



## International Clearinghouse for Birth Defects Surveillance and Research Monthly Newsletter

February 2018

Issue 2018-2



### World Birth Defects Day - WBDD 2018 – March 3<sup>rd</sup>

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, Thumblr. 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 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>

*Dukhovny S, Van Bennekom CM, Gagnon DR, Hernandez Diaz S, Parker SE, Anderka M, Werler MM, Mitchell AA. Metformin in the first trimester and risks for specific birth defects in the National Birth Defects Prevention Study. Birth Defects Res. 2018 Feb 1. doi: 10.1002/bdr2.1199. [Epub ahead of print]*

The findings of a study published in Morbidity Mortality Weekly Report underscore the importance of surveillance for birth defects potentially related to Zika virus infection and the need for continued monitoring in areas at risk for Zika. *Population-Based Surveillance of Birth Defects Potentially Related to Zika Virus Infection - 15 States and U.S. Territories, 2016. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep. 2018 Jan 26;67(3):91-96. doi: 10.15585/mmwr.mm6703a2.*

Full text available at [https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/67/wr/mm6703a2.htm?s\\_cid=mm6703a2\\_w](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 National Birth Defects Prevention Network (NBDPN) Annual Meeting**, March 11-14, 2018, Atlanta Marriott Buckhead Hotel & Conference Center, Atlanta, GA, USA. Info at <https://www.nbdpn.org/2018am.php>.

**2018 67<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Pittsburgh, PA, USA. <http://acpa-cpf.org/annual-meeting/>.

**7<sup>th</sup> ICCN - International Conference on Clinical Neonatology**, May 23<sup>rd</sup>- 26<sup>th</sup> 2018, Turin, Italy. Main Topics: Hypothermia in preterms: what's new?; Teamworking in the NICU; NIDCAP and family-centered care; EPO and neuroprotection: an update; Delivery of fetal CHD patients. Info at <http://www.mcascientificevents.eu/iccn2018/>.

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

The **58<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Teratology Society** will be held on June 23<sup>rd</sup>–27<sup>th</sup>, 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 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

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

Website: [www.icbdsr.org](http://www.icbdsr.org)

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