



Monthly Newsletter

From the International Clearinghouse

September 2013 (issue 2013-9)

What's going on regarding birth defects

- A CDC study by Dawson et al. on factors associated with **late detection of critical congenital heart disease (CCHD)** in newborns has recently been published on-line in Pediatrics. Conclusions of this study support universal newborn screening for CCHD, which could specially benefit newborns in hospitals with level I and II nurseries, as late detection was less likely in level III (highest) nurseries.
<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/early/2013/08/07/peds.2013-1002.abstract>
- An interesting paper by Lowry and Bedard has just been published in the *J Registry Manag* [2013; 40(2):98-103], making a valuable summary of the history of two Canadian registries (one of them, established in 1952, was the first formal comprehensive surveillance registry for congenital malformations in the world), as **possible lessons applicable to many registries**, and highlighting the importance of “stating objectives, funding, support from public health departments, and someone to champion the cause”. The PDF file of this paper is available on request at the Centre.
- A methodological paper by Langlois et al. **comparing estimates from Poisson and logistic regression**, and using data regarding tracheoesophageal fistula and/or esophageal atresia, is available ahead of print [*Birth Def Res A Clin Mol Teratol. 2013 Sep 2*]. The authors concluded that for descriptive epidemiologic analyses, Poisson regression provided the most precise estimates, although when using 10 controls per case logistic regression yielded similar precision.
- **Pre-conference Educational Workshop on Birth Defects Surveillance**, November 9-10, 2013, Cebu (Philippines). The Workshop is organized by ICBBD-Headquarter Centre of the Clearinghouse, jointly with US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Organizing Committee of the **6th International Conference on Birth Defects and Disabilities in the Developing World**. Visit <http://www.ICBD2013.com> for additional details on the main conference. The Workshop is aimed at medical and public health professionals committed to birth defects surveillance and prevention. Pre-registration form and full announcement are available at www.icbdsr.org. **Applications are due by 15 September 2013.**

News from the Headquarter and Executive Committee

- **15 September 2013**– extended **deadline for abstract submission** to the 40th ICBDSR Annual Meeting Costa Rica, December 3-6, 2013). Suggested topics include causes and mechanisms of birth defects, genomics and epigenetics of birth defects, and use of surveillance data in outcomes research and cluster management. For more information see the ICBDSR website. Responses about abstracts acceptance will be sent out by September 30, 2013.
- **15 September 2013** – **important deadline for data submission** for Annual Report (2011 or most recent data): do not forget that this call for data is crucial in order to keep pace with the planned yearly publication of the Annual Report.
- The ICBBD director and Executive Committee encourage program directors and collaborators to submit **proposals for collaborative studies at ICBDSR**, using data that is already available at the Centre or with data that can be specifically contributed by member programs. If you have an interesting idea for a joint study, or want to repeat a certain study in a larger dataset, send a short proposal to the center, including the objectives, a timeline and the list of necessary data.

Upcoming deadlines

- **15 September 2013**: submission of **abstracts for the 2013 Annual Meeting**
- **15 September 2013**: submission of data relative to **2011 or most recent year available**, for publication in the Annual Report 2013.
- **15 November, 2013**: **hotel reservation for Annual Meeting**. For details see ICBDSR 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