



## Monthly Newsletter From the International Clearinghouse

July 2014

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### What's going on regarding birth defects

The **Teratology Society** announced that Dr. Godfrey Oakley wrote a draft **resolution for mandating folic acid fortification**, and this has been reviewed by the Public Affairs Committee and Council. The draft will be available for comments until July 21, and the revised resolution will be provided to the European Teratology Society (ETS) and the Japanese Teratology Society (JTS) for their consideration. Current wording of the draft, after listing the existing evidences, recommends:

- All governments require mandatory folic acid fortification of a centrally produced food such as wheat flour, corn flour or meal, and maize flour or meal to provide almost all adults with an additional at least 150 micrograms of folic acid per day,
- That a global strategic plan for the total prevention of folic acid dependent spina bifida and anencephaly by 2024 be written by 2017.
- That members of the Teratology Society champion mandatory folic acid fortification in their countries.

### News from members

- A paper copy of the latest report of **Alberta Congenital Anomalies Surveillance System (ACASS)** has been received at the Centre. Also available at <http://www.health.alberta.ca/documents/Congenital-Anomalies-Report-10-2014.pdf>
- Also, a nicely done report on "**Congenital Anomalies in Canada 2013**" has recently been published, with R. Brian Lowry as Lead Editor. A web copy of it can be requested by emailing to [CCASN-RCSAC@phac-aspc.gc.ca](mailto:CCASN-RCSAC@phac-aspc.gc.ca)
- **Wales:** D. Tucker informed that **CARIS** has an improved website, with details of the register, data tables and long term surveillance and trends in Wales, as well as previous annual reports. It includes prevalence rates of rare genetic diseases and syndromic conditions ([www.caris.wales.nhs.uk](http://www.caris.wales.nhs.uk)).
- Also, CARIS is hosting the **BINOCAR (British Isles Network Of Congenital Anomaly Registers) meeting**, on October 7<sup>th</sup>, in the Dylan Thomas Centre (Swansea) in his 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Speakers include Helen Dolk from EUROCAT and John Newton from Public Health England. Abstracts can be submitted. Details at [www.binocar.org](http://www.binocar.org)

### News from the Headquarter and Executive Committee

- During the last ICBDSR Annual Meeting, it was agreed to celebrate the **World Birth Defects Awareness Day**. A committee was created to organize activities to this respect, and it has been finally planned for **January 15, 2015**. More information regarding this and advertising this day will be distributed in advance. Therefore, if you want some specific organization or social media in your country to be included in the distribution list, please provide their contact details to [centre@icbdsr.org](mailto:centre@icbdsr.org)
- **2014 Edition of the Training Program on Surveillance and Prevention of Birth Defects and Preterm Births** (Geneva, WHO Headquarters, 7-11 July 2014): Much work was developed to provide this specific and unique training organized by the ICBSR, CDC and WHO. Its fourth edition is already a fact.
- **ICBDSR Annual Meeting 2014** – Helsinki, Finland: Abstracts received from ICBSR members were evaluated following a peer review process and official notifications of acceptance have already been sent to pertinent authors. The same process will be followed with abstracts from Finnish participants. Remember that the info regarding the Annual Meeting and Workshop, is also available in the website, and be sure that you make your hotel reservation before September 1, 2014.

### Upcoming deadlines

- **July 31, 2014:** payment of 2014 annual dues.
- **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, 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)*