



## Monthly Newsletter From the International Clearinghouse

November 2014

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### What's Going on Regarding Birth Defects

The most important news of this month is that the "**World Birth Defects Day**" will be celebrated on **March 3, 2015**, as anticipated during the 41<sup>st</sup> ICBDSR Annual Meeting in Helsinki.

The following outstanding organizations involved in the field of Birth Defects and/or in the field of Maternal and Child Health agreed to promote this Day:

1. CDC-Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, US
2. ECLAMC-Estudio Colaborativo Latino-Americano Malformaciones Congénitas, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and Buenos Aires, Argentina
3. EDRIC - European Dysmelia Reference Information Center, Båstad, Sweden
4. EUROCAT-European Congenital Anomalies Surveillance, Belfast, UK
5. ICBDSR-International Clearinghouse for Birth Defects Surveillance and Research, US/Italy
6. IFSBH-International Federation of Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus, Brussels, Belgium
7. MoD-March of Dimes, New York, US
8. NBDPN-National Birth Defects Prevention Network, Houston, US
9. PAHO-Pan-American Health Organization, Montevideo, Uruguay
10. PMNCH-Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health, Genève, Switzerland
11. SEARO-South-East Asia Regional Office of WHO, New Delhi, India

**March 3, 2015** will be the first time in the world that a **global day** focused on Birth Defects will be observed. It will involve many countries in the 5 continents, and it is planned that further annual celebrations will follow on the same date.

### News from Programs and Membership

- News from several Programs, including notes on recent publications, has been shared through the ICBDSR ListServ in the last weeks.
- The application from Jiang Xiaoqing (linked to data collection of birth defects surveillance in Jiangsu Province in China), to become an Affiliate Member of the Clearinghouse has been unanimously accepted by the Executive Committee. We welcome Jiang Xiaoqing and look forward to future collaborative work!

### News from the Headquarters and Executive Committee

- Feedback on the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting has been collected by a Survey Monkey evaluation form. Thank you to those who took time to respond to this survey. About 50% of the attendees responded. Apart from a general positive evaluation of the whole meeting, there were some useful tips and suggestions to implement the quality of the Scientific Sessions and the Business meeting. Some of these items will be discussed in the next Executive Committee meeting, held in Rome on March 16-18, 2015.
- During the Workshop session of the Clearinghouse Annual Meeting in Helsinki, we discussed the possibility of initiating a collaborative project on hypospadias, with possible future investigation on other genital defects. A questionnaire about the participation in this study has been distributed among members, please fill up the form and send in back to [centre@icbdsr.org](mailto:centre@icbdsr.org) by November 15, 2014.

**SAVE THE DATE: 10-13 September 2015, 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual ICBDSR Meeting in Spoleto, Italy**

### Upcoming deadlines

- **November 15:** questionnaire on participation in the collaborative project on hypospadias
- **November 20 :** data for the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2013
- **November 30:** annual data (2012, or the most recent available year), for the Annual Report 2014
- **December 31:** last call for payment of 2014 dues from missing programs (this can affect the voting right)

**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](mailto:centre@icbdsr.org)