

## Discussion

*PD Gluckman (Auckland, New Zealand):* Do you think that maternal GH-V levels are simply a reflection of placental mass, or are they being actively regulated in the maternal circulation? In pregnancies where there is a disproportionate increase in placental size relative to fetal size, are GH-V levels low, as in the classic forms of IUGR, or is it that it is just a passive reflection of placental mass, as appears to be the case for placental lactogen?

*D Evain-Brion (Paris, France):* We are currently working on the possible regulation of placental GH,

and I would hope to be able to provide an answer in the near future.

*J Parks (Atlanta, USA):* I was interested in the fall in placental GH with the onset of labour. Are there other placental products that drop at the same time?

*D Evain-Brion:* Placental lactogen also falls at this time. From the physiological point of view, as soon as labour begins, there is a change in maternal blood flow and a massive release of proteases. These two events could explain why there is such a dramatic decrease with the onset of labour.

## **INTRAUTERINE GROWTH RETARDATION**

