World Birth Defects Day - WBDD 2018 – March 3rd

The Thunderclap page has been activated at https://www.thunderclap.it/projects/67651-world-birth-defects-day-2018. Thunderclap is a crowd speaking tool that helps amplify our mission through supporters signing up in advance to post a unified message at a specific time on their social media accounts. This action creates a wave of support, or “Thunderclap” across social media platforms. The campaign can be supported via Twitter, Facebook, Tumblr. Please, disseminate the link among your contacts, thank you.

Key messages, Things you can do for supporting the WBDD, and other information are available in the WBDD 2018 Toolkit, developed by March of Dimes and CDC: http://www.worldbirthdefectsday.org/world-birth-defects-day-2018-toolkit/

Please fill in the application form to become a “2018 Participating Organization”, if not yet done, and disseminate the link to the application form among organizations and institutions that may be interested in becoming a “WBDD Participating Organization”: http://www.worldbirthdefectsday.org/application-form/

Follow @WBDD on Twitter https://twitter.com/wbdday
Join WBDD Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/WBDDay/
Visit regularly WBDD webpage http://www.worldbirthdefectsday.org/ for news and information

What’s Going on Regarding Birth Defects

A study from the US National Birth Defects Prevention Study assessed associations between first-trimester metformin use for pregestational diabetes and specific major birth defects. Authors compared risks associated with first-trimester metformin use by diabetic women to nondiabetic women on no diabetes medication. The study does not suggest that metformin poses an appreciable risk for major birth defects, but further studies are necessary. Abstract available at https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/29388358


Full text available at https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/67/wr/mm6703a2.htm?s_cid=mm6703a2_w
News from the ICBDSR Centre, Executive Committee, and ICBDSR Members

Training Workshop on Birth Defect Surveillance and Prevention

A training Workshop, tailored to best meet the needs of the African Birth Defects surveillance (BDS) systems, will be held in Nairobi (Kenya), from April 29 to May 2, 2018. Invited Participants: BDS Teams of Tanzania, Kenya, Malawi, and Uganda. The training is developed by the International Centre on Birth Defects (ICBD – ICBDSR Centre), and supported in part by funding from the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities, US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention through Agreement 2017-2018 with the Task Force for Global Health. The training will be adapted on the basis of the experience, interaction, and issues raised in the online pre-course segments. Major focus will be the review of the data quality improvement plans that the local Teams created during the summer Arusha 2017 ICBDSR training – including the following:

- Data quality indicators: completeness, accuracy, timeliness
- Tools for quality: visual process maps, checklists for description and coding, recommended data table structure
- Success stories: what works well in other programs

Meetings and Conferences


2018 67th Annual EIS Conference, April 16-19, 2018, Hilton Atlanta, Atlanta, GA, USA. The EIS Conference is a primary forum for EIS officers to present their epidemiologic activities. National and international participants represent EIS officers, their mentors, EIS alumni, and public health professionals. Get more information at https://www.cdc.gov/eis/conference.html.

ACPA 75th Annual Meeting, April 10th-14th, 2018, Pittsburgh, PA, USA. http://acpa-cpf.org/annual-meeting/.


EUROCAT Registry Leaders Meeting (RLM) and the Scientific Symposium will take place on the 13th – 15th June 2018 at the European Commission’s Joint Research Centre in Ispra, Italy. Details on the program to follow.

The 58th Annual Meeting of the Teratology Society will be held on June 23rd–27th, 2018, at the Hilton Clearwater Beach Resort, in Clearwater, Florida. The theme for this year’s meeting is “Mechanisms, Models, Mothers and Babies: Bringing Birth Defects Research into Practice.” Abstracts due by February 15th, 2018.

The 45th ICBDSR Annual Meeting will take place in Prague, Czech Republic, from September 30th to October 4th, 2018. Additional information to follow.

Website: www.icbdsr.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/ICBDSR
Twitter: @icbdsr