

**James & Esther King Biomedical Research Program**

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*Community and Family Health  
University of South Florida*

*2009 Program  
New Investigator (3-year project)*

**Project Title:** Effect of Passive Smoking on Risk for Antenatal and Post-partum Depression

**Project Summary:** Depression in the mother is an important public health concern because it could lead to the mother killing herself and her baby. Secondhand tobacco smoke has been associated with depression in the general population, but its relationship to maternal depression is poorly understood. The aim of this grant is to assess the effects of secondhand smoking on antenatal and post-partum depression. We intend to screen and recruit actively non-smoking pregnant women early in pregnancy at the Genesis Clinic in Tampa. We will screen them to establish secondhand smoking exposure using a questionnaire and testing for the presence of a substance (cotinine) in maternal urine and cord blood. At first and subsequent visits, we will look for symptoms of depression using a validated questionnaire, the Edinburgh Post-partum Depression Scale (EPDS). At subsequent study visits, mothers will be screened again to assess any changes in symptoms of depression and smoking status. This study is significant because it addresses an important health effect that could be caused by passive smoking, which is a preventable environmental factor. Additionally, the proposed use of a biomarker to establish secondhand smoking status is innovative.