



International Clearinghouse for Birth Defects Surveillance and Research Monthly Newsletter

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What's Going on Regarding Birth Defects

Authors of a paper recently published in a special issue of *Annals of The New York Academy of Science* propose "triple surveillance:" integrating surveillance of cause (folate insufficiency), of disease occurrence (NTD prevalence), and of health outcomes (morbidity, mortality, and disability). For better sustainability and usefulness, it is crucial to refocus and streamline surveillance activities (no recreational data collection), weave surveillance into clinical care (integrate in clinical workflow), and, later, work on including additional risk factors and pediatric outcomes (increase benefits at low marginal cost). By doing so, surveillance becomes not a roadblock but a preferential path to prevention and better care. *Botto LD, Mastroiacovo P. Triple surveillance: a proposal for an integrated strategy to support and accelerate birth defect prevention. Ann N Y Acad Sci. 2018 Feb;1414(1):126-136. doi: 10.1111/nyas.13600.*

Full text available at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5873412/pdf/NYAS-1414-126.pdf>

The same supplement on *Folate Status in Women and Neural Tube Defect Risk Reduction* includes articles on:

- ✓ A historical perspective on folic acid
- ✓ Estimates of global and regional prevalence of NTDs
- ✓ A public health approach for preventing NTDs
- ✓ Safety of folic acid
- ✓ Investing in folic acid fortification in developing countries
- ✓ Folate status in women of reproductive age as a basis of NTD risk assessment
- ✓ Framework for laboratory harmonization of folate measurements in low- and middle-income countries and regions
- ✓ Should vitamin B12 status be considered in assessing risk of NTDs?

All of the articles are posted at <https://nyaspubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/17496632/1414/1>



World Birth Defects Day - WBDD 2018 – March 3rd

We are glad to announce that a meeting on World Birth Defects Day-WBDD is planned for September 30th, 2018, at Hotel Olšanka in Prague, Czech Republic (the day before the ICBDsr Annual Meeting). All the 2018 WBDD Charter and Participating Organizations are invited to attend the meeting. Further details will follow.

General information on ICBDsr Annual Meeting available at <http://www.icbdsr.org/45th-icbdsr-annual-meeting/>

Follow @WBDD on Twitter <https://twitter.com/wbdday>,

Join WBDD page on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/WBDDay/>

Visit WBDD website <https://www.worldbirthdefectsday.org/>

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

45th ICBDSR Annual Meeting

The 2018 ICBDSR Annual Meeting will take place in Prague, Czech Republic, from September 30th to October 4th. The preliminary program and information on registration and logistics are available at <http://www.icbdsr.org/45th-icbdsr-annual-meeting/>. Abstracts are due by **May 30th, 2018**

ICBDSR Alessandra Lisi Award

This award honors Alessandra Lisi, a young researcher at ICBDSR Centre from 2002 to her untimely death in 2006. The eligibility requirements include an active contribution to the epidemiology or surveillance of birth defects, preferably with an ICBDSR program, and evidence of a promising research career and ongoing commitment to the field, among others. The deadline for submitting applications to centre@icbdsr.org is **June 30, 2018**. Visit ICBDSR website for full information: <http://www.icbdsr.org/alessandra-lisi-award/>

Towards Open Health Data?

About new search tools and data and following the publication of the ‘Villani Report on Artificial Intelligence’ in France, Emmanuelle Amar, Program Director of France-REMERA registry, wrote an editorial on “Health data: a priority sector for Artificial Intelligence (AI)”. Full text at <https://www.remera.fr/?p=1302>

Online Self-paced Course on Birth Defect Surveillance and Prevention

The online course is still available for interested professionals. The course has been 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 2016-2017 with the Task Force for Global Health. The course is designed for clinicians, epidemiologists, public health professionals, and anyone interested in understanding birth defects and improving their prevention and care. The course includes videos, quizzes, a discussion forum, and publications/resources. The course is available in English and Spanish. Further information at <http://www.icbdsr.org/online-self-paced-course-on-birth-defect-surveillance-and-prevention/>, and the registration form is available at www.icbdsr.org/course-registration. You will receive your access credentials and you can begin the course at your convenience (It is “self-paced”).

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>.

7th ICCN - International Conference on Clinical Neonatology, May 23rd- 26th 2018, Turin, Italy. Main Topics: Hypothermia in preterms: what’s new?; Team working 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 13th– 15th June 2018 at the European Commission's Joint Research Centre in Ispra, Italy. Details on the program at <http://www.eurocat-network.eu/content/EUROCAT%20Symposium%202018%20Flyer.pdf>

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**”

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