



## Monthly Newsletter From the International Clearinghouse

February 2015

Issue 2015-02

### What's Going on Regarding Birth Defects

**The World Birth Defects Day (WBDD)** is quickly approaching, just a few days left. The collaboration among the 12 promoting organizations that started when the ICBDSR proposed to have the “Day” in September 2014, has been very fruitful: a lot of work has been done and many initiatives are planned. Please visit the Clearinghouse website [www.icbdsr.org](http://www.icbdsr.org) for information on how to contribute and what has been already planned by several organizations, including some ICBDSR Surveillance Programs.

Recommendations for easy participation and a fruitful contribution:

- through **Twitter**, disseminate tweets related to WBDD and birth defects in general using the hash tag #worldbdday
- support the World Day by joining **Thunderclap** at <https://www.thunderclap.it/projects/22229-world-birth-defects-day?locale=en>. Although we already got the minimum number of 100 supporters to activate Thunderclap, our aim is to reach at least 300 supporters, so please participate and disseminate the link
- participate to the **Buzz Day** on **Twitter** on March 3, 2015, using the hash tag #worldbdday



**We will have a GREAT World Birth Defects Day on March 3**  
**Your unique contribution to increase general awareness on birth defects is needed and irreplaceable. Thank you**

### News from the Headquarters and Executive Committee

- The Clearinghouse is on Twitter! (as a lesson from the World Birth Defects Day). Please, follow the account [@ICBDSR](https://twitter.com/ICBDSR)
- The “Call for Abstracts” for the 2015 Annual Meeting has been distributed among members and interested partners. It is available on the ICBDSR website [www.icbdsr.org](http://www.icbdsr.org) (42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting section).

### Progress of collaborative projects

- Collaborative project on **hypospadias**: two principal co-investigators have been identified, A.J. Agopian (The University of Texas, USA) and Natasha Nassar (University of Sidney, Australia). They have already started to plan the collaboration and process for working on the dataset.
- Collaborative study on **“Prenatal diagnosis and congenital heart defects”**: the main protocol and a questionnaire on prenatal screening policies have been distributed recently among members. Currently, 15 programs expressed their interest to participate in the study.

### Deadlines

- **February 20**: data for the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2014

**SAVE THE DATE: 10-13 September 2015, 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual ICBDSR Meeting in Spoleto, Italy**  
**Albornoz Palace Hotel <http://www.albornozpalace.com/eng/index.html>**