MEET THE DOCTOR

Miracle Worker

THE 44-YEAR-OLD SOUTH FORT MYERS' FERTILITY AND
reproductive endocrinology practice of Dr. Craig
Sweet has its warm and fuzzy side, as reflected
in truth, he says, his specialty is "a bit of a mind-bender,"
embracing 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.

—TJ.