



## International Clearinghouse for Birth Defects Surveillance and Research Monthly Newsletter

November 2016

Issue 2016-11

### What's Going on Regarding Birth Defects

A review of the **recent evidence to better characterize congenital Zika syndrome** and to inform pediatric clinicians who may be called on to evaluate and treat affected infants and children was published in JAMA Pediatrics. Full text available at <http://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapediatrics/fullarticle/2579543>

Also, the description of 13 infants born during Oct 2015—Jan 2016 with **congenital Zika virus infection without microcephaly at birth**, reveals that among infants of mothers exposed to Zika virus during pregnancy, the absence of microcephaly at birth does not rule out congenital Zika virus infection or the presence of Zika-related brain abnormalities. Full text available at:

[http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/wr/mm6547e2.htm?s\\_cid=mm6547e2\\_e](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/wr/mm6547e2.htm?s_cid=mm6547e2_e)

From recent issues of the WHO Bulletin:

- ✓ **Tracking Microcephaly in Brazil.** Full text: <http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/94/11/16-170639.pdf?ua=1>
- ✓ **The history of Zika Virus:** description of the temporal and geographical distribution of Zika virus infection and associated neurological disorders, from 1947 to 1 February 2016, when Zika became a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). Full text: <http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/94/9/16-171082.pdf>



**57<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Teratology Society**, June 24–28, 2017, in Denver, Colorado, USA. This year's theme is "World Spotlight: Elevating Birth Defects Research." The Program Committee has planned a wide range of timely and informative symposia and workshops. Online abstract submission at <http://teratology.conference-services.net/directory.asp> by February 15, 2017.

### News from the ICBDSR Centre and Executive Committee

- ✓ **World Birth Defects Day – 2017 Edition:** The participant Organizations in the last year's Edition have been contacted in order to confirm their willingness to be one of the WBDD Participating Organizations for the 2017 Edition of the WBDD. Currently, 44 of the 51 organizations from 2106 have sent a positive response. The application form for new interested participating organization will be disseminated soon.
- ✓ The in person part of the **2<sup>nd</sup> Latin American Course on Surveillance of Birth Defects and Prematurity - Taller sobre Vigilancia de Anomalías Congénitas y Partos Prematuros** is held from November 28<sup>th</sup> until December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016 in Bogotá (Colombia). The online pre-course in Spanish, hosted in the ICBDSR training platform took place in the last 2 months.  
The organizations supporting the course are: RENAC (Red Nacional de Anomalías Congénitas de Argentina), CREC (Centro de Registro de Malformaciones Congénitas, Costa Rica), BCMSP (Bogota Congenital Malformations Surveillance Programme, Colombia), CBDSP (Cali Birth Defects Surveillance Program, Colombia), CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, US), PAHO (Pan American Health Organization), CLAP (Centro Latinoamericano de Perinatología), and ICBDSR (International Clearinghouse for Birth Defects Surveillance and Research).
- ✓ As informed in the last Business Meeting of the Clearinghouse, the **ICBDSR's website** will change, in order to re-structure it and to get more convenient fares for hosting. This means that for a short time it will not be accessible, and only a limited amount of information will be available.