



International Clearinghouse for Birth Defects Surveillance and Research Monthly Newsletter

January 2020

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SAVE THE DATE - 2020 ICBDSR Annual Meeting

The 47th ICBDSR 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.

Preliminary program and information on hotel reservation and registration on the [ICBDSR website](#)

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.

January is National Birth Defects Prevention Month. The theme for 2020 is “Best for You. Best for Baby” Join the effort to raise awareness of birth defects, their causes, and their impact! Additional information at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/birthdefects/prevention-month.html>

<https://www.nbdpn.org/bdpm.php>

<https://www.marchofdimes.org/complications/january-is-national-birth-defects-prevention-month.aspx>

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 skillsets 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

Country Action

The ‘Country Action’ section of the KAP is an interactive map allowing users to discover countries that are committed to tackling NCDs through national, regional, and global action. Focusing on the 194 Member States, this section provides a comprehensive overview of national, global, and regional NCD engagement in relation to multisectoral and multistakeholder action. Access the ‘Country Action’ section as follows:

1. Visit www.who.int/KAP
2. Click the menu bar (found in the upper-left corner of the page) and select the ‘Country Action’ tab.
3. Enlarge the map using the ‘plus’ icon located in the top right corner.
4. Narrow your search by using the ‘geotag’ icon located alongside the ‘plus’ icon to filter the map by WHO region.
5. Select up to five countries and explore the NCD snapshot provided for each, including data on demography; mortality and risk factors; national, regional, and global multi-sector and multi-stakeholder action; as well as the success stories.
6. If desirable, select another country from the map or continue exploring another section of the KAP.

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 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. It is available in English and Spanish.

To date, **254 trainees** from **57 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/>.

The registration form is available at www.icbdsr.org/course-registration. Once registered, you will receive an email with guidance on how to register by yourself in the course platform www.icbdsrtraining.org and how to self-enroll in the self-paced course in either English or Spanish.

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

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.

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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, June 30-July 1, 2020 Valencia (Spain), and **15th European Symposium on Congenital Anomalies: “Current Approaches to Congenital Anomalies”**, 2nd July 2020, Valencia, Spain. Information regarding registration and abstract submission is now available at <https://eu-rd-platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/eurocat/news/symposium2020>. The abstract submission deadline is set for February 15, 2020.

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