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Pregnancy Risk Network has received a 2011 March of Dimes Chapter Grant

Doctors will be encouraged to discuss the risks of birth defects and medications *before* women even get pregnant, thanks to a new March of Dimes Chapter Grant to the Pregnancy Risk Network of Ferre Institute, Binghamton NY.

Some 160,000 babies are still being affected by birth defects each year in the U.S. “There are so many things women can do during pregnancy to prevent certain birth defects, such as learning about possible birth defect risk when a medication is prescribed, avoiding alcohol and cigarettes, getting early prenatal care to address management of chronic diseases such as diabetes and hypertension. The PRN information line is here to help provide as much information as possible to women in our state,” said Mark Roth, Teratogen Information Specialist at PRN.

The project is titled “Practical and applied preconception risk conversations during routine health care” and aims to increase medical practitioner knowledge of the importance of preconception discussion of medication usage and co-risk factors (smoking, alcohol, workplace and environmental exposures) and promotion of folic acid and early prenatal care states Luba Djurdjinovic MS, Executive Director of the Ferre Institute.

“Every woman of reproductive age who is capable of becoming pregnant is a candidate for preconception care” Michael Lu MD Am Fam Physician 2007: 76:397-400

The Pregnancy Risk Network: New York Teratogen Information Service (PRN) aims to educate women about all types of exposures that pose risk to pregnancy and breastfeeding. The Central NY March of Dimes has been a leader and advocate to improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature birth and infant mortality through research, community services, education and advocacy to save babies lives.

For more information or if you would like to schedule an interview, please contact Luba Djurdjinovic MS, Executive Director or Mark Roth, Teratogen Information Specialist, Pregnancy Risk Network at 1.888 483.3773 (administration).

