



Monthly Newsletter From the International Clearinghouse

June 2015

Issue 2015-06

What's Going on Regarding Birth Defects

The **7th International Conference on the Prevention of Birth Defects and Disabilities in the Developing World (ICBD7: Birth Defects in the Post-MDG Era: Joining Hands for Prevention and Care)** will take place in Dar esSaalam, Tanzania, September 21-24, 2015. Registration at <http://www.icbd2015.com/>

CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report has published a new study looking at state actions to adopt newborn screening for [critical congenital heart defects \(critical CHDs\)](#) using pulse oximetry as simple, non-invasive way to measure the amount of oxygen in a newborn's blood. CDC researchers found that 43 states have taken action toward newborn screening for critical CHDs through legislation, regulations, or hospital guidelines. This report is the first assessment of state actions to adopt newborn screening for critical CHDs and state efforts to collect data about screening. States and hospitals might find this information valuable as they evaluate their efforts and seek to improve their newborn screening programs. The full article is available at http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6423a1.htm?s_cid=mm6423a1_w Data collection and reporting are essential to evaluate the effectiveness of newborn critical CHD screening. The type of data collected varies by state, and may include:

- Total number of babies screened for critical CHDs in the state
- Number of babies that pass or fail the screen
- Oxygen levels of every newborn screened
- Oxygen levels only for those newborns that failed the screen
- A combination of these types of data

News from Members

We have not received any news from ICBD's members this month. Please, consider sending any progress or news that could be shared with others through the Clearinghouse (centre@icbdsr.org)

News from the Headquarters and Executive Committee

- In response to the **"Call for Abstracts"** for the **2015 Annual Meeting (Spoleto, Italy, Sep 10-13)** we received 32 abstracts. The Annual Meeting planning committee peer-reviewed them, and decided on acceptance of abstracts and presentation format, and the Corresponding Authors were notified on the decision: there will be 24 oral presentations and 8 posters. Please check the ICBD's website www.icbdsr.org for updates.
- **Special sessions prior to the 2015 Annual Meeting:**
 - ✓ A Satellite meeting of the **Italian Group on Promotion of Reproductive Health**, planned for the morning of September 10, 2015
 - ✓ A Meeting on **"World Birth Defects Day March 3, 2016"** (upon invitation), planned for the afternoon of September 10, 2015
- The ICBD's Centre Director, Pierpaolo Mastroiacovo, and the ICBD's Vice-Chair, Eva Bermejo, were invited to attend the **30th Eurocat Registry Leaders' Meeting**, held in Baveno, Italy, 17-18 June 2015. Pierpaolo Mastroiacovo gave a talk on *"ICBD's activities, interaction with EUROCAT, and World Birth Defects Day"*, Eva Bermejo delivered a short presentation on *"What does ICBD's membership mean for a EUROCAT Registry"*

Upcoming Deadlines

- **Late registration for the Annual Meeting:** please make your hotel reservation at info@albornozpalace.com, mentioning "ICBD's Annual Meeting" (a block of room at preferential rate was available up to June 15, but there are still some rooms). Please send the registration form previously distributed to centre@icbdsr.org as soon as possible (if not already done)
- **July 31:** payment of annual dues 2015
- **August 31:** data for the 3rd Quarter 2014