



We are looking forward to seeing you on September 11, 2009 in Salt Lake City for the

36th Annual Meeting of ICBSR

We are planning many activities and look forward to your active participation. Here are some planned highlights:

- Scientific Symposium on heart defects. This is organized as a **practical, state-of-the art** review for people who, like many of us, do or plan studies of heart defects. It will cover the embryology, genetics, epidemiology, coding, classification, and prevention of heart defects. There will be ample time for discussion and feedback with a panel of distinguished speakers.
- A busy day of project-related activities, with active participation of all, and small group sessions. The goal is to get everyone's focused participation, work on papers, and move projects forward quickly. A detailed program will be out soon.
- An excursion in the Rocky Mountains, with hikes to glacial lakes (might spot moose), a ride to the top of a 3,000mt mountain and dinner in the lodge.

What to do next:

1. Book your room at the hotel, the "University Guest House". You can do this by email (info@guesthouse.utah.edu) or phone (801-587-1000 or 1-888-416-4075). You can book now; it will cost you nothing. Be sure to book by July 30, in order to reserve a room at the reduced rate of \$89 plus taxes. Be sure to say you are with the International Clearinghouse for Birth Defects. The Hotel website is www.universityguesthouse.com.

2. Plan to arrive on Friday, September 11, 2009 (flights from Europe typically arrive in the evening) and leave Wednesday September 16th (flights for Europe and many countries outside of the US leave in the morning).

3. Start thinking of abstracts: due date will be 15 June 2009. The form will follow shortly. Please plan to submit your best work on any topic. Suggested (but not obligatory) themes this year include: risk factors (environmental, maternal, genetic), policies, outcomes, epidemiologic methods (including validation studies), and trends.

As an aside, consider staying on for your holidays. Utah has many beautiful parks and is a good base for spending a week or so going from the Grand Canyon to the south to Yellowstone to the north. A good site to browse for Utah is www.utah.com.

For any questions about the meeting, feel free to e-mail Denise at dspicer@utah.gov.

See you soon; September will be here before we know it.

Lorenzo, Marcia, and Denise

