



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

July 2018

Issue 2018-7

### What's Going on Regarding Birth Defects

Authors of a recent paper published in BMJ investigated whether exposure to metformin during the first trimester of pregnancy, for diabetes or other indications, increases the risk of all or specific congenital anomalies. Eleven EUROmediCAT European congenital anomaly registries surveyed 1,892,482 births in Europe between 2006 and 2013

No evidence was found for an increased risk of all non-genetic congenital anomalies combined following exposure to metformin during the first trimester, and the one significant association was no more than would be expected by chance. Further surveillance is needed to increase sample size and follow up the cardiac signal, but these findings are reassuring given the increasing use of metformin in pregnancy.

*Metformin exposure in first trimester of pregnancy and risk of all or specific congenital anomalies: exploratory case-control study. BMJ. 2018 Jun 25;361:k2477. doi: 10.1136/bmj.k2477.*

PDF available at <https://www.bmj.com/content/bmj/361/bmj.k2477.full.pdf>



### World Birth Defects Day - WBDD

WBDD Organizations who have not yet filled the application form for the 2019 WBDD Partnership are kindly requested to fill out the form at <https://www.worldbirthdefectsday.org/application-form/> in order to be included among those participating in the 2019 Edition of the WBDD. All the 2018 Organizations, including the Charter Organizations, should fill out the application form because the form has been changed and the possibility to join the 2019 WBDD Executive Committee and Working Groups has been added. New applicants are also welcome. Please, fill in the form as soon as possible. All the WBDD Charter and Participating Organizations are invited to attend the WBDD meeting planned for Sunday, September 30<sup>th</sup> (2:00 pm -6:00 pm) at Hotel Olšanka in Prague, Czech Republic (the day before the ICBDsr Annual Meeting). ICBDsr welcomes all participants to attend the entire ICBDsr Annual Meeting. Information on hotel reservation and logistics 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

#### 45<sup>th</sup> ICBDsr Annual Meeting

The 2018 ICBDsr Annual Meeting will take place in Prague, Czech Republic, from September 30<sup>th</sup> to October 4<sup>th</sup>.

The preliminary program and information on registration and logistics are available at

<http://www.icbdsr.org/45th-icbdsr-annual-meeting/>.

The Annual Meeting Planning Committee has reviewed the 39 abstracts submitted for the meeting with 24 being accepted for oral presentations, and 15 accepted for poster presentations. The final program is in preparation.

The deadline for reservations at Hotel Olšanka expired on **June 30<sup>th</sup> 2018**. Please, ask for availability of rooms at [rezervace@hotelolsanka.cz](mailto:rezervace@hotelolsanka.cz) mentioning the “ICBDSR” password. No cancellation fee will be charged in the event of cancellation of these reservation. Contact [centre@icbdsr.org](mailto:centre@icbdsr.org) in case of missing availability.

### **News from France – REMERA Program**

Dr Emmanuelle Amar from France-REMERa registry shared the study (poster) on hypospadias and maternal environment presented at the European Congress of Epidemiology recently held in Lyon, France (<http://www.euroepi2018.com/>). The conclusion of the study showed the involvement of environmental factors in hypospadias development, which supports previous studies. Higher hypospadias risk is correlated with a rural or highly polluted zones domiciliation and first months of pregnancy during the pesticide application seasons. Further studies with precise pesticide exposure quantification (e.g., toxicological measurements) should be conducted to confirm the generated hypotheses. PDF available on request at [centre@icbdsr.org](mailto:centre@icbdsr.org)

### **News from OMNI-Net Ukraine Program**

Prof Wladimir Wertelecki from OMNI Net Ukraine Team is pleased to share a report of their most recent observations concerning chronic exposures to low levels of ionizing radiation in Ukraine. Authors report that in areas impacted by the Chernobyl ionizing radiation of the Rivne Province in Ukraine, the neural tube defect and microcephaly rates are significantly higher than in areas with lower maternal cesium-137 incorporated levels. In two Rivne counties with populations proximal to nuclear power plants, the rates of neural tube defects and microcephaly are the highest in the province. The neural tube defects rates in Rivne are persistently among the highest in Europe.

*Chernobyl, radiation, neural tube defects, and microcephaly. Eur J Med Genet. 2018 Jun 13. pii: S1769-7212(18)30166-6. doi: 10.1016/j.ejmg.2018.06.005. [Epub ahead of print]*

Abstract available at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/29908351>

PDF available on request at [centre@icbdsr.org](mailto:centre@icbdsr.org)

### **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](http://www.icbdsr.org/course-registration). Once registered, you will receive access credentials and can begin the self-paced course at your own convenience.

### **Meetings and Conferences**

The **28<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Spina Bifida & Hydrocephalus** – Making the Invisible Visible. 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> August, 2018 – Le Meridien, New Delhi, India <http://ifsbhcon2018.com/index.php>

**The Neonate 2018 – 2<sup>nd</sup> International Symposium for Asia**. November 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Shanghai, China. Full information at <https://www.mcascientificevents.eu/the-neonate/>

**Congenital CMV - From Pregnancy to Infancy: Let's Face It**. 21<sup>st</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2019, Florence, Italy. Online registration at <https://www.mcascientificevents.eu/cm/>

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

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