



International Clearinghouse for Birth Defects Surveillance and Research Monthly Newsletter

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UPDATE ON COVID-19

The Executive Committee recognizes the swift turn of events globally over the last month. The impact of the virus touches the countries of each member program, most notably our Italian colleagues and projected meeting site for 2020. We will continue to monitor the situation regarding COVID-19 and provide updates on any changes in our annual meeting planning. We hope for good health for all our members and the populations they serve.



World Birth Defects Day - WBDD

Thank you to March of Dimes for leading the Twitter Live Chat and to MotherToBaby for hosting the Facebook/Instagram LIVE!. The two events had great engagement from many people all around the world.

Thanks to all the participants and to the WBDD Partners who organized an event/activity to observe the WBDD. Please, share with us your activity by email at centre@icbdsr.org

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/>

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.

Colombo Declaration

Colombo Declaration on Birth Defects Care and Prevention was formulated as a global call for action by the organizing committee of the 9th International Conference on Birth Defects and Disabilities in Developing Countries (ICBD2020), held February 23-26, 2020, in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The full text of the declaration is available at <http://icbd.marchofdimes.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/ICBD-2020-Colombo-Declaration.pdf>

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, **276 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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Liang Y, Hu X, Li X, Wen B, Wang L, Wang C. [Parental non-hereditary teratogenic exposure factors on the occurrence of congenital heart disease in the offspring in the northeastern Sichuan, China](#). Sci Rep. 2020 Mar 3;10(1):3905.doi: 10.1038/s41598-020-60798-6. PubMed PMID: 32127562.

Louden AR, Suhl J, Kancherla V, Caspers Conway KM, Makelarski J, Howley MM, Hoyt AT, Olney RS, Olshan AF, Romitti PA; National Birth Defects Prevention Study. [Association between maternal periconceptional alcohol consumption and neural tube defects: Findings from the National Birth Defects Prevention Study, 1997-2011](#). Birth Defects Res. 2020 Mar;112(5):427-439. doi: 10.1002/bdr2.1656.Epub 2020 Feb 27. PubMed PMID: 32104984.

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Meetings and Conferences

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

The full program and information about trainee travel awards, hotel reservations, and registration is available 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 is available at <https://eu-rd-platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/eurocat/news/symposium2020>.

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

8th International Congress of Gynaecology and Obstetrics (ICGO-2020), November 11-13, 2020, Dubai, UAE <https://www.bitcongress.com/icgo2020/>

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. A Scientific Session on congenital heart defects will be held at the Conference Hall of the Emilia Romagna Region Health Authority on Tuesday, October 6. A preliminary program and information on hotel reservations and registration is on the [ICBDSR website](#).