increasing problem of male infertility
  - Male infertility is a factor in more than 45% of infertile couples
  - Quality, rather than quantity, of sperm is the key issue
- Highly selective of healthy sperm
  - Highly negatively charged, highly motile healthy sperm swim fast to the anode through the separation membrane and separate from the less viable sperm
- ✓ Far less damaging on sperm
  - Sperm produced from our technology have significantly less DNA damage than sperm provided from current techniques (DGC)
- ✓ Cheaper & quicker to process semen sample and collect best sperm for IVF/ICSI
- ✓ More convenient
  - Disposable processing cartridges, less labour intensive



#### SpermSep For Animal Al Market Needs

- SpermSep has the same IVF advantages in the small but growing animal IVF market.
- Applications in high-volume routine animal AI are being researched with our Animal AI development partner, the world's biggest supplier of animal AI products.
- High throughput, less complex, more robust processes, with cheaper equipment and consumables, are required.
- SpermSep's technology meets these needs:
  - decreased DNA damage
    - greater likelihood of successful insemination, healthy births, true progeny genetics
  - reduced cost
  - simplicity of use



#### **Human Assisted Reproduction Technology (ART) Market**

#### Dominant technologies:

- IVF and ICSI (single sperm for single egg)
- ICSI is overtaking IVF as preferred method
- Male fertility is driven by quality not quantity of sperm

#### Size of human ART market:

- ~1.5 million ART cycles/yr worldwide
- ~ 350,000 ART babies born /yr in > 3,000 ART clinics w'wide
- Europe has largest activity; Asia has strongest growth

#### Sales:

- ART sales ~\$US3bn in US, \$A170m in Australia
- ART consumables sales were ~\$223m in 2011
- ~90% of ART consumables market is divided among a few companies for both human and veterinary sectors.



#### **Animal Assisted Reproduction Technology (ART) Market**

- Artificial insemination (AI) dominates (sperm directly inserted into uterus)
  - IVF only used for very high value animals
- USA:
  - ~ 66% of the nation's dairy cows are bred by AI
  - 70-75% of commercial swine production is from AI
- EU:
  - ~90% of pigs and dairy cows are produced by AI
- Horses
  - AI & IVF is illegal with thoroughbreds for the racing industry; must use live stallions
  - Extensive Al/IVF is used for other types of horses
- Regional and niche Al markets exist
  - goats, camels, zoos, etc



#### **Current Status of SpermSep**

- Research SpermSep devices for human and animal use developed and in use.
- Human IVF benefits of SpermSep demonstrated:
  - Separates the most viable sperm with least DNA genetic damage (Newcastle Uni evaluation program & publications)
  - Multi-centre clinical trial at 3 leading IVF centres in Australia beginning Jan 15 to broaden indications for use.
- Animal AI benefits being documented in trials at Newcastle University and in Germany.
- Development of 2<sup>nd</sup>-generation production systems for human clinical and animal production use to commence on completion of fund raising.



# SpermSep 3 Year Plan

Year 1 Year 2 Year 3

- Complete Stage 1
   veterinary clinical trials
   (late-Yr1)
- Complete 3-site Stage2 human clinical trials(end-Yr1)
- Develop human prodn system; instrument & cartridges (mid-Yr2)
- Start international human IVF research market roll-out (mid-Yr2) and revenue
- International veterinary market launch (late-Yr2)
- Complete regulatory approvals for human IVF (late-Yr2)
- Clinical market launch for human IVF (start Yr2-3)

 Clinical market launch for human IVF (start Yr2-3)



## **Next Steps for SpermSep**

	Human IVF	Animal IVF and Al	
Next Studies	Capture data from 3 leading IVF centres – extending indications for use	Demonstration studies on horses with Uni of Newcastle & in Germany (bulls)	
Aim	<ul> <li>Conduct multiple clinical validation studies in leading IVF clinics</li> <li>Increase key opinion leader support</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Demonstrate advantages of SpermSep technology in stallions &amp; bulls</li> <li>Move to other livestock later</li> </ul>	
Anticipated cost	Estimated total investment to SpermSep cash flow breakeven is approximately \$7 million		



#### Summary

- NuSep has unique proprietary technology in the biological separations market
  - Already commercialised areas of the technology
- Medium term focus on SpermSep
  - Entering clinical trials
  - Large global market
  - International distribution agreements in place (AI)
- Seeking Capital
  - Funding of clinical trials

