What’s Going on Regarding Birth Defects

A review of the recent evidence to better characterize congenital Zika syndrome and to inform pediatric clinicians who may be called on to evaluate and treat affected infants and children was published in JAMA Pediatrics. Full text available at http://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapediatrics/fullarticle/2579543

Also, the description of 13 infants born during Oct 2015—Jan 2016 with congenital Zika virus infection without microcephaly at birth, reveals that among infants of mothers exposed to Zika virus during pregnancy, the absence of microcephaly at birth does not rule out congenital Zika virus infection or the presence of Zika-related brain abnormalities. Full text available at: http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/wr/mm6547e2.htm?s_cid=mm6547e2_e

From recent issues of the WHO Bulletin:

✓ Tracking Microcephaly in Brazil. Full text: http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/94/11/16-170639.pdf?ua=1

✓ The history of Zika Virus: description of the temporal and geographical distribution of Zika virus infection and associated neurological disorders, from 1947 to 1 February 2016, when Zika became a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). Full text: http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/94/9/16-171082.pdf


News from the ICBDSR Centre and Executive Committee

✓ World Birth Defects Day – 2017 Edition: The participant Organizations in the last year’s Edition have been contacted in order to confirm their willingness to be one of the WBDD Participating Organizations for the 2017 Edition of the WBDD. Currently, 44 of the 51 organizations from 2106 have sent a positive response. The application form for new interested participating organization will be disseminated soon.

✓ The in person part of the 2nd Latin American Course on Surveillance of Birth Defects and Prematurity - Taller sobre Vigilancia de Anomalías Congénitas y Partos Prematuros is held from November 28th until December 2nd, 2016 in Bogotá (Colombia). The online pre-course in Spanish, hosted in the ICBDSR training platform took place in the last 2 months.

The organizations supporting the course are: RENAC (Red Nacional de Anomalías Congénitas de Argentina), CREC (Centro de Registro de Malformaciones Congénitas, Costa Rica), BCMSP (Bogota Congenital Malformations Surveillance Programme, Colombia), CBDSP (Bogota Congenital Malformations Surveillance Program, Colombia), CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, US), PAHO (Pan American Health Organization), CLAP (Centro Latinoamericano de Perinatología), and ICBDSR (International Clearinghouse for Birth Defects Surveillance and Research).

✓ As informed in the last Business Meeting of the Clearinghouse, the ICBDSR’s website will change, in order to re-structure it and to get more convenient fares for hosting. This means that for a short time it will not be accessible, and only a limited amount of information will be available.