We appreciated all the visitors at the PeriBooth during the recent AWHONN conference in Nashville—thanks to everyone who stopped by! I hope you all had as great a time as the PeriStaff tells me they did (sadly, I was not able to be present there this time, but they all assure me I really missed out on a wonderful time…). For those of you who, like me, were unable to attend, please visit the next best thing: the photos on our Facebook PeriPage!

This month’s topic, Immunology of Pregnancy, is a subject that has both basic science and clinical importance. With improved understanding of the immune system, some day we actually may understand why a woman’s immune system does not reject all fetal tissue as foreign, in the same manner as if the placenta and fetus were unmatched transplants. More globally, autoimmune disease has many possible adverse affects on a growing placenta and fetus, and understanding these interactions allows for rational treatment and management. The “antiphospholipid syndrome” is one such autoimmune condition, and is not uncommon. There are specified diagnostic criteria, laboratory evaluation, and treatments can help optimize pregnancy outcome in affected women, or in women who have experienced adverse outcomes suggestive of an autoimmune etiology. This month’s article(s) endeavor(s) to clarify this complicated subject.

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Sincerely,

J. Christopher Glantz, M.D., M.P.H.
Medical Associate Editor