



Monthly Newsletter

International Clearinghouse for Birth Defects Surveillance and Research

March 2016

Issue 2016-3

What's Going on Regarding Birth Defects

World Birth Defects Day (WBDD) – March 3, 2016

The Clearinghouse is proud to have partnered with the Participating Organizations around the world to spread awareness on birth defects on March 3.

The WBDD **Thunderclap** campaign was among the first three trending campaigns, and had 947 supporters with 4.8 ml social reach.

The **Buzz Day** March 3 on Twitter, using the hashtag #WorldBDDay, was also successful: an audience of almost 4 ml of accounts and 9.5 ml of impressions were reached. Several local events, meetings, workshops, and symposiums have been launched by WBDD partners and supporters. ICBDSR is collecting information on local

events, in order to prepare a full report of the 2016 WBDD activities. As soon as it's ready, it will be posted in the ICBDSR website.

World Birth Defects Day 2016
by CDC National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities category: Health

"Birth defects affect 3-5% of infants worldwide. It's a major cause of death/disability. Lend your voice! #worldbdday http://thndr.me/T2luyg"

SUPPORTERS 947 of 100 (100% of goal reached)
SOCIAL REACH 4,833,519
TIME LEFT Complete
Ends Mar 03, 10:00 AM EST

- **Zika virus infection during pregnancy:** health agencies and local health authorities worldwide are working together on Zika and birth defects. Look at the dedicated page on the ICBDSR website www.icbdsr.org, created for gathering and making available the official information regarding particularly microcephaly with or without neurological or other organ anomalies and its possible association with the Zika virus infection.
- The **Teratology Society Annual Meeting** will be held on 25-29 June 2016 in San Antonio, Texas. The Teratology Society has many international members, and they are always thrilled to have international attendees at their meetings as birth defects and research on them are occurring worldwide. Please visit <http://www.teratology.org/meetings/2016/> for further information. Late Breaking Abstracts deadline: June 4, 2016.
- The **3rd European Congress on Preconception Health and Care** took place in Uppsala (Sweden) from 17 to 18 February 2016. Pierpaolo Mastroiacovo, ICBDSR Centre Director, attended the Congress as invited speaker, with a lecture on "The PEACE tool: Population Estimate of Attributable fraction of Congenital conditions Everywhere". The PEACE tool is available for download at www.icbdsr.org

News from the ICBDSR Centre and Executive Committee

- **Sad news:** Dr. Edward (Ed) Lammer died unexpectedly on February 20, a few days before his 63rd birthday. Dr. Lammer's early career as a medical geneticist focused on an emerging syndrome in which women exposed to the anti-acne drug Accutane gave birth to children with a constellation of severe malformations. He is remembered as a dedicated advocate for the families of affected children. He used epidemiological approaches to study the genetic and environmental contributions to common major birth defects, including gene-environment interactions, and mentored many future scientists and doctors. He had retired a month prior to his passing but was still actively involved in multiple studies. It is a great loss for many of us and for the birth defects community. Our deepest condolences to his family and friends.
- **43rd ICBDSR Annual Meeting:** it will be held in Magdeburg, Germany, from 18 to 21 September 2016. The Call for Abstracts and relevant information on meeting venue and registration are available at www.icbdsr.org. **Deadline** for abstracts submission: **May 15, 2016**.
- **ICBDSR Mortality Study:** Participants are kindly requested to provide data not later than **March 15, 2016**.
- **Alessandra Lisi Award, 2016:** This award honors Alessandra Lisi, a young researcher at ICBDSR Centre from 2002 to her untimely death in 2006. Info on eligibility requirements, application and selection process, and past awardees at <http://icbdsr.org/page.asp?p=21608>. **Deadline** for application: **April 30, 2016**
- **Distinguished Service Award. 2016:** This award honors an individual who has provided distinguished service to the