



Monthly Newsletter From the International Clearinghouse

June 2014

Issue 2014 - 6

What's going on regarding birth defects

- The inaugural issue of the **Birth Defects COUNT partners' newsletter** was released in early June. Birth Defects COUNT (Countries and Organizations United for Neural Tube Defects Prevention), CDC's global birth defects prevention initiative, aims to increase folic acid intake among women of reproductive age for the prevention of neural tube defects globally. This first edition of the newsletter features a program highlight focusing on a collaborative initiative between CDC and clinicians and epidemiologists in Kenya, a partner spotlight on the International Federation for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus, and other exciting news and events about CDC's global birth defects prevention work. If you would like to receive the newsletter, please send an email request to BirthDefectsCOUNT@cdc.gov Also, a PDF file can be requested to centre@icbdsr.org
- A promising **article** by Bortolus et al. has just been published in BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth [14(1):166], summarizing a project (a joint effort by research groups in Italy and the Netherlands) **to assess the effect of a daily periconceptional dose of 4.0 mg of folic acid, instead of 0.4 mg/day**, on reducing the occurrence of all congenital defects, as well as its effects on a series of other outcomes. A total of 1,000 pregnancies need to be evaluated to detect an absolute reduction of the frequency of 8%. The project promotes an international prospective meta-analysis.

News from members

No news was received from members at the Centre this month. We kindly invite you to share with other Clearinghouse members some progresses in your research, and/or any local activity that could be of interest for all.

News from the Headquarter and Executive Committee

- Pierpaolo Mastroiacovo, as Director of ICBD, has been invited to participate in the **29th EUROCAT Registry Leaders' Meeting** that will take place in Belfast on June 26-27, 2014. He will give a short presentation on ICBD, will participate in a short meeting of WHO Collaborating Centres, and will attend the EUROCAT's Steering Committee Meeting, together with other invited guests.
- He has also been invited to participate in a meeting organized by WHO in Bonn, Germany (7-8 July 2014), on the **"Identification of risks of endocrine-disrupting chemicals: overview of existing practices and steps ahead"**.
- Almost everything is already prepared for the **2014 Edition of the Training Program on Surveillance and Prevention of Birth Defects and Preterm Births** (Geneva, WHO Headquarters, 7-11 July 2014).
- **ICBDSR Annual Meeting 2014** – Helsinki, Finland: A high participation is expected, based on the numerous abstracts received. Also, there is much interest among Finnish participants in the joint Workshop, which will focus on "Human genetic epidemiology / population genetics / biobanking". You should have already received all the info regarding the Annual Meeting and Workshop, which is also available in the website.

Upcoming deadlines

- **May 31, 2014:** Application for **travel support** to attend the **Annual Meeting**.
- **July 31, 2014:** **payment of 2014 annual dues**.
- **July 31, 2014:** **data for the Annual Report 2014** (with data for 2012 or most recent available final data).
- **August 20, 2014:** data for the **3rd quarter 2013**, to be published in the **Quarterly Report/Krystalos**.
- **September 1, 2014:** **Hotel reservation deadline** for the Annual Meeting and Workshop.

SAVE THE DATE: 13-16 September 2014, 41th Annual ICBDSR Meeting in Helsinki, Finland
Please, send your contributions to this Newsletter to: centre@icbdsr.org