



International Clearinghouse for Birth Defects Surveillance and Research Monthly Newsletter

July 2017

Issue 2017-07



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, abstract submission, registration, and logistics at www.icbdsr.org. **Deadline for abstract submission: July 30, 2017**

Hotel Reservations by a customized website: <https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/ICBDSRAnnualMeeting> or by the Group Reservation Center at +1-888-627-8349.

The "cut-off date" for reserving rooms in the room block is 5:00 p.m.local time on October 13, 2017.

Please note that the room block is from 12th to 15th November. Additional nights can be booked by emailing Anthony Gemenes agemenes@sheratonaustinhotel.com. Please use the subject line "Additional night request during ICBDSR"

What's Going on Regarding Birth Defects

A paper recently published in Pediatric Infectious Disease Journal, documents the trends of microcephaly and severe CNS malformations in two major cities in Colombia from 2012 through 2016, tracking the epidemiologic curve from before through the major Zika epidemic so far. The study included neural tube defects (anencephaly, spina bifida, encephalocele), holoprosencephaly, and hydrocephaly. The occurrence of microcephaly appears to have increased nearly four-fold in two large cities in Colombia, concurrently with the reported Zika virus epidemic in the country. For other major CNS anomalies the evidence is less clear, and further studies are indicated. **Raised Frequency of Central Nervous System Malformations Related to Zika Virus Infection in Two Birth Defects Surveillance Systems in Bogotá and Cali, Colombia**, *Pediatr Infect Dis J.* 2017 Jul 1 (Epub ahead of print) <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=28678053>

A review of the article published on Congenital Anomalies (Kyoto) traced past and present practice on **Preconceptional folic acid supplementation in Japan**. Authors also discussed the issues surrounding folate intake both before and after conception.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/28708254>

A recent paper in JAMA Pediatrics evaluates eye findings in a cohort of infants whose mothers had polymerase chain reaction-confirmed Zika virus infection during pregnancy. **Screening Criteria for Ophthalmic Manifestations of Congenital Zika Virus Infection** <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/28715527>

Meetings and Conferences



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



Shaping the Future of Pediatrics: how technology empowers clinicians, researchers and

patients. Rome, 20th-22nd September 2017. The conference is organized in four sessions dedicated to major themes: OMICS and personalized medicine; Big data and digital integration; Patients and participatory medicine; The innovation cycle in pediatrics. Full information at <http://www.mcascientificevents.eu/shapingthefuture2017/>



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 full information on the Conference.

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>

News from the ICBSR Centre, Executive Committee, and ICBSR Members

ICBSR and CDC-National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities are organizing a **Birth Defects Surveillance Workshop** on 7 November 2017, in Bogotá, Colombia (the day prior to the 8th International Conference on Birth Defects and Disabilities in the Developing World).

The primary aim of the workshop is to inform participants about the importance of birth defects surveillance and how selected birth defects are captured by surveillance systems. Participants will also have the opportunity to learn more about congenital Zika syndrome and how surveillance systems in Central and South America have been capturing Zika-related malformations.

There is no registration fee for the workshop, but because slots are limited (50 participants), an application to register is required. To support participation of health care professionals from Latin-American countries outside Colombia, the organizers plan to support hotel accommodation for two days for up to 20 such applicants. Please, contact centre@icbsr.org if you are interested in applying (deadline for application: **August 15, 2017**).

On Friday June 23, the board of the **Dutch Association for Community Genetics and Public Health Genomics (NACGG)** awarded the **2017 NACGG innovation prize to Eurocat Northern Netherlands**. The prize was presented to the registry leader and epidemiologist, Dr. Hermien de Walle, by her predecessor, Prof. Martina Cornel, who was registry leader herself until 1999. Eurocat Northern Netherlands has been active in the Netherlands and Europe for more than 35 years, and the NACGG prize recognizes the scientific research to promote healthy pregnancies.



The NACGG endorses the importance of birth defects registries with respect to pregnancy outcome, a need emphasized by the recent example of Zika-virus-related birth defects abroad and, closer to home, by the impact of smoking and medication use during pregnancy on the development of the unborn child.

ICBSR Centre moved to a new smaller office from July 1, 2017. The legal physical address remains the same, with the move to Utah occurring in 2018. A new telephone number will be disseminated soon.



Becoming a member of ICBSR:

Organizations can become members of the ICBSR if they systematically collect and analyze data from a birth defect surveillance system and are interested in undertaking collaborative research studies.

More info: <http://www.icbsr.org/become-a-member/>

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