

# Scientists and medical doctors on the beginning of human life

**“The human being is human from the moment when the sperm cell of the human male fertilizes the ovum of the female.”** Prof. E. Blechschmidt, MD, Ph.D, head of the Institute of Anatomy at the University of Göttingen, Germany

**“From the moment of conception the ovum is called an embryo, but it is beyond doubt that it is a human being.”** Prof. B. Chazan, MD, Ph.D, national specialist in obstetrics and gynecology, Warsaw

**“It is essential to respect a new life from the very conception and to recognize the child as a partner in a dialogue. The dialogue begins at the moment of conception.”** Prof. P.G. Fedor-Freybergh, Ph.D, psychologist, Stockholm

**“A living being exists from the moment of conception. The unborn child is a person.”** Prof. A. Ingelman-Sunberg, MD, head of the Gynecology and Obstetrics Clinic in Stockholm

**“The life of man begins at the moment of conception, that is the fertilization, and ends at death.”** Prof. R. Klimek, MD, Ph.D, fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine in London

**“Thanks to excellent technological progress, we have invaded into the private life of the fetus (...). The obvious fact that after conception a new human being is created is not a matter of preferences or opinions anymore. The human nature of this being from the moment of conception to his or her old age is not a metaphysical statement we can argue with, but an ordinary experimental fact.”** Prof. J. Lejeune, MD, Ph.D, head of the Institute of Genetics at Paris Descartes University

**“The union of the ovum with the sperm cell, or female and male gametes, starts a new, separate life. As a result of fertilization, an entirely genetically determined new man is formed, who then develops throughout his/her entire life. Therefore such terms as embryo, fetus, newborn, infant, child, adult, elderly person, all refer to specific biological phases of development of always the same person.”** Antoni Marcinek, MD, Ph.D, head of the Gynecology and Obstetrics Hospital in Krakow

**“From the scientific perspective, it is proper to state that a single human life begins at the moment of conception.”** Prof. M. Matthews-Roth, Harvard University, USA

**“The life of a human being does not start from the moment of birth but from the moment of conception.”** Prof. J. Roszkowski, MD, Ph.D, fellow and co-founder of the International Gynecological Society and member of the Research Board at the Mother and Child Institute

**“In the light of the present knowledge it is beyond doubt that the life of man begins as a result of the union of two reproductive cells, or gametes, female and male, which then form a stem cell called the zygote. From that moment on, the zygote begins its own life.”** Prof. M. Rybakowa, MD, Ph.D, Committee on Human Development, Division of Medical Sciences at the Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw-Cracow

**„After fertilization, that is after the union of the ovum and sperm cell nuclei (which takes place in the fallopian tube, near its opening on the ovary side), an entirely new and distinct genetic quality comes into existence, different from the parental genotypes - a new human person. His/her set of genes in the somatic cells will not change until the end of his/her life.”** Prof. B. Suszka, Ph.D, biologist, research worker for the Polish Academy of Sciences, Poznań

**„The development of man begins when two cells - a female gamete or the ovum (the oocyte) and a male gamete, the sperm cell, unite at the moment of fertilization.”** Prof. M. Troszyński, MD, Ph.D, gynecologist-obstetrician, Warsaw