Statement from CADDRA and CADDAC on Acetaminophen Use During Pregnancy

Recent media reports have led to discussions around an association of acetaminophen use in pregnancy and an increased risk of ADHD and other neurodevelopmental diseases in children, despite the lack of research evidence for causality. Acetaminophen is used in many over-the- counter pain killers, including brand name Tylenol.

"While some studies show a small association, the evidence is not strong enough to conclude that acetaminophen use causes ADHD," says Dr. Martin Gignac, Chair of CADDRA – Canadian ADHD Resource Alliance. *"The best approach is for pregnant women to make informed decisions in consultation with their healthcare providers."*

Research studies show only a weak association between a mother using acetaminophen when pregnant and subsequent ADHD or ADHD symptoms in the child. Parents should not assume that acetaminophen use in pregnancy caused ADHD in their child.

Health Canada indicates that there is **no conclusive evidence** that using acetaminophen as directed during pregnancy causes autism or other neurodevelopmental disorders. In addition, it states that untreated fever and pain in pregnant women can pose risks to the unborn child.

Click **here** for additional Health Canada information.

Heidi Bernhardt, founder of the Centre for ADHD Awareness, Canada (CADDAC) said: "*CADDAC is concerned that the misleading statement that acetaminophen use in pregnancy causes neurodevelopmental disorders, will result in unwarranted stress, stigma and guilt for parents of children with neurodevelopmental disorders and cause misinformed health decisions*."

CADDRA and CADDAC will continue to follow research developments and share updates as more evidence becomes available.

CADDRA – Canadian ADHD Resource Alliance is an independent, not-for-profit, resource organization for medical, healthcare and research professionals with an interest in the field of ADHD.

CADDAC – Centre for ADHD Awareness, Canada is national charity providing leadership in awareness, education, and advocacy for ADHD across Canada.