

JOURNAL FÜR REPRODUKTIONSMEDIZIN UND ENDOKRINOLOGIE

JOURNAL OF REPRODUCTIVE MEDICINE AND ENDOCRINOLOGY

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Front Cover Picture: The interaction between sperm and the cumulus-oocyte-complex is a crucial biological phenomenon that precedes the natural permeation of sperm into the ovum. This scanning electron microscopic image shows a human sperm in vitro, which soars vis-à-vis the silhouette of the ovum. Under in vitro conditions, the ovum has been stripped of its cumulus cells as well as of its zona pellucida, by way of manipulation. Lennart Nilsson, an artistic photographer, has literally created a "work of art". Nevertheless, this picture inspires our thoughts about a dialog between the two germ cells, irrespective of whether the viewer is a layperson or a scientist.

Picture from "Ein Kind entsteht", Goldmann Publishing, Munich, and Albert Bonniers Förlag, AB, Stockholm. We are indebted to the publishing houses as well as the authors, Lennart Nilsson and Lars Hamberger, Göteborg, for their friendly permission to reproduce this picture.

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