



## Monthly Newsletter From the International Clearinghouse

April 2014

Issue 2014 - 4

### What's going on regarding birth defects

The U.S. **National Birth Defects Prevention Network (NBDPN)** will hold its 17th Annual Meeting using a virtual meeting format. The sessions will be similar to previous years and will cover current issues in birth defects surveillance, research, and prevention. The 3<sup>rd</sup> session, April 23, 2014, will address *Enhancing Methods and Practice of Birth Defects Surveillance*. To view additional information and for registration detail on this session, and the 4<sup>th</sup> and final session (May 28<sup>th</sup>) please visit:

[http://www.nbdpn.org/2014\\_virtual\\_annual\\_meeting.php](http://www.nbdpn.org/2014_virtual_annual_meeting.php)

### News from the Headquarter and Executive Committee

- A collaborative publication from WHO, CDC and ICBDSP has been recently released: **"Birth Defects Surveillance. A Manual for Program Managers"**.  
Electronic link for downloading the manual:  
[http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/110223/1/9789241548724\\_eng.pdf?ua=1](http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/110223/1/9789241548724_eng.pdf?ua=1) (file size: 3.35 MB)  
Electronic link for accessing the "sample abstraction form" (appendix G of the Manual):[http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/110223/2/9789241548724\\_eng\\_form.pdf?ua=1](http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/110223/2/9789241548724_eng_form.pdf?ua=1) (file size: 232 KB).  
A link to a specific page on the WHO website, with a short overview:  
[http://www.who.int/nutrition/publications/birthdefects\\_manual/en/](http://www.who.int/nutrition/publications/birthdefects_manual/en/)
- **The ICBDSP Executive Committee** met on March 6-7, 2014 at ICBDSP Headquarters in Rome. Important issues that were discussed included the ICBDSP budget, increasing membership, increasing member participation, improving communication, planning for 2015 International Day of Birth Defects, creation of committees to work on specific aspects, fiscal and legal issues, Annual Meeting (2014 and beyond), and the scientific plan for 2014-15, among other issues.
- **Fiscal and legal issues:** ICBDSP has recently been notified on its official acknowledgment as a tax-exempt organization in U.S. Some legal procedures will follow after this important recognition.
- 2014 Edition of the **Training Program on Surveillance and Prevention of Birth Defects and Preterm Births** (Geneva, WHO Headquarters, 7-11 July 2014). To date, 29 trainees confirmed their participation. The faculty is working on the online pre-training course that will start on April 28, 2014, through the e-learning platform "Moodle".
- **Annual Meeting 2014 – Helsinki, Finland:** the "Annual Meeting Planning Committee" has been established. Members are: Eva Bermejo, Mark Canfield, Annukka Ritvanen, Danielle Landau and Fabrizio Bianchi.  
This year, the Annual Meeting will include a Workshop shared with local professionals, and a very interesting agenda is being prepared. More info will be available shortly on the website. You should have already received the list of suggested topics and instructions for abstracts' submissions. Also, the Business Meeting will include important issues for our organization, so please plan on attending this meeting.
- **April 7-8:** Meeting on **Estimating Burden of Disease for Congenital Disorders- Increasing the Input Data and Harmonizing Methods, London, England**. Pierpaolo Mastroiacovo was invited to attend this meeting and to present information about the ICBDSP. The meeting is organized by the University College of London and the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. The overall aim of meeting is to review the ongoing estimation by the "Congenital Expert Group" and to initiate steps towards a network for ongoing data input and revision of these estimates. Other organizations participating in the meeting will be: WHO, CDC, EUROCAT, and IHME, as well as representatives from Lebanon, China Brazil, and Middle East/ EMRO region.

### Upcoming deadlines

- **April 30, 2014:** application to the **Alessandra Lisi Award**. Details at <http://icbdsr.org/page.asp?p=21608>
- **April 30, 2014:** exemption request of 2014 dues payment.
- **May 20, 2014:** data for the **2nd quarter 2013**, to be published in the **Quarterly Report/Krystalos**.
- **May 31, 2014:** nominations to the **Distinguished Service Award**. Details at <http://www.icbdsr.org/page.asp?n=dsa>
- **May 31, 2014:** submission of abstracts for the **41<sup>th</sup> Annual ICBDSP Meeting** (info on the website).
- **July 31, 2014:** payment of 2014 annual dues.

**SAVE THE DATE: 13-16 September 2014, 41<sup>th</sup> Annual ICBDSP Meeting in Helsinki, Finland**  
*Please, send your contributions to this Newsletter to: [centre@icbdsr.org](mailto:centre@icbdsr.org)*