Since 1996, the Bedford Research Foundation’s cutting edge research has lead to the development of several “firsts” in the fields of reproductive biology, infectious diseases, stem cell and other biomedical research.

1996 - BRF scientists begin the first project to understand the difference between semen and blood transmission of HIV/AIDS

1997 – The first infertility program for couples with infectious diseases, The Special Program of Assisted Reproduction (SPAR), is established

1998 – The first baby conceived through the Foundation’s Special Program of Assisted Reproduction, Baby Ryan, is born

2000 – The Foundation establishes the country’s first and only human egg donor program for stem cell research

2000 - BRF scientists discover that HIV in semen is separate and unique from HIV in blood

2001 – BRF scientists author first report on human parthenotes and human nuclear transplants

2005 – Foundation scientists discover that reverse transcriptase activity is important to embryonic stem cell division

2007 – Foundation scientists describe the first derivation of mouse parthenote stem cells without a feeder layer, which can be an impediment to applying the research to humans

2007 - SPAR program presentation designated “Prize Paper” by American Society for Reproductive Medicine

2008 - Using state-of-the-art molecular biology techniques, Foundation scientists develop the first comprehensive library of bacteria in semen

2009 - BRF scientists discover that early human embryos may have their own circadian rhythm and supporting these rhythms in culture might be important for stem cell growth

2010 - BRF scientists discover that early human embryos undergo cell growth and division by unique mechanisms which may be important to stem cell development

2011 - BRF scientists discover that semen specimens from men with cancer have unique biomarkers to both diagnose and stage prostate cancer — study is ongoing
2012 - BRF scientists develop methods for time-lapse videomicrography of the first five days of development of mouse embryos to further study the possible role of circadian rhythms in development

2013 - Bedford Research spins off post-vasectomy testing as a new fee-for-service clinical assay that is far simpler for both the surgeon and the patient. Clinical testing is an important part of BRF funding for research overhead

2014 - Number of SPAR babies hits 200 mark

2014 - BRF scientists discover cytomegalovirus in semen is highly variable and not accurately predicted by blood tests

2015 - Foundation moves to dedicated research facility in Bedford, MA

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