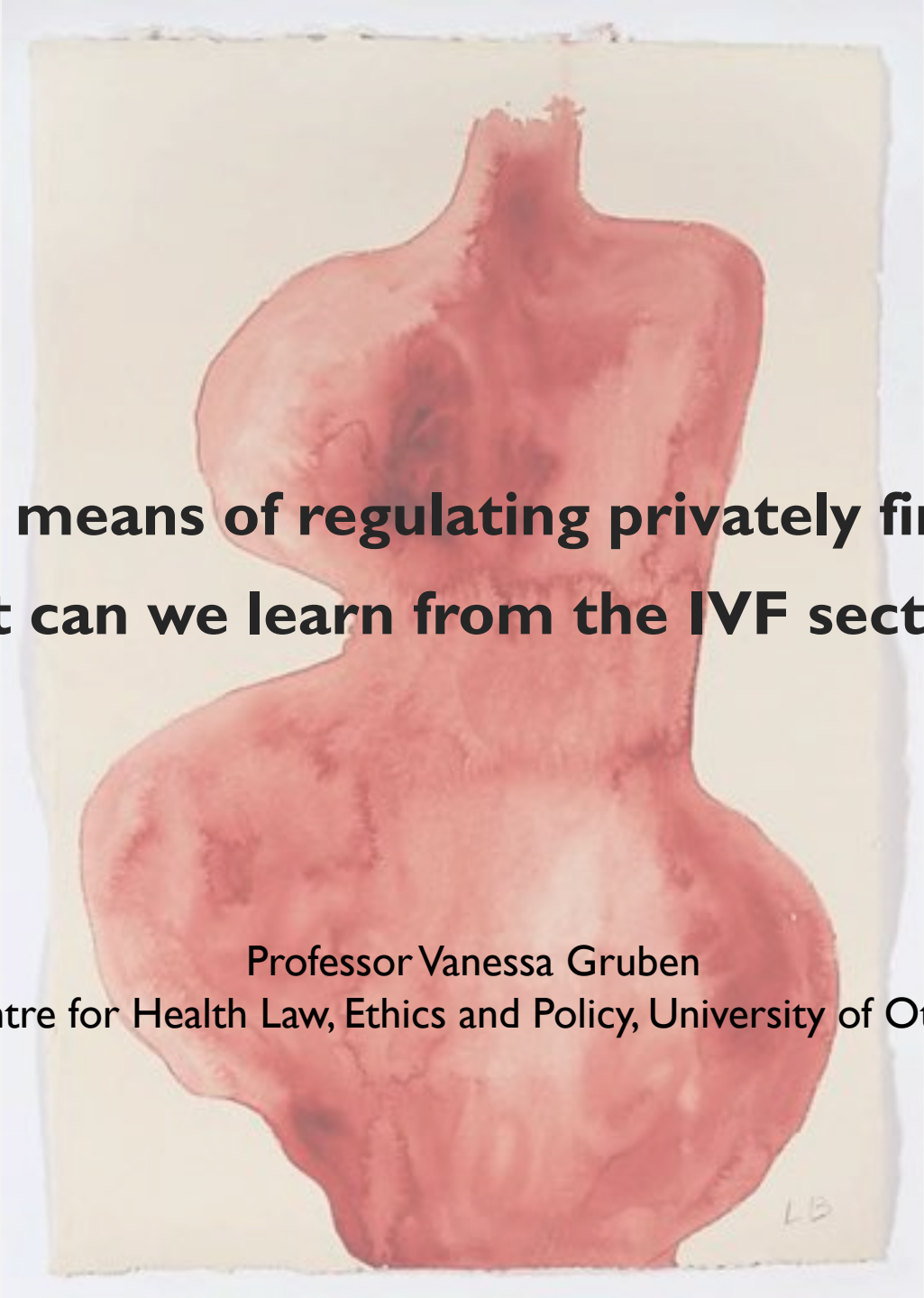


- **Self Regulation as a means of regulating privately financed Medicare:**
 - **What can we learn from the IVF sector?**

Professor Vanessa Gruben
Centre for Health Law, Ethics and Policy, University of Ottawa



Fertility Clinics in Canada

- most fertility services are provided outside hospitals in private, for-profit clinics



Regulatory mechanisms for fertility clinics

- limited government regulation
- self-regulation of professionals and facilities
- clinical practice guidelines
- voluntary accreditation

Self-regulation of professionals and facilities

- rationales:
 - expertise
 - professional autonomy
 - acceptability
 - independence
 - processes



THE COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS OF ONTARIO

Self-regulation of professionals and facilities

- criticisms of complaints process:
 - onerous and opaque processes
 - weak remedies and sanctions
 - lacks transparency
 - prioritizes professional members rather than patients and the public



Self-regulation of professionals and facilities

- fertility clinics
- in Ontario, subject to Out-of-Hospital Premises Inspection Program
- falls under jurisdiction of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario

Clinical practice guidelines

- intended to promote consistent and higher quality care based on up-to-date medical evidence
- CFAS clinical practice guidelines committee

- Guidelines for Third Party Reproduction (CFAS 2016) AMENDED [[English](#) – [French](#)]
- [Guidelines on Fertility Preservation In Reproductive Age Woman Facing Gonadotoxic Treatments](#) (CFAS 2014)
- [Guidelines on Management of Ovarian Hyperstimulation Syndrome](#) (CFAS 2013)
- [Guidelines on the Number of Embryos Transferred](#) (CFAS 2013)

Clinical practice guidelines

- efficacy?
 - multiple embryo transfer
 - Quebec regulations vs. CFAS guidelines



Information collection & disclosure

- Canadian Assisted Reproductive Technology Register (CARTR)
- fills important data gaps
- BUT
 - voluntary
 - verification
 - transparency
 - accessibility

Conclusion

- cautionary tale
- self-regulation is important but insufficient
- other forms of external regulation are crucial to promoting patient health and well-being