



OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

T (202) 659-1800  
E [advocacy@marchofdimes.org](mailto:advocacy@marchofdimes.org)  
MARCHOFDIMES.ORG

Nadia Ramey, PhD, MPH  
Senior Director, Health IT and Clinical Informatics  
The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
409 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20024

July 15, 2020

Dear Dr. Ramey,

On behalf of March of Dimes, the leading non-profit organization fighting for the health of all moms and babies, we strongly support the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists' (ACOG) proposal to the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) for the COVID-19-related enhancement opportunity to the Perinatal Anxiety Digital Resource Center project, which focuses on perinatal anxiety in the context of COVID-19, its impact on at-risk communities, and the use of telemedicine.

March of Dimes recognizes the significant impact the current COVID-19 pandemic continues to have on the mental health of pregnant women. The novel coronavirus poses unique challenges, such as impacting in-person appointments and access to providers, prohibiting adequate support in the delivery room, and raising concern over exposing newborns to visits even by family, friends, and support networks. With little to no existing research on the impact of COVID-19 on perinatal anxiety, addressing these concerns is of vital importance.

As an organization that leads the fight for the health of all moms and babies, March of Dimes, works closely with ACOG to ensure that pregnant women receive high quality and safe health care services. March of Dimes and ACOG are working together to ensure the health needs of pregnant women are not overlooked during the current COVID-19 pandemic, as many birthing plans for expecting mothers changed dramatically in close proximity to their labor and delivery date. Therefore, it is crucial to extend the study to continue looking at the additional complications that have arisen out of the public health crisis for pregnant women, as well as the impact of perinatal anxiety on mother and child due to the additional stressors of the pandemic.

March of Dimes fully supports the efforts of ACOG as they seek funding for a COVID-19 enhancement and will participate in the distribution of the projects COVID-19 Perinatal Anxiety survey, should the project be funded. If we can provide additional information to encourage consideration of ACOG's proposal, please feel free to contact me at [agonzalez@marchofdimes.org](mailto:agonzalez@marchofdimes.org) or 571-257-2326.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ariel González Esq.'.

Ariel González Esq., MA  
Senior Vice President  
Public Policy and Government Affairs