



June 10, 2013

Dr. Anthony Falconer
President
Royal College of Obstetricians Gynaecologists
27 Sussex Place
Regent's Park, London, NW1 4RG

Dear Dr. Falconer,

On behalf of the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the American Society for Reproductive Medicine we want to commend you for the recent publication, *Chemical Exposures During Pregnancy: Dealing with Potential, but Unproven, Risks to Child Health*. Our respective professional societies are positioned to guide the health of women by the advice we provide to our physicians and allied health professionals. We also have an opportunity to lead legislative decisions because of our work. For these reasons your statement is very timely.

It is apparent that changes in the incidence of disease processes have occurred over a very short time period. During that same period, we have seen the introduction of chemical toxins into our environment with very little research to determine their impact on health before they are released. However, recent research has implicated these toxins on abnormal processes in reproductive health, and it is an awareness of such research that is paramount to those who address women's health, and the impact on child health.

Research suggests that these discussions will be complex, because factors such as low dose exposures, the timing of a particular exposure, the susceptibility of the exposed, and human variation are all confounding the research. We share a common goal: we want healthy mothers, healthy infants and a healthy future. If there was no doubt about research, if there was no cost impact for implementing change, if there was a uniformity of agreement in all discussions, we would have no work ahead of us. So, finding points of agreement has got to be where we start; educating our clinicians, the public and governing bodies then is the ideal next step so that finally we can effect change. It is wise to begin with a precautionary principle, to caution women that it is in the best interest of their health and the health of their families to be aware and cautious of exposures to a variety of chemicals in the environment.

Sincerely,

Jeanne A. Conry, MD, PhD, FACOG
President
The American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

Linda Giudice, MD, PhD, MSc
President
American Society for Reproductive Medicine