**FACTORS FACILITATING SPERM TRANSPORT IN THE FEMALE REPRODUCTIVE TRACT**

1. SEMEN

The alkaline secretions of the prostrate gland into the semen create an alkaline environment in the vagina to protect sperm in the vagina. Prostaglandins present in both the semen and female reproductive tract trigger myometrial contractions which help the movement of sperm towards the oviduct.

1. HORMONES ACTING IN THE FEMALE REPRODUCTIVE TRACT

Estrogen and oxytocin secreted in the female help to assist myometrial contraction in order to facilitate the upward motility of sperm towards the oviduct. Estrogen facilitates the production of watery mucus in the cervix during ovulation to allow for easy passage of sperm.

1. CAPACITATION

In the female reproductive tract, sperm undergoes capacitation. This occurs after the sperm membrane becomes more fluid, ensuing the removal of cholesterol and glycoproteins from the membrane in order to expose the zona pellucida binding proteins. The sperm membrane potential changes to permit calcium enter the sperm to facilitate acrosomal reaction. There is also phosphorylation of numerous proteins needed in fertilization.