



International Clearinghouse for Birth Defects Surveillance and Research Monthly Newsletter

August 2017

Issue 2017-08



44th Annual Meeting of the International Clearinghouse for Birth Defects Surveillance and Research, Austin, Texas, November 13th to 15th, 2017 (venue: Sheraton Austin Hotel at the Capitol). Information on meeting's program, registration, and logistics at www.icbdsr.org.

ICBDSR received a high number of valuable abstracts, for oral and/or poster presentations. The Annual Meeting Planning Committee is reviewing the abstracts, in order to notify Authors about acceptance and presentation format.

Hotel Reservations by a customized website: <https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/ICBDSRAnnualMeeting> or by the Group Reservation Center at +1-888-627-8349. The "cut-off date" for reserving rooms in the room block is 5:00 p.m.local time on October 13, 2017.Please note that the room block is from 12th to 15th November. Additional nights can be booked by emailing Anthony Gemenes agemenes@sheratonaustinhotel.com. Please use the subject line "Additional night request during ICBDSR"

What's Going on Regarding Birth Defects

Updated Texas Birth Defects Registry data for 1999-2014, including county-level data, are now available on the [Texas Health Data website](#). For the first time, a sub-category of microcephaly (i.e., severe: head circumference at delivery <3rd percentile for gestational age and infant sex) is included.

A recent article published in Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (Vol.66, No. 31) by Authors from EIS, CDC and from Texas Department of State Health Services, Austin Texas, showed that the occurrence of travel-related Zika virus infections, combined with the threat of local transmission in Texas, indicates a need for continued surveillance for birth defects associated with Zika virus infection. [**Notes from the Field:Zika Virus-Associated Neonatal Birth Defects Surveillance — Texas, January 2016–July 2017.**](#)

Alessandra Lisi Award, 2017

With great pleasure we announce the winner of the 2017 edition of "Alessandra Lisi Award" is **Vijaya Kancherla, PhD**, Assistant Professor at the Department of Epidemiology, Emory University, Rollins School of Public Health. We were impressed by dr. Kancherla prominent CV, with numerous relevant publications and other types of contributions, demonstrating leadership in the field. These studies, focusing on high value issues on the epidemiology of birth defects, reflect very well the spirit of Alessandra's work with the ICBDSR Centre.

Dr Vijaya Kancherla will attend the 2017 Annual Meeting of the ICBDSR, held in Austin, Texas, from November 13 to 15, 2017. There she will give a presentation on her best work during the Alessandra Lisi Award session.

Meetings and Conferences



The **45th Annual Meeting of the European Teratology Society** will be held in Budapest from 4th to 7th September 2017. Full information at <https://www.etsoc.com/annual-meeting>



Shaping the Future of Pediatrics: how technology empowers clinicians, researchers and patients. Rome, 20th-22nd September 2017. The conference is organized in four sessions dedicated to major themes: OMICS and personalized medicine; Big data and digital integration; Patients and participatory medicine; The innovation cycle in pediatrics. Full information at <http://www.mcascientificevents.eu/shapingthefuture2017/>



8th International Conference on Birth Defects and Disabilities in the Developing World (ICBD), Bogotá, Colombia, 8th-11th November 2017. Visit <http://icbd.marchofdimes.org/> for full information on the Conference.

III International Congress of Community Genetics, organized by the Cuban Society of Human Genetics, held in Havana, Cuba, November 14th-17th, 2017. Under the slogan "Community Genetics in the Age of Genomics Medicine: Prevention is the Challenge", the scientific meeting plans to share experiences, show the progress of human and medical genetics in Cuba and other countries, and reflect on the application of results from the revolution of genomics new technologies in primary health care, for prevention. Registration are open at <http://geneticacomunitaria2017.sld.cu>

News from the ICBDSR Centre, Executive Committee, and ICBDSR Members

ICBDSR and CDC-National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities are organizing a **Birth Defects Surveillance Workshop** on 7 November 2017, in Bogotá, Colombia (the day prior to the 8th International Conference on Birth Defects and Disabilities in the Developing World).

The primary aim of the workshop is to inform participants about the importance of birth defects surveillance and how selected birth defects are captured by surveillance systems. Participants will also have the opportunity to learn more about congenital Zika syndrome and how surveillance systems in Central and South America have been capturing Zika-related malformations.

The Workshop include an online pre-course through the platform www.icbdsrtraining.org. There is no registration fee for the workshop, but because slots are limited (50 participants), an application to register is required. To support participation of health care professionals from Latin-American countries outside Colombia, the organizers plan to support hotel accommodation for two days for up to 20 such applicants

To apply for the workshop, please send this information by email to icbd@icbd.org (deadline August 28, 2017):

- Name
- Contact information: address, phone number, email
- Organization
- Title/Occupation
- Short description of current or near future activities in birth defects surveillance
- Please let us know also whether you are applying also for support for lodging (up to 2 nights)

Please, (write '**Bogotá 2017 workshop application**' in the subject line



Becoming a member of ICBDSDR:

Organizations can become members of the ICBDSDR if they systematically collect and analyze data from a birth defect surveillance system and are interested in undertaking collaborative research studies.

More info: <http://www.icbdsr.org/become-a-member/>

Please, send your contribution to the Newsletters to centre@icbdsr.org