



Monthly Newsletter From the International Clearinghouse

May 2015

Issue 2015-05

What's Going on Regarding Birth Defects

The **7th International Conference on the Prevention of Birth Defects and Disabilities in the Developing World (ICBD7)** will take place in Dar es Saalam, Tanzania, September 21-24, 2015. Registration and Abstracts submission at <http://www.icbd2015.com/>

CDC released an [MMWR Policy Note](#) highlighting a new guideline issued by the World Health Organization (WHO): the **Guideline on Optimal Serum and Red Blood Cell Folate Concentrations in Women of Reproductive Age for Prevention of Neural Tube Defects**, that defines the level at which neural tube defects are best prevented based on population-level biomarkers. The WHO guideline can be used as a tool to help countries assess neural tube defects risk at a population level and to inform prevention interventions. CDC has developed a [webpage](#) to help public health professionals, policymakers, and scientific staff globally to better understand the guideline's implications for public health practice. There, you'll find an overview of the guideline, information on how it could be applied at the country level, instructions for requesting technical assistance from CDC, and a link to view the guideline in its entirety.

News from Members

No news from ICBD's members has been received this month. Please, consider any progress or news that could be shared with others through the Clearinghouse, and send it to centre@icbdsr.org

News from the Headquarters and Executive Committee

- The **Report of Activities of the "World Birth Defects Day-2015"** is available on the ICBD's website at <http://www.icbdsr.org/page.asp?p=21718&l=1>.

The plan is to:

1. Run the slides during free time at the ICBD's Annual Meeting in Spoleto
 2. Disseminate the report to selected persons that may help the success of the WBDD-2016
 3. Use the report to show what has been already done to supporters of the WBDD-2016
- In response to the **"Call for Abstracts"** for the **2015 Annual Meeting (Spoleto, Italy, Sep 10-13)** we received more than 30 abstracts. The Annual Meeting planning committee will review the received abstracts and make the decisions regarding acceptance of abstracts and designated presentation format. Corresponding Authors will receive an email of notification regarding acceptance of abstracts by June 10, 2015. Many thanks to all the contributors.
 - The **Executive Board of the WHO** decided to maintain the **ICBD's official relations** with the organization, after reviewing the report submitted by the Clearinghouse.

Upcoming Deadlines

- **May 31:** nominations for the "ICBD's Distinguished Service Award". Nomination procedures at www.icbdsr.org
- **May 31:** data for the 2nd Quarter 2014
- **May 31:** extended deadline for submitting application to the "Alessandra Lisi Award". Procedures for application available at www.icbdsr.org