CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A conception aid, comprising:

a platform configured for placement in a vaginal canal, wherein the platform comprises at least one preformed curve along a longitudinal axis between a proximal portion and a distal portion of the platform,

wherein the platform comprises one or more capturing elements configured to collect semen, and

wherein the at least one preformed curve is configured to remain against a vaginal wall when the conception aid is within the vaginal canal so as to prevent flowback of captured semen towards the distal portion of the platform.

2. The conception aid of claim 1, wherein the platform has a width tapering along the longitudinal axis between the proximal portion and the distal portion of the platform.

3. The conception aid of claim 1, wherein the conception aid further comprises an extending member coupled to the distal portion of the platform.

4. The conception aid of claim 3, wherein the conception aid has a length such that when the platform is placed within the vaginal canal, the proximal portion of the platform is positioned proximate a cervical opening and at least a portion of the extending member is external to the vaginal canal.

5. The conception aid of claim 3, wherein the extending member is angled relative to the platform.

6. The conception aid of claim 3, wherein the extending member comprises a flared shape at a distal portion of the extending member.

7. The conception aid of claim 3, further comprising a lumen configured to receive at least a portion of a depositing device for depositing sperm onto the platform.

8. The conception aid of claim 7, wherein the lumen extends between the extending member and the platform.

9. The conception aid of claim 8, wherein the lumen extends longitudinally between the extending member and the platform.

10. The conception aid of claim 9, wherein the lumen comprises a valve.

~~11. The conception aid of claim 10, wherein the valve is a self-sealing valve, such that a portion of the lumen is openable by insertion of the depositing device, and sealed a removal of the depositing device.~~

~~12. The conception aid of claim 7, wherein the lumen extends into at least one of the one or more capturing elements.~~

~~13. The conception aid of claim 7, wherein the lumen has a varying diameter.~~

~~14. The conception aid of claim 7, wherein the extending member comprises a stop guide configured to guide insertion of the depositing device within the lumen.~~

~~15. The conception aid of claim 1, wherein the one or more capturing elements comprise at least one pocket.~~

~~16. The conception aid of claim 15, wherein the at least one pocket is on the distal portion of the platform and comprises an arched opening.~~

~~17. The conception aid of claim 15, wherein the at least one pocket provides a barrier between the platform and an extending member coupled to the distal portion of the platform.~~

~~18. The conception aid of claim 1, wherein the one or more capturing elements comprise any one or more of: one or more lateral ridges, one or more recesses, one or more longitudinal channels, one or more filaments, one or more holes configured to allow passage of sperm therethrough, one or more protrusions, and one or more bumps.~~

~~19. A method of aiding conception, comprising:~~

~~providing a conception aid comprising one or more capturing elements;~~

~~collecting semen with the one or more capturing elements, wherein the one or more capturing elements is configured to contain the collected semen on the conception aid; and~~

~~positioning the conception aid in a vaginal canal.~~

~~20. The method of claim 19, wherein collecting semen occurs before the positioning the conception aid.~~

~~21. The method of claim 20, wherein the conception aid is external to a vaginal canal during collection of semen.~~

~~22. The method of claim 19, wherein positioning the conception aid occurs before collecting semen.~~

23. The method of claim 19, wherein positioning the conception aid comprises positioning the conception aid such that at least a portion of the one or more capturing elements is proximate a cervix.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein positioning the conception aid causes a first portion of the conception aid to be proximate a posterior fornix and a second portion of the conception aid to be against a vaginal wall.

25. The method of claim 19, wherein positioning the conception aid comprises positioning the conception aid at a first position in the vaginal canal, and the method further comprises moving the conception aid to a second position in the vaginal canal, such that at least a portion of the one or more capturing elements is proximate a cervix.

26. The method of claim 19, wherein collecting semen comprises depositing semen to the conception aid with a depositing device.

27. The method of claim 26, wherein collecting semen comprises positioning the depositing device over the conception aid.

28. The method of claim 26, wherein collecting semen comprises inserting at least a portion of the depositing device with a lumen of the conception aid.

29. The method of claim 28, wherein the conception aid comprises a platform and an extending member coupled to a distal portion of the platform and comprising the lumen, wherein collecting semen comprises operating the depositing device to deposit semen through the lumen to the one or more capturing elements.

30. The method of claim 19, further comprising maintaining the conception aid in the vaginal canal for a period of time.

31. A conception aid, comprising:

a platform configured for placement in a vaginal canal,

wherein the platform comprises one or more capturing elements configured to collect semen.

32. The conception aid of claim 31, wherein the platform comprises at least one preformed curve along a longitudinal axis between a proximal portion and a distal portion of the platform.

33. The conception aid of claim 32, wherein the preformed curve is configured to remain against a vaginal wall when the conception aid is within the vaginal canal so as to prevent flowback of the semen towards the distal portion of the platform.

~~34. The conception aid of claim 32, wherein the wherein the platform comprises a U-shaped cross-section lateral to the longitudinal axis.~~

~~35. The conception aid of claim 31, wherein the platform has a width tapering along a longitudinal axis between a proximal portion and a distal portion of the platform.~~

~~36. The conception aid of claim 31, wherein the conception aid further comprises an extending member coupled to a distal portion of the platform.~~

~~37. The conception aid of claim 36, wherein the extending member is angled relative to the platform.~~

~~38. The conception aid of claim 36, wherein the extending member is integrally formed with the distal portion of the platform.~~

~~39. The conception aid of claim 36, wherein the extending member comprises a flared shape at a distal portion of the extending member.~~

~~40. The conception aid of claim 36, wherein the extending member comprises a tapered shape at a distal portion of the extending member.~~

~~41. The conception aid of claim 40, the extending member further comprising a grip at the distal portion of the extending member.~~

~~42. The conception aid of claim 36, wherein the extending member has a narrowed region along a longitudinal axis between a proximal portion and a distal portion of the extending member.~~

~~43. The conception aid of claim 31, wherein the one or more capturing elements comprise one or more lateral ridges.~~

~~44. The conception aid of claim 31, wherein the one or more capturing elements comprise one or more protrusions.~~

~~45. The conception aid of claim 31, wherein the one or more capturing elements comprise one or more recesses.~~

~~46. The conception aid of claim 45, wherein the one or more recesses comprise one or more longitudinal channels.~~

~~47. The conception aid of claim 46, comprising a plurality of longitudinal channels.~~

~~48. The conception aid of claim 47, wherein each of the longitudinal channels is separated by a protrusion.~~

~~49. The conception aid of claim 47, the plurality of longitudinal channels is angled, such that each of the longitudinal channels radiate laterally from a distal end of the platform.~~

50. The conception aid of claim 47, wherein at least a portion of the longitudinal channels are curved.

51. The conception aid of claim 47, wherein each of the longitudinal channels is substantially straight.

52. The conception aid of claim 47, wherein the plurality of longitudinal channels comprises branched channels.

53. The conception aid of claim 31, wherein the one or more capturing elements comprise one or more bumps.

54. The conception aid of claim 53, wherein at least one of the bumps is rounded.

55. The conception aid of claim 53, wherein at least one of the bumps comprises a point angled towards a proximal end of the platform.

56. The conception aid of claim 31, wherein the one or more capturing elements comprise one or more filaments.

57. The conception aid of claim 56, wherein the one or more capturing elements comprise a plurality of filaments arranged in a spiral formation.

58. The conception aid of claim 31, wherein the one or more capturing elements comprises one or more holes configured to allow passage of sperm therethrough.

59. The conception aid of claim 31, wherein the one or more capturing elements comprises one or more pockets.

60. The conception aid of claim 59, wherein at least one of the pockets comprises an arched opening.

61. The conception aid of claim 31, wherein the one or more capturing elements comprises one or more pockets, and wherein at least one of the pockets provides a barrier between the platform and an extending member coupled to a distal portion of the platform.

62. The conception aid of claim 61, wherein at least one of the pockets comprises a thickness of about 0.5 mm to about 3.5 mm.

63. The conception aid of claim 61, wherein at least one of the pockets comprises a first width at a proximal portion and a second width at a distal portion, wherein the first width is larger than the second width.

64. The conception aid of claim 31, further comprising an extending member coupled to a distal portion of the platform and comprising a lumen.

65. The conception aid of claim 64, wherein the lumen further extends into at least one of the one or more capturing elements.

66. The conception aid of claim 65, wherein the one or more capturing elements comprises a pocket providing a barrier between the platform and the extending member, wherein the lumen further extends into a wall of the pocket.

67. The conception aid of claim 65, wherein the lumen is configured to receive a depositing device for depositing sperm onto the platform.

68. The conception aid of claim 67, wherein the depositing device comprises a container, a plunger, and a handle.

69. The conception aid of claim 67, wherein the depositing device is a syringe.

70. The conception aid of claim 68, wherein the depositing device is operable by applying a force to the plunger to deposit sperm from the container onto the platform.

71. The conception aid of claim 67, further comprising a self-sealing valve, such that a portion of the lumen is openable by insertion of the depositing device, and sealed by removal of the depositing device.

72. The conception aid of claim 65, wherein the lumen varies in diameter along the extending member.

73. The conception aid of claim 68, the extending member further comprising a stop guide configured to guide insertion of the depositing device within the lumen.

74. The conception aid of claim 72, wherein the stop guide is configured to abut a handle of the depositing device.

75. The conception aid of claim 72, wherein the stop guide is configured to guide depth of insertion of the depositing device within the lumen.

76. A method of aiding conception, comprising:

providing a conception aid device comprising one or more capturing elements;

collecting semen with the one or more capturing elements, wherein the one or more capturing elements is configured to contain the collected semen on the conception aid device; and

positioning the conception aid device in a vaginal canal.

77. The method of claim 76, wherein collecting semen occurs before the positioning the conception aid device.

~~78. The method of claim 77, wherein the device is external to a vaginal canal during the collection of semen.~~

~~79. The method of claim 76, wherein positioning the conception aid device comprises positioning the conception aid device such that at least a portion of the one or more capturing elements is proximate a cervix.~~

~~80. The method of claim 76, wherein positioning the conception aid device occurs before collecting semen.~~

~~81. The method of claim 80, wherein positioning the conception aid device is performed prior to or during intercourse.~~

~~82. The method of claim 80, wherein positioning the conception aid device causes a first portion of the conception aid device to be proximate a posterior fornix and a second portion of the conception aid device to be against a vaginal wall.~~

~~83. The method of claim 80, wherein positioning comprises positioning the conception aid device at a first position in the vaginal canal, and the method further comprises moving the conception aid device to a second position in the vaginal canal, such that at least a portion of the one or more capturing elements is proximate a cervix.~~

~~84. The method of claim 83, wherein moving the conception aid device to the second position causes a first portion of the conception aid device to be proximate a posterior fornix and a second portion of the conception aid device to be against a vaginal wall.~~

~~85. The method of claim 76, wherein collecting semen is performed with a depositing device.~~

~~86. The method of claim 85, wherein the conception aid device is external to the vaginal canal during the collecting.~~

~~87. The method of claim 85, wherein the conception aid device is within the vaginal canal during the collecting.~~

~~88. The method of claim 85, wherein the conception aid device comprises a platform and an extending member coupled to a distal portion of the platform and comprising a lumen configured to receive the depositing device.~~

~~89. The method of claim 88, further comprising inserting the depositing device into the lumen, and operating the depositing device to deposit semen onto the one or more capturing elements.~~

90. The method of claim 85, wherein the depositing device comprises a container, a plunger, and a handle, and wherein the depositing device is operable by applying a force to the plunger to deposit sperm from the container onto the one or more capturing elements.

91. The method of claim 76, further comprising further comprising maintaining the conception aid device in the vaginal canal for a period of time.

92. The method of claim 91, wherein the period of time is about 1 hour to about 7 hours.

93. A method of aiding conception, comprising:

positioning a device at a first position in a vaginal canal, wherein the device comprises one or more capturing elements;

collecting semen with the one or more capturing elements after positioning the device at the first position; and

positioning the device at a second position in the vaginal canal such that at least a portion of the one or more capturing elements is proximate a cervix.

94. The method of claim 93, wherein positioning the device at the first position in the vaginal canal comprises positioning at least a portion of the device against a vaginal wall.

95. The method of claim 93, wherein positioning the device at the first position in the vaginal canal is performed prior to or during intercourse.

96. The method of claim 93, wherein the device comprises a platform comprising the one or more capturing elements, and an extending member coupled to a distal portion of the platform, and wherein positioning the device at the first position in the vaginal canal comprises positioning the extending member proximate the entrance of the vaginal canal.

97. The method of claim 96, wherein positioning the extending member proximate the entrance of the vaginal canal comprises positioning a distal portion of the extending member outside of the entrance of the vaginal canal.

98. The method of claim 93, wherein positioning the device at the second position in the vaginal canal comprises positioning a first portion of the device in a posterior fornix and positioning a second portion of the device against the vaginal wall.

99. The method of claim 93, wherein positioning the device at the second position in the vaginal canal comprises positioning the collected semen proximate the cervix.

100. The method of claim 93, further comprising maintaining the platform at the second position in the vaginal canal for a period of time.

~~101. A conception aid, comprising:~~

~~a platform configured for placement in a vaginal canal, wherein the platform comprises at least one preformed curve along a longitudinal axis between a proximal portion and a distal portion of the platform,~~

~~wherein the preformed curve is configured to remain against a vaginal wall when the conception aid is within the vaginal canal so as to prevent flowback of the semen towards the distal portion of the platform.~~

~~102. The conception aid of claim 101, further comprising an extending member coupled to a distal portion of the platform.~~

~~103. The conception aid of claim 102, wherein the extending member is angled relative to the platform.~~

~~104. The conception aid of claim 102, wherein the extending member is integrally formed with the distal portion of the platform.~~

~~105. The conception aid of claim 102, wherein the extending member comprises a lumen.~~

~~106. The conception aid of claim 105, wherein the lumen is configured to receive a depositing device.~~

~~107. The conception aid of claim 101, further comprising one or more capturing elements.~~

1. A conception aid, comprising:

a platform configured for placement in a vaginal canal, and comprising at least one pocket configured to collect semen; and

an arched member extending from the platform and configured to guide a penis or a device over the arched member toward the platform while the conception aid is in the vaginal canal;

wherein the at least one pocket is configured to remain against a vaginal wall when the platform is within the vaginal canal so as to retain the collected semen in the vaginal canal.

2. The conception aid of claim 1, wherein the platform has a width tapering along a longitudinal axis between a proximal portion and a distal portion of the platform.

3. The conception aid of claim 1, wherein the arched member extends from a distal portion of the platform.

4. The conception aid of claim 3, wherein the conception aid has a length such that when the platform is placed within the vaginal canal, a proximal portion of the platform is positioned proximate a cervical opening and at least a portion of the arched member is external to the vaginal canal.

5. The conception aid of claim 3, wherein the arched member is angled relative to the platform.

6. The conception aid of claim 3, wherein a width and/or height of the arched member increases along a longitudinal axis of the conception aid toward a distal portion of the member.

7. The conception aid of claim 3, further comprising a lumen configured to deposit sperm onto the platform.

8. The conception aid of claim 7, wherein the lumen extends between the arched member and the platform.

9. The conception aid of claim 8, wherein the lumen comprises a valve.

10. The conception aid of claim 9, wherein the valve is a self-sealing valve, such that a portion of the lumen is openable by insertion of the device, and sealed by removal of the device.

11. The conception aid of claim 7, wherein the lumen extends into a wall of the at least one pocket.

12. The conception aid of claim 7, wherein the lumen has a varying diameter.

13. The conception aid of claim 7, wherein the arched member comprises a stop guide configured to guide insertion of the device within the lumen.

14. The conception aid of claim 1, wherein the at least one pocket is on a distal portion of the platform and comprises an arched opening.

15. The conception aid of claim 1, wherein the at least one pocket provides a barrier between the platform and the arched member.

16. The conception aid of claim 1, further comprising one or more of: one or more lateral ridges, one or more recesses, one or more longitudinal channels, one or more filaments, one or more holes configured to allow passage of sperm therethrough, one or more protrusions, and one or more bumps.

17. A conception aid, comprising:

a flexible arched member including a glide surface configured to engage with a vaginal wall after placement of the conception aid within a vaginal canal; and

a semen-collecting platform disposed at a distal end of the flexible arched member,

wherein the flexible arched member is configured to:

flatten in order to guide a penis or insemination device between the glide surface and the vaginal wall in response to introduction of the penis or the insemination device into the vaginal canal, and

return to a preformed curved shape, such that at least a portion of the glide surface re-engages with the vaginal wall, after withdrawal of the penis or the insemination device from the vaginal canal.

18. The conception aid of claim 17, wherein the conception aid has a length such that when the conception aid is placed within the vaginal canal, at least a portion of the semen-collecting platform is positioned proximate a cervical opening, and at least a portion of the conception aid resides external to the vaginal canal.

19. The conception aid of claim 17, wherein the semen-collecting platform has a width tapering along a longitudinal axis between a proximal portion and a distal portion of the semen-collecting platform.

20. The conception aid of claim 17, wherein the flexible arched member is angled relative to the semen-collecting platform.

21. The conception aid of claim 17, wherein a width and/or height of the flexible arched member increases along a longitudinal axis of the conception aid toward a distal portion of the flexible arched member.

22. The conception aid of claim 17, wherein the semen-collecting platform comprises one or more capturing elements configured to collect semen.

23. The conception aid of claim 22, wherein the one or more capturing elements include at least one of a ridge, a recess, a channel, a pocket, a filament, a through-hole, or combinations thereof.

24. A conception aid, comprising:

an arched member including a glide surface;

a semen-collecting platform disposed at a distal end of the arched member; and

a flexible pocket structure disposed on the arched member aft of the semen-collecting platform;

wherein the flexible pocket structure is configured to engage with a vaginal wall of a vaginal canal after the conception aid is introduced to the vaginal canal;

wherein the flexible pocket structure is configured to flex in order to enable passage of a penis or an insemination device introduced into the vaginal canal,

wherein the flexible pocket structure is configured to re-engage with the vaginal wall after withdrawal of the penis or insemination device from the vaginal canal; and

wherein the arched member is configured to guide the penis or the insemination device between the glide surface and the vaginal wall and toward the semen-collecting platform while the conception aid is in the vaginal canal.

25. The conception aid of claim 24, wherein the conception aid has a length such that when the conception aid is placed within the vaginal canal, at least a portion of the semen-collecting platform is positioned proximate a cervical opening, and at least a portion of the conception aid resides external to the vaginal canal.

26. The conception aid of claim 24, wherein the semen-collecting platform has a width tapering along a longitudinal axis between a proximal portion and a distal portion of the semen-collecting platform.

27. The conception aid of claim 24, further comprising a lumen configured to deposit semen onto the semen-collecting platform.

28. The conception aid of claim 27, wherein the lumen extends between the arched member and the semen-collecting platform.

29. The conception aid of claim 27, wherein the lumen extends into a wall of the flexible pocket structure.

30. The conception aid of claim 27, wherein the lumen has a varying diameter.