**Type 2 Diabetes’ Effects on Pregnancy Underestimated**

**HOUSTON, Tex. —** Women need to be better educated about the risks of type 2 diabetes in pregnancy, Dr. Eunice W. Shafer said at the annual meeting of the Society for Obstructive Anesthesia and Perinatology.

"Type 2 diabetes is a leading cause of mortality and morbidity in the United States, and is becoming more common in obese women," Dr. Shafer said. "Obese women with type 2 diabetes are at an increased risk for complications during pregnancy, including preterm birth, macrosomia, and stillbirth."

Women with type 2 diabetes are also at risk for gestational diabetes, which can lead to macrosomia and other complications. Women with gestational diabetes are also at risk for developing type 2 diabetes later in life.

"Women need to be better educated about the risks of type 2 diabetes in pregnancy," Dr. Shafer said. "They need to understand the importance of controlling their blood sugar levels during pregnancy to reduce the risk of complications for both the mother and the baby."