



International Clearinghouse for Birth Defects Surveillance and Research Monthly Newsletter

December 2019

Issue 2019-12

What's Going on Regarding Birth Defects: initiatives and announcements

All readers are kindly invited to contribute to this section of the Newsletter, sending their suggestions to centre@icbdsr.org by the 1st Friday of the month.

Special issue in *Frontiers in Pediatrics* - Call for abstracts

Research Topic: "**Congenital Anomalies: State of the Art and the New Paradigms for a Precision Public Health Approach**". This Research Topic will cover several aspects of congenital anomalies, including their prevalence, pre- and post-natal diagnosis, clinical (including surgical) management, short- and long-term health outcomes of congenital anomalies, disease codification, and intersections with rare diseases and cancer. It will traverse the foundational tenants of epidemiological approaches and the state of the art. It will also explore congenital anomalies as an example for the precision public health approach, which, put simply, can be stated as using the best available data to target more effectively and efficiently various modes of interventions to those most in need. The abstract submission deadline is **31 January 2020** and manuscripts should be submitted by 21 April 2020. Please find more information about the project at <https://www.frontiersin.org/research-topics/11976/>

Free Birth Defects Training App Goes Live

The first of its kind [Global Birth Defects Description and Coding \(GBDDC\) app](#) is now live, offering a wealth of expert information at the touch of a smartphone. The app contains images of major externally visible birth defects, with definitions and ICD codes, as well as video material on the newborn examination, information on Congenital Zika Syndrome and limited other syndromes. The app is now available for download on the [Apple Store](#) and on [Google Play](#). Visit the [Global Birth Defects website](#) for a guide to installing, registering, and using the basic version of the app.

KAP (Knowledge Action Project) was launched by the **WHO Global Coordination Mechanism on Non Communicable Diseases (GDM/NCD)**. It is a community-driven platform for NCDs information, interaction, and inspiration. The KAP aims to create a community of connected individuals from various backgrounds and skill sets to access knowledge and information, promote collaboration, and find the common goals to beat NCDs. New users can [sign up here](#) and begin connecting with like-minded individuals

Launch of the new Community functionalities:

One of the main goals of the KAP is to stimulate discussions and knowledge sharing through the [Community section](#). As part of the Phase 1 development phase, WHO explored options on how to further adapt the KAP to the needs and wants of the Communities making the online dedicated space more accessible. Based on the feedback garnered from the Member States, WHO, UN Agencies, and Non-State Actors, specific changes that would help to enhance the functionality of the KAP were identified and implemented. These changes transformed the Community section into a dynamic workspace including:

1. Redesign of the Communities' Home and About sections
2. Adding a description for Moderators and Steering Groups members
3. Merging calendars for the members of the communities
4. Adding a new dynamic section called the notice board
5. Adding translations for the website content for all the 6 UN languages.

To explore the new functions log into your KAP account (or create a new account [here](#)) and visit *open Communities* or request to join a close Community.

From ICBD – International Centre on Birth Defects

Our International Centre on Birth Defects (ICBD) has participated in the Birth Defects Surveillance Workshop, organized by WHO-AFRO with the help of CDC and ICBD. The Workshop took place in Kampala, Uganda, November 11-15th. ICBD faculty included Dr. Boris Groisman, RENAC program and ICBDSR Vice Chair. Teams from several African countries attended the Workshop.

What's Going on Regarding Birth Defects: a selection from the recent literature

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SAVE THE DATE - 2020 ICBSR Annual Meeting

The 47th ICBSR Annual Meeting will be held in Bologna, Italy, at the Relais Bellaria Hotel & Congressi, from **October 5** through **7, 2020**. The meeting will be hosted by the Italy Emilia Romagna (IMER) registry, and Alma Mater Studiorum, University of Bologna. Additional information will be disseminated at a later date.



World Birth Defects Day - WBDD Movement

Join the WBDD as a Partner Organization

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

Follow @worldbdday on Twitter <https://twitter.com/WorldBDDay> and
Instagram worldbdday <https://www.instagram.com/worldbdday/>

Join WBDD page on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/WBDDay/>
Visit WBDD website <https://www.worldbirthdefectsday.org/>

Meetings and Conferences

9th International Conference on Birth Defects and Disabilities in the Developing World (ICBD 2020) February 23-26, 2020. Cinnamon Grand Hotel, 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. Registration is open: <http://icbd.marchofdimes.org/>

11th International Conference on Preventive Medicine & Public Health, March 5-6, 2020 Rome, Italy. Theme: Science-based resolutions addressing global pervasive & preventable health issues. <https://preventivemedicine.healthconferences.org/>

Annual Clinical Genetics Meeting of the American College of Medical Genetics (ACMG), March 17-21, 2020 San Antonio, TX, USA. <https://www.acmgmeeting.net/acmg2020/Public/mainhall.aspx>

28th International Conference on Clinical Pediatrics, April 15-16, 2020 London, UK. Theme: Enlightening the New Horizons in Clinical Pediatrics. <https://clinicalpediatrics.conferenceseries.com/>

60th Annual Meeting of the Society for Birth Defects Research and Prevention, June 27–July 1, 2020, Charleston Marriott, Charleston, South Carolina, USA. The theme for this year's meeting is "Honoring Teratology's Roots, Growing a Healthier Future. The program offers an exciting variety of scientific sessions on topics including:

- Effects of water fluoridation on neurodevelopment
- Experimental animal studies in counseling
- Developmental neurotoxicity of methylmercury
- Investigation of a potential outbreak of birth defects
- Gene therapy, CRISPR/Cas9 technology, breakthroughs, and ethical challenges
- Opioid use in pregnancy
- Embryogenesis at high-resolution
- Perinatal and postnatal exposures to environmental chemicals
- Obesity and metabolic disorders
- Assessing pregnancy risk of immunomodulators

- Innovator award, trainee awards, professional development opportunities

Abstract submission is open now through February 15, 2020. The full program, abstract submission instructions, and information about trainee travel awards, hotel reservations, and registration, may be found on the Annual Meeting website: <https://www.birthdefectsresearch.org/meetings/2020/>

EUROCAT Registry Leader Meeting and Scientific Symposium, June 30-July 2, 2020 Valencia (Spain). Valencia, Spain. Call for Abstract for the Scientific Symposium will follow in January 2020. <https://eu-rd-platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/eurocat/news-events>

World Congress of Epidemiology WCE 2020 on “Methodological Innovations in Epidemiology”, September 13-16, 2019, Melbourne, Australia. <https://wce2020.org/>

