

439 University Avenue
Suite 1850
Toronto, ON M5G 1Y8

Tel: (416) 367-3313
1-800-267-6817 (ON)
Fax: (416) 367-2844
E-mail: info@opha.on.ca
www.opha.on.ca

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Sue Makin
E-mail: smakin@opha.on.ca

Executive Director

Siu Mee Cheng
E-mail: scheng@opha.on.ca

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*Charitable Registration
Number 11924 8771 RR0001*

Kristi B. Adamo, PhD
Research Scientist and CIHR New Investigator
Director of HALO Research Laboratory
Healthy Active Living and Obesity Research Group
Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario Research Institute

September 4, 2013

Dear Dr. Adamo,

The Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA) has established a strong record of success as the voice of Public Health in Ontario. We are a member-based not-for-profit association that has been advancing the public health agenda since 1949. We are unique in that our membership represents many disciplines from across multiple sectors. As such, we have an interest in many public health issues including reproductive health. OPHA provides leadership on issues affecting the public's health and to strengthen the impact of people who are active in public and community health throughout Ontario. OPHA does this through a variety of means including advocacy, capacity building, research and knowledge exchange and transfer. We have a number of subject matter expert workgroups that help drive issues for OPHA including a Reproductive Health Workgroup.

This workgroup's membership is comprised of over thirty health professionals with a specific interest in promoting reproductive health within Ontario. Our members, although representative of a wide variety of disciplines, primarily come from the Public Health sector with representation from across the province. Its vision is to see systems and policies in place to achieve optimal reproductive health for all, with a mission to advocate for policies and supportive environments that improve reproductive health outcomes. Your innovative electronic program fits very well with the association's vision and mission and hence OPHA would like to support that your innovative idea receive the resources necessary to make it a reality.

The OPHA Reproductive Health Workgroup is very excited about the SmartMOMs Canada innovative app which will help enable pregnant women to monitor and track their body weight, daily exercise and food intake in their own environments. Any evidence-informed strategy to get good credible information out to pregnant women is a welcomed addition to resources for prenatal families in support of achieving healthy birth outcomes. The diverse team involved with this project is very impressive and we look forward to seeing the easy-to-use app.

There is a large proportion of literature acknowledging the negative impact that high pre-pregnancy weight and excessive weight gain during pregnancy can have on both the mother and child. However, what's lacking are Canadian client friendly resources that can assist the public with taking positive steps towards a healthy pregnancy and positive birth outcome. Many of our members are front-line practitioners or work in service-based organizations where clients are requesting these types of resources. Due to limited Canadian evidence-based tools to refer clients to, we welcome your proposal to develop just such a tool.

In closing, the OPHA Reproductive Health Workgroup is very excited that such a diverse and talented team have come together to propose this lifestyle tracker. We wish the best to you and your colleagues in your future endeavours with this innovative resource and look forward to sharing it with the Canadian public.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'Siu Mee Cheng', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Siu Mee Cheng
Executive Director
Ontario Public Health Association

Cc: C. Mills, Co- Chair, Reproductive Health Workgroup, OPHA.