Bringing a new life into the world is a continuing miracle. We invite you to be part of research to help better understand pregnancy and its complications. Today, we know that the health of a mother during pregnancy affects both the long and short term health of the mother and child. Our goal is to better understand these effects. In addition, your participation can help us in the future to better diagnose, treat, and prevent obstetrical conditions such as gestational diabetes, preterm labor, genetic disorders, and preeclampsia.

Maternal Fetal Medicine Tissue Bank Research Program

What happens in the study?
Whenever you are getting medically indicated blood taken, we may take an extra 1-2 teaspoons of blood. If amniotic fluid is taken as part of any screening or testing, we may keep 1-2 teaspoons of the sample. In addition, if you need to provide a urine sample, we may also keep a small portion of the excess. After your baby is delivered, excess cord blood remaining will also be collected and stored for research purposes. In addition, a sample of the placental tissue will be taken. Your medical care will not be affected by whether you choose to participate in this study.

What is the benefit of this study?
You will be contributing to the future health of many mothers and children. Our understanding of pregnancy, obstetrically-related disorders, and genetic disorders will be greatly enhanced by the availability of samples from this bank to the research community.

Will this harm me?
No. Blood will only be drawn from you when samples are medically necessary and only 1-2 teaspoons will be taken at each blood draw. Following the birth of a baby, the umbilical cord is clamped and part of it is usually discarded along with the placenta.

Can I get my samples back?
You may not have your samples back for personal use. However, at any time you may request that we destroy any sample that has not yet been used. Once the sample has been used we cannot remove the data generated from its use in research.

How will samples be used?
Samples will be used to isolate cells, DNA, RNA, serum, plasma, and/or protein. These samples will be used in experiments by researchers to better understand the mechanisms of diseases and to identify potential new therapies. Not all of the experiments may exist at this time. Samples can be of use for a long time. Samples will NOT be used to clone humans or for clinical transplants.

Is my privacy protected?
Yes, your sample will be a given a unique code and will be identified only by that number. All identifying information will removed during processing and prior to sample storage. Any medical or demographic information collected will be stored with the coded number and without any identifying information.

How do I participate?
If you are interested in participating, please let a member of your OBGYN team know. A member of the research team will then meet with you at one of your appointments at the University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics. We will explain the details of the research program and if you agree to participate, you will be asked to sign a consent form. You will also be given a copy of the consent form.

For more information about the Maternal Fetal Medicine Tissue bank, please call 319-384-8667.