



Monthly Newsletter

From the International Clearinghouse

July 2013 (issue 2013-7)

What's going on regarding birth defects

- The second version of the **online atlas for congenital abnormalities** is now available (atlasclamc.org), curated by the ECLAMC collaboration.
- In a very recent paper from *Circulation*, Canadian authors reported on significant associations between **maternal chronic conditions and congenital heart defects**. Many of these conditions, which include diabetes, hypertension, and connective tissue disorders, are also increasing in prevalence, with implications for future rates of heart defects (<http://circ.ahajournals.org/content/early/2013/06/27/CIRCULATIONAHA.112.001054.abstract>)
- Authors from the Finnish Register of Congenital Malformations reported on the prevalence of **sacroccygeal teratomas in Finland** over a period of 22 years. The paper is available from the Center upon request.
- A recent publication in *Ultrasound in Obstetrics and Gynaecology* has shown that **routine screening for trisomies by cfDNA testing at 10 weeks** is feasible also in low risk women, allowing diagnosis of aneuploidies within the first trimester. The study showed that the false positive rate was substantially reduced compared to the combined test, but has also demonstrated the problem of the failure of cfDNA testing in providing results and the need to investigate abnormal results by invasive testing. See <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/uog.12504/abstract>

News from the Headquarter and Executive Committee

- The winner of the **Alessandra Lisi Memorial Prize 2013** is Tanya Bédard, from the Alberta Congenital Anomalies Surveillance System (ACASS). Tanya's work covers many aspects of the birth defects surveillance, with a special emphasis on coding, classification, and epidemiologic assessment of congenital heart defects. Tanya Bédard will be presented with a plaque during the 2013 Annual Meeting, where she will give a special presentation on her research. Submissions for the 2014 award are welcome.
- We invite you to submit **abstracts for oral and/or poster presentation** at the 40th ICBDSP Annual Meeting. Topics may include, but are not limited to: Causes and mechanisms of birth defects, including modifiable risk factors - Genomics and epigenetics of birth defects, and - Use of surveillance data in outcomes research and cluster management. For more information see the ICBDSP website.
- A need for collaborative scientific projects that are undertaken within the ICBDSP has been identified. We invite all member programs to submit **concrete proposals for collaborative projects** to the center or start a discussion on this topic using the ICBDSP list serv.
- The **Executive Committee** met at Clearinghouse Headquarter in Rome on June 27 and 28, 2013. The work focused on furthering the financial and legal status of the ICBDSP, membership, scientific and education activities, and the planning of the Annual Meeting. A **mid-term report** from the Executive Committee will be distributed soon.
- The Ireland-Dublin registry had to discontinue its participation in ICBDSP due to some temporary difficulties. Meanwhile, Dr Bob Mc Donnell has been invited by the Executive Committee, and he accepted, to be an Affiliate Member of ICBDSP.
- Moreover, the application from Dr. Cynthia Colapinto, a graduate of the 2013 Training Program and PhD candidate in population health at the University of Ottawa, to be an Affiliate Member of ICBDSP was accepted by the Executive Committee in the above mentioned meeting, so we welcome her.

Upcoming deadlines

- **15 July 2013**: Payment of annual dues.
- **20 August 2013**: Data for the **3rd quarter 2012**, to be published in the **Quarterly Report**.
- **31 August 2013**: Abstracts for 2013 Annual Meeting
- **15 September 2013**: notification of acceptance of Abstracts for the 2013 Annual meeting
- **15 September 2013**: Data for **2011 or most recent year available** to be published in the annual report 2013
- **15 November, 2013**: hotel reservation for Annual Meeting. For details see ICBDSP website.

Would you like to contribute with any news from your program for next Monthly Newsletter?
Please send contributions, comments or questions to centre@icbdsr.org