



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

April 2020

Issue 2020-04

### UPDATE ON 2020 ICBDSR Annual Meeting

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the 47<sup>th</sup> ICBDSR Annual Meeting was postponed to **May 2021**. The final dates will be released as soon as possible. The meeting venue will be the RelaisBellaria Hotel & Congressi in Bologna (Italy), as already planned. Any news will be posted in the [ICBDSR website](#).

### UPDATE ON COVID-19

COVID-19 is an emerging, rapidly evolving situation. Many governments are taking extraordinary steps of locking down entire countries and restricting movement for the population in a sweeping effort to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. Our thoughts are with everyone affected by this pandemic. We hope for good health for ICBDSR members, all our readers, and their families.



### World Birth Defects Day – WBDD, March 3

Thanks to all the participants in the WBDD on March 3, 2020 and to the WBDD Partners who organized an event/activity to observe the Day. Please, share with us your activity by email at [centre@icbdsr.org](mailto: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/>.

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### 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](mailto:centre@icbdsr.org) by the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month.*

#### **KAP (Knowledge Action Project): Addition of resources and guidance on NCD and COVID-19**

With the growing pandemic of COVID-19 and the increasing focus on the interlinkages with Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs), you can find the full database of COVID-19 resources on the WHO website [here](#). In addition, a new KAP [thematic area on the topic of COVID-19 and NCDs](#) is available here, to highlight selected resources on this topic.

**KAP** 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

### **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, **308 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](http://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](http://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**

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## Meetings and Conferences

### 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Society for Birth Defects Research and Prevention

Due to COVID-19, the Society's face-to-face annual meeting has been canceled. A virtual 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting is being planned. Further information can be found [here](#). 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 registration is available on the Annual Meeting website: <https://www.birthdefectsresearch.org/meetings/2020/>.

**EUROCAT Registry Leader Meeting and 15<sup>th</sup> European Symposium on Congenital Anomalies.**

Considering the development of the epidemic in Europe, after thoughtful deliberations, a decision was made to postpone the EUROCAT Scientific Symposium scheduled to take place on 2 July 2020 in Valencia, Spain. Information about a new date will be available as soon as possible. For any questions, please do not hesitate to contact: [JRC-EUROCAT@ec.europa.eu](mailto:JRC-EUROCAT@ec.europa.eu)

**World Congress of Epidemiology WCE 2020** on “Methodological Innovations in Epidemiology”, September 13-16, 2020, Melbourne, Australia <https://wce2020.org/> has been postponed until 2021

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