



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

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### World Birth Defects Day, 2018 – March 3

After a meeting of the Charter organizations of the World Birth Defects Day (WBDD), held in Austin, TX, before the 44<sup>th</sup> ICBDSR Annual Meeting, the planning of the **2018 Edition of the World Birth Defects Day (2018 WBDD)** started, in collaboration with the National Birth Defects Prevention Network (NBDPN), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and March of Dimes Foundation.

A dedicated webpage is available at <http://www.worldbirthdefectsday.org/>, thanks to a donation from a benefactor, and to Boris Groisman who is serving as voluntary webmaster. Please note that some pages of the website are still under construction, and some other need further improvements. Apart from this, a campaign on Thunderclap will be launched in the coming weeks.

The involvement of 77 “Participating Organizations” in the 2017 WBDD was very fruitful, and all of them have confirmed their participation in the 2018 Edition. We would like to increase the number of participating organizations in the 2018 Edition, so please find the application form to become a “2018 Participating Organization” at

<http://www.worldbirthdefectsday.org/application-form/>

Feel free to disseminate the link to the application form among organizations and institutions that may be interested in becoming a “WBDD Participating Organization” - e.g. Birth Defects Professional Organization (including Birth Defects Surveillance Program), Birth Defects Parents/Supporters Organization, Governmental Institution, City Council, Healthcare Professional, Hospital, School / University, For-profit Organization.

### What’s Going on Regarding Birth Defects

Authors of an observational study recently published in JAMA, entitled “**Association of US State Implementation of Newborn Screening Policies for Critical Congenital Heart Disease With Early Infant Cardiac Deaths**”, reported that statewide implementation of mandatory policies for newborn screening for critical congenital heart disease was associated with a significant decrease in infant cardiac deaths from 2007 through 2013 compared with states without these policies. Abstract available at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/29209720>

A retrospective analysis of **changes in prevalence and perinatal outcomes of congenital hydrocephalus among Chinese newborns** was published in *BMC Pregnancy Childbirth*. Data were analyzed from the Chinese Birth Defects Monitoring Network (CBDMN). The authors reported a relatively high prevalence and poor perinatal outcomes of congenital hydrocephalus in China. Full text available at <https://bmcpregnancychildbirth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12884-017-1603-2>

### News from the ICBDSR Centre, Executive Committee, and ICBDSR Members

#### Online Self-paced Course on Birth Defect Surveillance and Prevention

A new online course has been developed by the International Centre on Birth Defects (ICBD – ICBDSR Centre), and supported in part by funding from the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities, US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention through Agreement 2016-2017 with the Task Force for Global Health.

The course is designed for clinicians, epidemiologists, public health professionals, and anyone interested in understanding birth defects and improving their prevention and care. It is “self-paced”: go at your own pace, in your own time zone, and on your own schedule. The course is available in English and Spanish.

The course includes videos, quizzes, a discussion forum, and publications/resources. Topics include:

1. The newborn exam (focus on congenital anomalies)
2. Selected major birth defects: from embryology to surveillance and prevention
3. Congenital infections as teratogens
4. Teratogenic medications and exposures
5. Short course on microcephaly (clinical evaluation, neuroimaging, genetics, surveillance) including basic elements of Zika assessment and response

Further information at <http://www.icbdsr.org/online-self-paced-course-on-birth-defect-surveillance-and-prevention/>

Registration form is available at: [www.icbdsr.org/course-registration](http://www.icbdsr.org/course-registration). You will receive your access credentials and the course will begin February 1, 2018

## Meetings and Conferences

**2018 National Birth Defects Prevention Network (NBDPN) Annual Meeting**, March 11-14, 2018, Atlanta Marriott Buckhead Hotel & Conference Center, Atlanta, GA, USA. Info at <https://www.nbdpn.org/2018am.php>

**ACPA's 75th Annual Meeting**, April 10<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Pittsburgh, PA, USA. <http://acpa-cpf.org/annual-meeting/>

**7<sup>th</sup> ICCN - International Conference on Clinical Neonatology**, May 23<sup>rd</sup>- 26<sup>th</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup>– 15<sup>th</sup> June 2018 at the European Commission's Joint Research Centre in Ispra, Italy. Details on the program will follow.

The [58<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Teratology Society](#) will be held June 23<sup>rd</sup>–27<sup>th</sup>, 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 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

The **45<sup>th</sup> ICBDSR Annual Meeting** will take place in Prague, Czech Republic, from September 30<sup>th</sup> to October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

Website: [www.icbdsr.org](http://www.icbdsr.org)

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