The Preeclampsia Foundation has been invited to participate in the recently formed **Hypertension in Pregnancy Guidelines Task Force**
convened by the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG). Although we will have the opportunity to weigh in on all the guidelines, we have been specifically asked to contribute recommendations regarding patient education, such as what physicians should be telling their patients in early pregnancy and how best to communicate with patients.

“The fact that these guidelines will even stipulate the necessity of patient education is a huge step forward for our mission,” explained Eleni Tsigas, executive director of the Preeclampsia Foundation. “Years of work in this area, developing relationships, collecting instructive information from our members, listening to the concerns and challenges of health care providers, and advocating for the vital role that patient education can play in the diagnosis and pregnancy outcomes is finally paying off,” she added.

This Task Force has been convened under the direction of ACOG President Dr. James N. Martin, Jr ., who also has served on the Foundation’s medical advisory board for over a decade. Dr. Martin’s clinical expertise lies in the management of complicated pregnancies, particularly those related to hypertensive disorders such as HELLP syndrome and preeclampsia.

Martin was sworn in as the 62nd president of ACOG during the presidential inauguration and convocation at the annual conference of ob-gyns on May 4, 2011 in Washington, DC. His election to the country’s largest and most influential professional society of OB-GYNs provided

an encouraging boost to our mission, as he has chosen to focus on preeclampsia and hypertensive complications of pregnancy in the year ahead. Dr. Martin said that this area has "consumed me professionally for more than 30 years," and then went on to identify ten key reasons why this condition deserves to be a major focus of ACOG.

Eleni Tsigas was there and had an opportunity to interview him about his initiatives and any special message he had for patients. His message to patients won't surprise you, but who he mentions in his inaugural address might... Check out the interview !