



International Clearinghouse for Birth Defects Surveillance and Research Monthly Newsletter

November 2017

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The **44th Annual Meeting of the International Clearinghouse for Birth Defects Surveillance and Research**, Austin, Texas, November 13th to 15th, 2017 has been held in Austin, Texas (US) from 13th to 15th November 2017. Many thanks to the invited speakers, the oral and poster presenters, and all the participants. A special thanks to the Staff of Texas Department of State Health Services for its help and support.



The **2017 Distinguished Service Award** was presented to Pierpaolo Mastroiacovo, ICBD/ICBDSR Centre Director. Pierpaolo served the Clearinghouse for decades, with passion and commitment, in many roles (Executive Committee Member, Editor of the Annual Report, Committee Member and Chair, ICBD/ICBDSR Centre Director).

His career in birth defect research, surveillance and clinical care spans four decades, so he was also invited to deliver the **David Erickson Lecture**. This Lecture was instituted a few years ago in honor of Dave Erickson, a great friend and supporter of the Clearinghouse for decades, and an outstanding birth defect epidemiologist. The Lecture was delivered in previous years by David Erickson himself (the first lecture), and he was followed by distinguished members of the public health community and academia: Drs Mario Meriardi, Edward B. Clark, M. Michael Cohen Jr., Andrew Czeizel, Julian Little, José F. Cordero, Juan Pablo Peña-Rosas, R.J. Berry, and Carol Bower. The title of Pierpaolo's lecture was "*What I've learned over four decades of studying birth defects*".

The **2017 Alessandra Lisi Award** went to Dr. Vijaya Kancherla, a young researcher who has been working as an Instructor in the Department of Epidemiology in the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University, and was recently promoted to Research Assistant Professor. Dr. Kancherla is also an epidemiologist at the Center for Spina Bifida Prevention at Emory University. She delivered a presentation on the "*Status of current global prevention of spina bifida and anencephaly and subsequent impact on child mortality indicators in the era of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)*".

What's Going on Regarding Birth Defects

Data from the **Texas Birth Defects Registry** were used to calculate the prevalence of congenital microcephaly and crude and adjusted prevalence ratios using Poisson regression, in a paper published on Birth Defects Research. Part A, Clinical and

Molecular Teratology. Authors found that the risk patterns for microcephaly varied across case groupings. Risk factors included maternal race/ethnicity, age, and smoking during pregnancy. Among severe, unexplained cases, notable positive associations were seen among mothers who were non-Hispanic Black or less educated, while inverse associations were noted for obesity.

Hoyt AT1, Canfield MA1, Langlois PH1, Waller DK2, Agopian AJ2, Shumate CJ1, Hall NB1, Marengo LK1, Ethen MK1, Scheuerle AE. **Pre-Zika descriptive epidemiology of microcephaly in Texas, 2008-2012.** Birth Defects Res. 2017 Nov 24. [Epub ahead of print]. Abstract available at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/29171191>

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

Three applications for membership were voted and approved at the recent ICBDSP Annual Business Meeting in Austin.

We welcome the **new ICBDSP members**:

- National Congenital Anomaly and Rare Disease Registration Service (NCARDRS), UK. Program Director: Sarah Stevens
- Registro de Defectos Congénitos del Hospital Universitario UANL (ReDeConHU), Mexico. Program Director: Laura Elia Martínez
- Brittany Registry of Congenital Malformations, France. Program Director: Florence Rouget

The **ICBDSP Executive Committee** members (Sep 2017 – Sep 2018) elected at the Annual Business meeting are:

- Chair: Marcia Feldkamp (Utah, US)
- Vice Chair: Paul Romitti (Iowa, US)
- Secretary: Boris Groisman (Argentina)

We welcome Paul Romitti as Vice Chair of the Clearinghouse, and we want to thank Eva Bermejo-Sánchez for her precious and valuable work in the Executive Committee for the last six years, first as Secretary, then as Vice Chair and Chair.

The **data of Congenital Anomalies in Canada** have been released on the Public Health Infobase, available at:

English: <https://infobase.phac-aspc.gc.ca/data-tools/>

French: <https://infobase.phac-aspc.gc.ca/data-tools/?l=fra>

ICBDSP and CDC-National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities organized a **Workshop on Birth Defects and Zika-related malformations Surveillance**, on November 7th, 2017, in Bogotá, Colombia (the day prior to the 8th International Conference on Birth Defects and Disabilities in the Developing World). 32 participants from 14 countries attended the in person Workshop and used the online pre-course modules. The primary aim of the workshop was to inform participants about the importance of birth defects surveillance and how selected birth defects are captured by surveillance systems. Participants had also the opportunity to learn more about congenital Zika syndrome and how surveillance systems in Central and South America have been capturing Zika-related malformations.

Meetings and Conferences

7th ICCN - International Conference on Clinical Neonatology, May 23rd - 26th 2018, Turin, Italy. Main Topics: Hypothermia in preterms: what's new?; Teamworking in the NICU; NIDCAP and family-centered care; EPO and neuroprotection: an update; Delivery of fetal CHD patients. Abstracts submission is now open at <http://www.mcscientificevents.eu/iccn2018/>

EUROCAT Registry Leaders Meeting (RLM) and the **Scientific Symposium** will take place on the 13th – 15th June 2018 at the European Commission's Joint Research Centre in Ispra, Italy. Details on the program will follow.

The **58th Annual Meeting of the Teratology Society** will be held June 23rd – 27th, 2018, at the Hilton Clearwater Beach Resort, in Clearwater, Florida. The theme for this year's meeting is **"Mechanisms, Models, Mothers and Babies: Bringing Birth Defects Research into Practice**, Abstracts due by February 15th, 2018.

The **45th ICBDSP Annual Meeting** will take place in Prague, Czech Republic, from September 30th to October 4th, 2018.

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

