



**Vahid Najafzadeh,  
Reproductive Biology Phd.  
Embryologist  
Academic/Industry**

In 2012, Vahid received his Master's degree in Human Anatomy, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Iran. Before finishing his Master's, he secured a Ph.D. position at the University of Waikato, Hamilton, NZ. During his Ph.D. (2013-2018), he worked on amino acid requirements of bovine embryos and some pluripotency-associated pathways. The techniques he learned and improved upon include *in vitro* production of bovine embryo (including oocytology, fertilization, embryo analysis, and grading), inner cell mass (ICM), and trophectoderm (TE) biopsying, *in vitro* production of mouse embryos, cell culture, real-time PCR, immunostaining, western blotting.

After his Ph.D. he worked as an embryologist at Animal Breeding Services (ABS), Hamilton, New Zealand, and gained extensive experience within commercial bovine embryology. In April 2019, he got a job offer as a postdoc at professor Poul Hyttel's group at the University of Copenhagen, Denmark. His task was to establish embryo production through maturing oocytes from bovine ovum pick-up, and through *in vitro* fertilization and *in vitro* culture. Furthermore, the techniques biopsy, whole DNA amplification, and cryopreservation were applied to the *in vitro* embryos. Fresh and cryopreserved blastocysts were transferred to recipients resulting in high pregnancy rates. Vahid successfully established this entire pipeline, resulting in the first calf born in Denmark that was biopsied at the preimplantation stage, in June 2020. Other projects by Vahid to be highlighted are the comparison of the two cryopreservation methods, conventional freezing and vitrification, after trophectoderm biopsies of day 7 blastocysts. Vahid is author and co-author of several peer-reviewed publications and has supervised four undergraduate and four master students at the University of Copenhagen.

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