

TOP DOCTORS

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA'S MOST-RECOMMENDED PHYSICIANS

MEET THE DOCTOR

Miracle Worker



THE 14-YEAR-OLD SOUTH FORT MYERS' FERTILITY AND reproductive endocrinology practice of **Dr. Craig Sweet** has its warm and fuzzy side, as reflected in the name of his Web site, www.dreamababy.com. But in truth, he says, his specialty is "a bit of a mind-bender," encompassing sometimes-controversial issues, including in-vitro fertilization, surrogacy and more.

Such advances often outpace directives from clergy and the judiciary, leaving doctors to rely on their own consciences. Physicians can now prescreen embryos for gender and vulnerability to certain diseases. Recently Sweet implanted a healthy male embryo in

a woman who had lost a son. Although it is not yet a matter of choosing an embryo "for blond hair and blue eyes," he says, that is an issue he'll eventually have to face.

Most couples who see him have medical issues that can be resolved fairly easily. Others decide to adopt, or they move on to specialized procedures. Earlier this year, Sweet was able to freeze the ovarian tissue of a 19-year-old cancer patient, trusting that by the time she's ready to have children, technology will allow for its use. Soon, he predicts, freezing and banking eggs will change the face of fertility.

Life matters: Sweet is surrounded by containers of frozen embryos, semen and tissue samples, representing 100 potential babies.

—T.J.