



International Clearinghouse for Birth Defects Surveillance and Research Monthly Newsletter

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44th Annual Meeting of the International Clearinghouse for Birth Defects Surveillance and Research, Austin, Texas, November 13th to 15th, 2017 (venue: Sheraton Austin Hotel at the Capitol). Information on meeting's program, abstracts submission, registrations, and logistics at www.icbdsr.org. Deadline for abstracts submission: **July 30, 2017**

What's Going on Regarding Birth Defects

A study assessing causation and clinical presentation of major birth defects was carried out using data from Utah's population based surveillance system, on children born 2005-09 to resident women. The findings underscore the gaps in our knowledge regarding the causes of birth defects. For the causes that are still unknown (79%) better strategies are needed. These can include greater integration of the key elements of etiology, morphology, and pathogenesis into epidemiologic studies; and greater collaboration between researchers, clinicians, and epidemiologists; also better ways to objectively measure fetal exposures are needed.

Etiology and clinical presentation of birth defects: population based study. Feldkamp ML, Carey JC, Byrne JLB, Krikov S, Botto LD. *BMJ* 2017;357:j2249. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/bmj.j2249> Full text available at: <http://www.bmj.com/content/bmj/357/bmj.j2249.full.pdf>

A report on the **Pregnancy Outcomes After Maternal Zika Virus Infection During Pregnancy — U.S. Territories, January 1, 2016–April 25, 2017** has been published on *MMWR* (Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report) June 16, 2017 / 66(23);615-621. Full text at <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/wr/mm6623e1.htm>

Results from a population based cohort study on Risk of major congenital malformations in relation to maternal overweight and obesity severity have been published in the *British Medical Journal*. The objective of the study is To estimate the risks of major congenital malformations in the offspring of mothers who are underweight (body mass index (BMI) <18.5), overweight (BMI 25 to <30), or in obesity classes I (BMI 30 to <35), II (35 to <40), or III (≥40) compared with offspring of normal weight mothers (BMI 18.5 to <25) in early pregnancy.

Risk of major congenital malformations in relation to maternal overweight and obesity severity: cohort study of 1.2 million singletons. *BMJ*. 2017 Jun 14;357. Full text <http://www.bmj.com/content/bmj/357/bmj.j2563.full.pdf>

The on-line segment of the **Cali and Bogotá (Colombia) Course on Surveillance of Birth Defects and Prematurity** and **El Salvador Workshop on Surveillance of Birth Defects and Prematurity** is being held through the ICBDSR training platform. The duration is two months.

The ICBDSR training platform is an initiative of the International Centre for Birth Defects (ICBD). Its aim is to support the development and quality improvement of birth defect surveillance programs worldwide. The platform hosts multiple training modules, in English and Spanish, which have been deployed over that few years to help build technical expertise in new programs in several countries, especially in Africa and Latin America. Although the focus of training has been on low and middle income countries, the platform is open to all interested teams, including and especially from Clearinghouse programs. To promote interaction and understand training needs, access to the platform is controlled by individual access credentials, which are provided on request (if interested, please have team lead contact icbd@icbd.org for more information).

As Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) in official relations with World Health Organization (WHO), ICBDSR congratulates Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus as the new Director-General of WHO. Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus was nominated by the Government of Ethiopia, and will begin his five-year term on 1 July 2017.

Meetings and Conferences



8th International Conference on Birth Defects and Disabilities in the Developing

World (ICBD), Bogotá, Colombia, 8th-11th November 2017. Visit <http://icbd.marchofdimes.org/> for information on abstract submission and for submission guidelines.

III International Congress of Community Genetics, organized by the Cuban Society of Human Genetics, held in Havana, Cuba, November 14th-17th, 2017. Under the slogan "Community Genetics in the Age of Genomics Medicine: Prevention is the Challenge", the scientific meeting plans to share experiences, show the progress of human and medical genetics in Cuba and other countries, and reflect on the application of results from the revolution of genomics new technologies in primary health care, for prevention. Registration and Abstract Submission are open at <http://geneticacomunitaria2017.sld.cu/index.php/gencom/2017>



The **45th Annual Meeting of the European Teratology Society** will be held in Budapest on 4th-7th September 2017. Full information at <https://www.etsoc.com/annual-meeting>

News from the ICBDSR Centre and Executive Committee



A representative of ICBDSR was invited to attend 32nd EUROCAT Registry Leaders' Meeting (RLM) in Baveno, Italy, on 8-9 June 2017, ICBDSR Coordinator (Ms. Simonetta Zezza) attended the RLM, delivering a presentation on "Updates on the International Clearinghouse for Birth Defects Surveillance and Research (ICBDSR)"

ICBDSR Alessandra Lisi Award: This award honors Alessandra Lisi, a young researcher at ICBSR Centre from 2002 to her untimely death in 2006. The eligibility requirements include an active contribution to the epidemiology or surveillance of birth defects, preferably with an ICBSR program, and evidence of a promising research career and ongoing commitment to the

Becoming a member of ICBSR:

Organizations that systematically collect and analyse data for the surveillance of birth defects and are interested in undertaking collaborative research studies, and especially contributing to worldwide surveillance of birth defects, can become members of the ICBSR. More info: <http://www.icbsr.org/become-a-member/>

Please, send your contribution to the Newsletters to centre@icbsr.org