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Stephen R. Braddock, M.D.

February 15, 2018

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Patricia Cole, M.P.H.

Sharon Lavigne, M.S., LGC

Anna Pupco, M.D.

RE: PRGLAC Public Comments

Dear Ms. Kaeser,

I represent the Organization of Teratology Information Specialists (OTIS). We would like to file our comments jointly with the Teratology Society as a written comment and also intend to present public comments during the time allotted for oral comments on Monday, February 26<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. Dr. Katherine Wisner from Northwestern University will be presenting the oral comments from OTIS and the Teratology Society.

Our public comments are as follows:

OTIS (The Organization of Teratology Information Specialists) is the professional organization for North American teratology information service providers. Through our component focusing on the general public, Mother to Baby, we provide an evidence-based information resource for women and men who have questions about exposures prior to and during pregnancy and breastfeeding. We are acutely aware of the limited body of research on the safety of medications used to treat pregnant or breastfeeding women with chronic or acute illness, and have a long history of doing research to improve the available data.

The Teratology Society is an international nonprofit consisting of members including researchers, clinicians, epidemiologists, and public health professionals from academia, government, and industry who study birth defects and disorders of developmental origin. The mission of the Teratology Society is to prevent birth defects and disorders of developmental origin by promoting research and exchange of ideas, communicating information to health professionals and other interested parties, and providing education and training. Our journal, *Birth Defects Research*, publishes original scientific research that

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contributes to the understanding of the biology of embryonic development and the prenatal causative factors and mechanisms leading to adverse pregnancy outcomes.

Specifically, OTIS and the Teratology Society are committed to:

1. Rapidly assessing and integrating new information on research results into the information we provide to women, health care providers and the general public.
2. Initiating new research projects that address questions that are of high interest regarding exposures to pregnant and breastfeeding women.
3. Developing and executing strategies to effectively communicate research findings to pregnant women, health care professionals and the general public through publications, fact-sheets, the Mother to Baby website and other methods such as position papers, blogs, and social media campaigns, that aim to broaden awareness of the prevalence of birth defects and developmentally-mediated disorders and the need for continued investigation into the causes and prevention of such.

For more information about OTIS, we invite you to visit us at [mothertobaby.org](http://mothertobaby.org). More information about the Teratology Society may be found on [www.teratology.org](http://www.teratology.org).

OTIS and the Teratology Society applaud the PRGLAC effort, which aligns well with some of our strategic goals. We welcome alliances with other groups with similar goals, and we offer the PRGLAC project our full support.

On behalf of OTIS and the Teratology Society, I would like to thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen R. Braddock". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "S".

Stephen R. Braddock, M.D.  
OTIS President