



## Monthly Newsletter From the International Clearinghouse

May 2014

Issue 2014 - 5

### What's going on regarding birth defects

A workshop last December featured a tool to help country teams compare the cost of flour fortification with the economic consequences of vitamin and mineral deficiencies. The Excel-based tool is now available online for your use. This is a multi-step process that will take some time, and the results can be used as advocacy information in your setting.

- First, download a list of needed indicators:  
[http://www.ffinetwork.org/why\\_fortify/documents/CostBenefitIndicatorList.pdf](http://www.ffinetwork.org/why_fortify/documents/CostBenefitIndicatorList.pdf)
  - get as much of the information as you can, but do not worry if you cannot find all the data
- Directions for using the indicators can be found at  
[http://www.ffinetwork.org/why\\_fortify/documents/Instructions.pdf](http://www.ffinetwork.org/why_fortify/documents/Instructions.pdf)
- The Excel-based tool (unlocked version) can be downloaded from the second paragraph under "Objectives" on this page: <http://www.ffinetwork.org/about/calendar/2013/CostBenefit2013.html>

The tool was developed as a project of Smarter Futures, a partnership among the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, AkzoNobel, Helen Keller International (HKI), the International Federation for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus (IF), and Flour Fortification Initiative (FFI).

### News from members

The "Alberta Congenital Anomalies Surveillance System: Tenth Report 1997-2011" has been published on March 2014. The Report is available on line at <http://www.health.alberta.ca/documents/Congenital-Anomalies-report-10-2014.pdf> If you would like a paper copy please contact Brian Lowry at [Brian.Lowry@albertahealthservices.ca](mailto:Brian.Lowry@albertahealthservices.ca)

Yudelkis Benítez Cordero extends the invitation to members of the Clearinghouse to participate in the **Second International Congress of Community Genetics** in Havana, Cuba on December 2-5, 2014. The Congress is organized by the Cuban Society of Human Genetics. Additional information: <http://geneticacomunitaria2014.sld.cu/index.php/geneticacomunitaria/2014>

### News from the Headquarters and Executive Committee

- 2014 Edition of the **Training Program on Surveillance and Prevention of Birth Defects and Preterm Births** (Geneva, WHO Headquarters, 7-11 July 2014). The online pre-training course started at the end of April and the trainees are deeply involved in the e-learning activities.
- **Annual Meeting 2014 – Helsinki, Finland:** the Annual Meeting Planning Committee is working on the organization of the meeting and the workshop. Please note that the deadline for abstract submission is May 31, 2014.

### Upcoming deadlines

- **May 31, 2014: Extended deadline** for application to the **Alessandra Lisi Award**. Details at <http://icbdsr.org/page.asp?p=21608>
- **May 31, 2014: Extended deadline** for 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 ICBSR Meeting**. Info at [www.icbdsr.org](http://www.icbdsr.org)
- **July 31, 2014:** payment of 2014 annual dues

**SAVE THE DATE:13-16 September 2014, 41<sup>th</sup> Annual ICBSR Meeting in Helsinki, Finland**

*Please, send your contributions to this Newsletter to: [centre@icbdsr.org](mailto:centre@icbdsr.org)*