



## **Leaders in Obstetric Care Applaud a New Report Designed to Advance Knowledge on Safe and Effective Medications for Pregnant and Lactating Women**

**September 28, 2018, Washington, DC** – *The Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine (SMFM) released the following statement in response to a report issued today from the Task Force on Research Specific to Pregnant Women and Lactating Women:*

Approximately 6 million women become pregnant in the United States each year. Of these women, more than 90% take at least one medication during pregnancy or lactation. However, pregnant and postpartum women are often excluded from clinical research, leaving obstetric care providers without sufficient information about the safety, efficacy, or dosing for many common medications and therapies.

For nearly a decade, SMFM has been calling on policymakers and leaders within the research arena to address these gaps in knowledge and facilitate inclusion of pregnant women in clinical research. As such, we applaud the Task Force on Research Specific to Pregnant Women and Lactating Women (PRGLAC) on issuing today's [report](#) to the Secretary of Health and Human Services and Congress. The report, which was the result of a thorough review by an expert panel, details gaps in research and provides recommendations for change so that women and clinicians can make informed decisions about the risks and benefits of medications during pregnancy and lactation. Addressing these recommendations is critical to improving the care of mothers and their infants, particularly given the continued rise in maternal mortality and morbidity.

SMFM looks forward to working with Secretary Azar to implement the report's recommendations and applauds Senators Alexander (R-TN) and Murray (D-WA), as well as Representatives Herrera Beutler (R-WA) and Castor (D-FL), who were instrumental in PRGLAC's inclusion in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act (P.L. 114-255).

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### **About SMFM**

The Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine (SMFM) is a non-profit, membership organization based in Washington, DC. With more than 3,500 physicians, scientists and women's health professionals around the world, the Society supports the clinical practice of maternal-fetal medicine by providing education, promoting research and engaging in advocacy to optimize the health of high-risk pregnant women and their babies. SMFM hosts an annual scientific meeting in which new ideas and research related to high-risk pregnancies are unveiled and discussed. For more information, visit [www.smfm.org](http://www.smfm.org).