



Monthly Newsletter

From the International Clearinghouse

February 2013 (issue 2013-2)

What's going on regarding birth defects

- **Prevention Month.** The Spanish program (ECEMC) joined last year the Prevention Month in the United States. This year, to celebrate the Prevention Month, ECEMC launched 14 preventive guidelines on different issues, which you are invited to view on the website of Fundacion 1000 on congenital defects (in Spanish): <http://www.fundacion1000.es/actualidad> (provided by María Luisa Martínez-Frías)
- **Just published** on JMR- Research Protocol: "The Natural History of Spina Bifida in Children Pilot Project: Research Protocol. Full text available for download at <http://www.researchprotocols.org/2013/1/e2/> (provided by Csaba Siffel)
- **Nuclear Accident.** The Symposium on the Medical and Ecological Consequences of the Fukushima Nuclear Accident will take place on 11-12 March 2013 at the New York Academy of Medicine, New York City, NY (<http://nuclearfreeplanet.org/symposium.html>). Wladimir Wertelecki (Ukraine OMNI-Net) will speak on congenital malformations among a population isolate living in proximity to Chornobyl and exposed to low ionizing radiation since 1986. The PowerPoint presentation is available upon request at genfir3@gmail.com (provided by Wladimir Wertelecki)
- **Alcohol.** First International Conference on Prevention of FASD (Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder): a conference about preventing harm from alcohol use during pregnancy. September 23-25, 2013, Shaw Conference Centre, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. <http://www.fasdedmonton2013.ca/>(provided by Annukka Ritvanen)
- **Training.** The 2013 Training Program in Prevention and Surveillance of Birth Defects and Preterm Birth will take place on 27 to 31 May 2013, at WHO Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, with Faculty from ICBDSR, CDC, and WHO. By the deadline (31 Jan), 41 applications were received, and up to 27 trainees will be selected. New to the 2013 program is a distance-based module on selected key areas (epidemiology, birth defects, prevention), to maximize the learning experience at the face-to-face week in May.

News from the Headquarter and Executive Committee

- **SAVE THE DATE: 2013 ICBDSR Annual Meeting**, San José, Costa Rica, **3 to 6 December 2013**. Further details on program and registrations to follow. You will hear more soon from the planning committee.
- **Executive Committee meeting:** the EC met at ICBDSR on 31 January and 1 February 2013. Pressing issues that were discussed included fiscal status, budget, the 2013 annual meeting, and enhancing communication, training, and support of current and new programs. Several items are summarized below, with additional details to follow shortly in the minutes.
- **2013 Alessandra Lisi Prize:** deadlines and eligibility were updated and will be posted shortly on the ICBDSR website.
- **ICBDSR Distinguished Service Award:** Dr Brian Lowry was honored with the inaugural 2012 Distinguished Service Award for service and achievement in the Clearinghouse. Eligibility and nomination procedure will be posted shortly on the ICBDSR website.
- **2012 Annual Report:** in preparation, with 2010 data. To ensure timeliness and accuracy, **by February 28, 2013** please:
 - **Update the description of your Program:** the most recent (AR 2011) is at www.icbdsr.org/filebank/documents/ar2005/Report2011.pdf
 - Send a **list of papers** by you or your collaborators, published in 2011-2012, for inclusion in "Publications by ICBDSR Members"

Upcoming deadlines

- 20 February 2013: Data for the **1st quarter 2012**, to be published in the **Quarterly Report/Krystalos**.
- 28 February 2013: update of Program description and list of papers published in 2011-2012.
- 30 April 2013: nominations for the Alessandra Lisi Prize (email to centre@icbdsr.org)
- 30 April 2013: nominations for the ICBDSR Distinguished Service Award (email to centre@icbdsr.org)
- 31 August 2013: abstracts for 2013 Annual Meeting (details to be made available in the near future).

Would you like to contribute with any news from your program for next Monthly Newsletter?

Please send contributions, comments or questions to centre@icbdsr.org