



International Clearinghouse for Birth Defects Surveillance and Research Monthly Newsletter

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World Birth Defects Day - WBDD

To date, 134 Organizations have enrolled as Partner Organizations in the **2019 WBDD, March 3**. The full list is available in the WBDD website: <https://www.worldbirthdefectsday.org/partners/>. Below is the number of Partners by WHO Region:

6	Africa
14	North America
25	Central and South America
5	East Mediterranean
49	Europe
25	South East Asia
6	Western Pacific
4	Worldwide

The theme of the 2019 WBDD edition is: **“Many birth defects, one voice”**. This sentence should be used by event organizers as subtitle of the 2019 WBDD. Twitter Hashtag: #Manybirthdefects1voice. To have an event (e.g., scientific meeting, educational meeting, or leisure event such as a marathon) qualify as “WBDD event” has to be performed **between January 1st and April 30th, 2019**.

Join the WBDD as Partner Organization by completing the online application form: on the WBDD website <https://www.worldbirthdefectsday.org/application-form/>

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What's Going on Regarding Birth Defects

A study from Texas estimated inpatient hospitalization costs for patients with microcephaly, and predict cost increases due to a potential Zika virus outbreak. Authors identified 8,005 microcephaly hospitalizations between 2008 and 2015 (\$203,899,042; total cost). The median admission cost for newborns with microcephaly was higher compared to those without microcephaly. Microcephaly hospitalizations of newborns had a lower median cost compared to non-newborns. Based on these observed hospitalization costs, the authors estimated that a potential Zika virus outbreak in Texas could result in an additional \$1-6 million per year for hospitalizations. An increase in microcephaly prevalence due to a Zika outbreak in Texas could have a considerable impact on health care costs.

Microcephaly inpatient hospitalization and potential Zika outbreak in Texas: A cost and predicted economic burden analysis. Travel Med Infect Dis. 2019 Jan 9. pii: S1477-8939(19)30001-8. doi:10.1016/j.tmaid.2019.01.001. [Epub ahead of print]. Abstract available at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/30639780>

A recent population-based cohort study of all live-born singleton children in Denmark from January 1, 1997 to December 31, 2011 (N = 913 302) suggested that maternal use of valproate, but not other antiepileptic drugs (AEDs) during pregnancy, was associated with an increased risk of ADHD in the offspring. The cohort was followed from birth until date of the ADHD diagnosis, death, out migration, or December 31, 2015. These findings have important implications for the counseling of women of childbearing potential using valproate. *Association of Prenatal Exposure to Valproate and Other Antiepileptic Drugs With Risk for Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder in Offspring.* JAMA Netw Open. 2019 Jan 4;2(1):e186606. doi: 10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2018.6606. Abstract available at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/30646190>

WHO KAP - The Knowledge Action Portal (KAP)

Following the official launch of the **Knowledge Action Portal (KAP)**, a community-driven platform for Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs) information, interaction and inspiration on December 6, 2018, the **WHO Global Coordination Mechanism on Non Communicable Diseases (GDM/NCD)** introduced the KAP to attendees of the 'Meeting of the World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Centers (CCs) to strengthen the capacity to tackle non communicable disease (NCD) risk factors and to improve surveillance in the WHO European Region. The meeting aimed to create a network of WHO CCs working in NCD prevention and surveillance, map current activities of participating CCs to identify gaps in evidence and expertise, and identify mechanisms to address these gaps. New users of KAP can [sign up here](#) and begin connecting with like-minded individuals.

Short Course on Prevention Strategies for NCDs

The [Centre on Population Approaches for Non-Communicable Disease Prevention, Nuffield Department of Population Health](#) and the Department for Continuing Education, University of Oxford, is hosting an accredited short course on prevention strategies for NCDs. The course is designed to:

- Increase understanding of the burden of NCDs and their risk factors, determinants, and prevention strategies
- Develop specific skills in designing and evaluating prevention strategies
- Provide a forum to share knowledge and experience with participants and faculty

The 2019 course will be held from May 12th – 17th and will be presented by internationally renowned experts through lectures, fora, group sessions and one-to-one tutorials. The course is aimed at researchers, practitioners, policy makers, postgraduate students and other early career level professionals working in the field of NCDs. To date, the course has attracted participants from 36 different countries. Please note that the application deadline is January 31, 2019. More information can be found [here](#).

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

Online Self-Paced Course on Birth Defect Surveillance and Prevention

The online course remains 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. To date, 146 applicants from 37 countries have participated in the course.

Further information is available 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. Once registered, you will receive access credentials and can begin the self-paced course at your own convenience.

Meetings and Conferences

Congenital CMV – From Pregnancy to Infancy: Let's Face It. February 21-22, 2019, Florence, Italy.
<https://www.mcascientificevents.eu/cm/>

2nd International Congress on Advanced Treatments in Rare Diseases (RARE2019). March 4-5, 2019, Vienna, Austria. <http://www.rare2019.com/>

2nd World Congress on Maternal Fetal Neonatal Medicine. April 4-6, 2019, London, United Kingdom.
<https://www.mcascientificevents.eu/worldmfnm/>

ECPCA – European Cleft Palate Craniofacial Association. June 12-15, 2019, Utrecht, The Netherlands. Theme of the 2019 congress is *“Future perspectives in research & therapy”*. Abstracts submission is now open.
<http://ecpca.eu/>

59th Annual Meeting of the Teratology Society, June 22–26, 2019, San Diego, California, US. The theme for the meeting is *“Sea Changes in Birth Defects Research and Prevention”*. The program offers an exciting variety of scientific sessions, and three workshops will be offered: Current Topics and Updates for Pregnancy Registries, Multidisciplinary Research Needs, and Irresponsible Conduct of Research: What Happens When Things Go Wrong. <http://www.teratology.org/meetings/2017/>

3rd Congress of Joint European Neonatal Societies. September 17-21, 2019, Maastricht, The Netherlands.
<https://www.mcascientificevents.eu/jens/>

13th Asia Pacific Conference on Human Genetics, November 7-9, 2019, Makati Shangri-la Manila, Philippines. The theme of the Conference is *“Advancing Translational Medicine and Collaborations in Genomics.”* This conference will bring together an outstanding community of faculty, scientists, researchers, and students from the Asia Pacific region and different parts of the world. Everyone is invited to submit abstracts by March 7, 2019. www.apchg2019.org

9th International Conference on Birth Defects and Disabilities in the Developing World (ICBD 2019) – “Health for all: Accelerate Efforts for Birth Defects Prevention and Care”. October 23-26, 2019, Colombo, Sri Lanka. Recognizing the need to build capacity in lower-income countries for the prevention of birth defects and preterm birth and care of those affected, the goal of these biennial conferences has been to provide specific practical tools and approaches that developing country participants can use to implement and strengthen surveillance and health care delivery and influence policy and funding in support when they return to their respective countries. <http://icbd.marchofdimes.org/>

SAVE THE DATE – 46th ICBDSR Annual Meeting

The 2019 ICBDSR Annual Meeting will take place in **Bratislava, Slovak Republic** from **September 8-11, 2019**. The meeting will be hosted by the Slovak Medical University in Bratislava, Faculty of Public Health.

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