



Public Comments to PRGLAC

February 3, 2020

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On behalf of the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine (SMFM), I am pleased to submit written comments to the Task Force Specific to Research in Pregnant Women and Lactating Women (PRGLAC).

Unfortunately, due to the SMFM's 40th Annual Meeting in Grapevine, TX this week, I cannot be there in person.

I would like to take the opportunity to commend the Task Force for its comprehensive work throughout and note that SMFM is excited to see the implementation plan in August.

SMFM is the medical professional society for high-risk obstetricians who have an additional three years of fellowship in maternal-fetal medicine. Our over 4,000 members are physicians, fellows, affiliated health practitioners and practice managers who support the care of high-risk pregnant women. The Society strives to provide education, clinical support and advocacy to further its vision of optimizing the health of high-risk pregnant women and their babies. Our advocacy efforts are aimed at closing health disparities and promoting health equity, prioritizing and strengthening research in pregnant women, ensuring access to MFMs and MFM services to reduce maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity, and to ensure access to reproductive health services.

Ultimately, it is our hope that the PRGLAC task force will ensure pregnant women and lactating women's protection *through* research rather than *from* research. As such, we look forward to the final implementation plan, and appreciate the inclusive environment fostered by PRGLAC throughout this process so that members of the public and interested parties may participate. The feeling of ownership and accountability will surely lead to a successful effort with respect to ensuring that PRGLAC's recommendations are further implemented.

SMFM understands that the topic of inclusion of pregnant women and lactating women in research can be challenging. The implementation of the recommendations of PRGLAC's report will not be easy, but it will be critical to ensuring our common goals of better understanding maternal and infant health, reducing maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity and ensuring equitable and appropriate clinical treatments for this population are met. SMFM stands ready to assist through implementation strategies, education of our members and the maternal and infant health community, and to work with our partners to ensure appropriate and adequate implementation of the recommendations.