Important Message from Stanford Medicine Fertility and Reproductive Health:

The CDC has issued a travel notice for people traveling to areas where Zika virus has been reported. Zika virus infection in the first trimester of pregnancy is associated with a 15% risk of Zika related birth defects. Data involving Zika, its transmission and infectivity, and its adverse effects on fetuses and adults is continually evolving. Guidance based on current knowledge is iterative as our understanding of this virus increases. Please refer to the CDC Zika website for the most updated information. https://www.cdc.gov/zika/. Our current recommendation is to avoid pregnancy with your own eggs within 8 weeks of possible exposure for you and to avoid pregnancy with your partner’s sperm within 6 months of possible exposure for him. While we realize that in some circumstances a couple may wish to proceed within this time period, it is our responsibility to inform you of the possible risk. Although blood tests are available for Zika virus in the blood, it is well documented that virus remains present in the semen and vaginal secretions longer than in the blood. Therefore negative testing does not guarantee that there is no risk to the pregnancy. If you are going to use a gestational carrier or surrogate in the future, the FDA mandates a delay of 6 months for both egg and sperm donors (intended parents).

Do not travel to any of the countries on the CDC list (current list is provided below). Regions affected by Zika change over time. If traveling, please visit the CDC website for the most updated travel information. http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/page/zika-travel-information. If you or your spouse/partner have traveled to any of the countries where infections of Zika have been reported, please inform our office so that the appropriate testing can be performed. If either you or your partner tests positive for Zika, fertility treatment will be deferred until 6 months have passed since the positive test result and repeat testing is negative.

- **For Donors**, Do not travel to any of the countries on the CDC list until collection of the tissue (ovum and/or sperm) is completed if you want to proceed with a donor or a surrogate cycle.
  - If you traveled to any of the countries on the list, you will not be able to proceed with a cycle until 6 months after you traveled.
  - You will be considered ineligible if you have any of the following risk factors in the preceding 6 months:
    a) Diagnosis of Zika virus infection
    b) Lived in or traveled to a country with active Zika virus transmission
    c) Had sex with a person who is known to have either of the risk factors listed in the two questions above.

- **For gestational carriers**, these same guidelines above for donors are to be followed before starting a cycle and during pregnancy. Surrogates and partners **cannot travel** to any of the countries in the CDC list for 6 months prior to starting a cycle and during pregnancy.

I have reviewed the above information and I am in complete understanding of the items reviewed.