



Monthly Newsletter From the International Clearinghouse

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What's Going on Regarding Birth Defects

- The **7th International Conference on the Prevention of Birth Defects and Disabilities in the Developing World (ICBD7)** will take place in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, Sep 21-24, 2015.
- The **National Birth Defects Prevention Network (NBDPN)** will be holding its **2015 Annual Meeting** on October 19-21, at the Key Bridge Marriott Hotel in Arlington, VA. Further information at http://www.nbdpn.org/2015_annual_meeting.php
- The **9th International Neural Tube Defects Conference** will be held in Austin, Texas, October 26 (opening reception 5-7pm) - October 29. Additional information about the meeting and abstract submissions at <http://ntdconference.com>

News from Members

News on the activities of member registries have been reported during the Annual Business Meeting in Spoleto from delegates who attended the meeting. Short reports from several registries are available in the restricted area of the website, and you are kindly invited to send yours to centre@icbdsr.org if not previously done.

News from the Headquarters and Executive Committee

The **42nd Annual Meeting of ICBDSP** took place in Spoleto, Italy, from September 11 to 13, organized by the ICBDSP Centre.

Thanks to all the delegates who participated in the Meeting. A brief report is provided on the meeting contents and events:

- Twenty-three ICBDSP programs were represented, and a total of 68 attendees were registered for the meeting.
- A **Satellite Meeting** of the Italian Group for Reproductive Health Promotion was held in the morning of September 10, with the participation of 19 members from this Group.
- A meeting on **World Birth Defects Day** took place in the afternoon of September 10, with the participation of delegates from 7 out of the 12 founding Organizations.
- The **Welcome remarks** came from Marcia Feldkamp, ICBDSP Chair; Pierpaolo Mastroiacovo, ICBDSP Centre Director, and Serena Battilomo, representative of the Italian Ministry of Health.
- The **J. David Erickson Lecture** was delivered by R.J. Berry from National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, USA. The title of his lecture was "Masking and other folic acid tales".
- The **Alessandra Lisi Award** was given to A.J. Agopian from the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, USA, who presented on "Seeking out the "missing attributability" of birth defects".
- The **Distinguished Service Award** was presented to Carol Bower from Western Australian Register of Developmental Anomalies.
- Salimah Walani from March of Dimes Foundation, USA, and Domenica Taruscio from National Center for Rare Diseases, Italy, were the **Keynote Lecturers**.
- There were **23 oral and 8 poster presentations** on the main themes of the meeting: Prenatal screening, early pregnancy /birth/postnatal outcomes; Environmental and other preventable and unpreventable risk factors; Epidemiology of specific defects or groups of defects; Birth defects surveillance and related methodological issues.
- A **Workshop** on Congenital Heart Defects included five presentations from Italian experts in the field.
- A **Scientific Session on New Collaborative Project Proposals** included presentations on: 1) Collaborative Project on Prenatal Diagnosis and Congenital Heart Defects (P.I.: Lorenzo Botto and Marian Bakker); 2) Collaborative Projects on Mortality of Selected Non-cardiac Defects, by M. Canfield and P. ; 3) Potential new projects (gastroschisis, time trends).

The **Abstract booklet** of the 42nd Annual Meeting will be available at www.icbdsr.org. All participants in the Spoleto meeting will be invited to evaluate the meeting through a "**Survey Monkey**" form that will be disseminated soon. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey. Your feedback is important to the Annual Meeting Committee.

We welcome a **new registry member** in the Clearinghouse community: Cali Birth Defects Surveillance Program (CBDSP)", from Cali, Colombia (Program Director: Dr. Paula Margarita Hurtado Villa).

New resources are available in the members' area of the ICBDSP website:

- **PEACE** (Population Estimate of Attributable Fraction of Congenital Conditions Everywhere): a tool to estimate the Population Attributable Fraction of some common adverse pregnancy-related outcomes for selected risk factors. Please, use the Worksheet that you can download from the website, and let us know your comments. Thanks.
- **PreSurv Suite**: an open source, free, and adaptable software to create the database of birth defects detected in your surveillance program and a set of tools for coding.