



Monthly Newsletter From the International Clearinghouse

April 2015

Issue 2015-04

What's Going on Regarding Birth Defects

- April is **Alcohol Awareness Month** in the US, sponsored by the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Inc. (NCADD). Regarding messages on the dangers of drinking while pregnant, an interesting article has been published in *The Lancet*, concluding that to reduce the prevalence of FASD we need to be sending consistent, clear, continuous, and creative warnings: [http://www.thelancet.com/journals/laneur/article/PIIS1474-4422\(15\)70055-4/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/laneur/article/PIIS1474-4422(15)70055-4/fulltext)
- **Twitter chat announcement on alcohol use during pregnancy and FASDs**
WHEN: April 23 from 2:00-3:00pm Eastern
WHERE: #NOFASchat
Host: National Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome @NOFAS_USA
Co-Sponsors: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention @CDC_NCBDDD and National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Inc. @NCADDNational
Please spread the word with your networks and for anyone who's on Twitter
- The Farr Institute will host its first **International Conference (Data Intensive Health Research and Care)** in St Andrews, Scotland from August 26-28, 2015. The conference is designed for researchers, practitioners and policy makers interested in record linkage and the use of routine health data in their research. During the three days, there will be a variety of plenary sessions, workshops and keynote speakers as well as social networking opportunities. For more information, go to: <http://farrinstandrews.org/>.

News from Member programs

The National Registry of Congenital Anomalies of Argentina (RENAC) recently published a paper on birth defects and public health interventions in Argentina on the Journal of Community Genetics. Free full text available at http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4356676/pdf/12687_2014_Article_209.pdf

News from the Headquarters and Executive Committee

- The first draft of the Report of "known activities" performed to observe the **World Birth Defects Day** has been distributed among participants and promoting organizations. It is a very detailed and well documented report, but still in the draft stage. It needs inputs by the participants to WBDD in order to be completed, please send back your comments as soon as possible, if not yet done. Thank you!
- The **"Call for Abstracts"** for the **2015 Annual Meeting (Spoleto, Italy, Sep 10-13)** is available on the ICBSR website www.icbdsr.org (42nd Annual Meeting section).
- The ICBSR **Annual Report 2013** is available for download at www.icbdsr.org ("Resources" area)

Upcoming Deadlines

- **April 30:** nominations for the "Alessandra Lisi Award". See instructions at www.icbdsr.org
- **May 15:** submission of abstracts for the ICBSR Annual Meeting.
- **May 31:** nominations for the "ICBSR Distinguished Service Award". Nomination procedures at www.icbdsr.org