Pregnancy (especially during the third trimester of pregnancy). It is defined as carbohydrate intolerance, which is the inability of the body to adequately process carbohydrates (sugars and starches) into energy for the body, and develops or is first recognized during pregnancy. GDM is estimated to occur in 1–14 percent of U.S. pregnancies, affecting more than 200,000 women annually. It is one of the most common disorders in pregnancy and is associated with an increased risk of complications for the mother and child. Potential complications during pregnancy and delivery include preeclampsia (high blood pressure and excess protein in the urine), cesarean delivery, macrosomia (large birth weight), shoulder dystocia (when a baby’s shoulders become lodged during delivery), and birth injuries. For the neonate, complications include difficulty breathing at birth, hypoglycemia (low blood sugar), and jaundice. Up to one-half of the women who have GDM during pregnancy will develop type 2 diabetes later in life.

Although the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force found in 2008 that the evidence was insufficient to assess the balance between the benefits and harms of screening women for GDM, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists recommends universal screening for gestational diabetes using patient history, risk factors, or laboratory testing, such as with a glucose challenge test (GCT). Different approaches are used internationally for screening and diagnosis of GDM. The standard method in the United States begins with a GCT, which involves drinking a sweetened liquid containing 50 grams of sugar (glucose). A blood sample is taken after 1 hour, which measures the glucose level. If high, a diagnostic test is administered using a larger dose of glucose, and several blood tests are performed over 3 hours. Depending on the test used and the chosen blood glucose levels that are used to diagnose GDM, the number of women who will receive the diagnosis will vary. Debate continues regarding the choice of tests and the effectiveness of treatment, especially in women with mild to moderate glucose intolerance. Potential harms of screening for GDM include anxiety for patients and the potentially adverse effects of a “high-risk” label in pregnancy. In addition, women diagnosed with GDM face stressors, including dietary constraints; a need to add or increase exercise; frequent self-monitoring of blood glucose levels; and, for some, self-administration of insulin, which will require adjustments of insulin doses.

To better understand the benefits and risks of various GDM screening and diagnostic approaches, the NIH has engaged in a rigorous assessment of the available scientific evidence. This process is sponsored by the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and the NIH Office of Disease Prevention. A multidisciplinary planning committee developed the following key questions:

1. What are the current screening and diagnostic approaches for gestational diabetes mellitus, what are the glycemic thresholds for each approach, and how were these thresholds chosen?
2. What are the effects of various gestational diabetes mellitus screening/diagnostic approaches for patients, providers, and U.S. health care systems?
3. In the absence of treatment, how do health outcomes of mothers who meet various criteria for gestational diabetes mellitus and their offspring compare with those who do not?
4. Does treatment modify the health outcomes of mothers who meet various criteria for gestational diabetes mellitus and their offspring?
5. What are the harms of treating gestational diabetes mellitus, and do they vary by diagnostic approach?
6. Given all of the above, what diagnostic approach(es) for gestational diabetes mellitus should be recommended, if any?
7. What are the key research gaps in the diagnostic approach for gestational diabetes mellitus?

An evidence report on GDM was prepared through the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality’s Evidence-based Practice Centers program and this Consensus Development Conference will be held on March 4–6, 2013.

During the conference, invited experts, including the authors of the evidence report, will present scientific data. Attendees will have opportunities to ask questions and provide comments during open discussion periods. After weighing the evidence, an unbiased, independent panel will prepare and present a consensus statement addressing the key questions. The statement will be widely disseminated to practitioners, policymakers, patients, researchers, the general public, and the media.

Please Note: As part of the NIH’s measures to ensure the safety of employees and property, all visitors must be prepared to show a photo ID upon request. Visitors may be required to pass through a metal detector and have bags, backpacks, or purses inspected or x-rayed as they enter NIH buildings. For more information about the security measures at NIH, please visit the Web site at http://www.nih.gov/about/visitorsecurity.htm.

Dated: February 8, 2013.

Francis S. Collins,
Director, National Institutes of Health.

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BILLING CODE 4140–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases; Notice of Closed Meeting

Pursuant to section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. App.), notice is hereby given of the following meeting.

The meeting will be closed to the public in accordance with the provisions set forth in sections 552b(c)(4) and 552b(c)(6), Title 5 U.S.C., as amended. The grant applications and the discussions could disclose confidential trade secrets or commercial property such as patentable material, and personal information concerning individuals associated with the grant applications, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

Name of Committee: Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel; Drug Discovery.

Date: March 7, 2013.

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: National Institute of Health, Building 31, Room 6A07, Bldg. 31, Bethesda, MD 20892.

Name of Committee: Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel; Drug Discovery.

Date: March 8, 2013.

Time: 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

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