



International Clearinghouse for Birth Defects Surveillance and Research Monthly Newsletter

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UPDATE ON 2020 ICBDSR ANNUAL MEETING

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the 47th ICBDSR Annual Meeting has been postponed to **October 2021**. The final dates will be released as soon as possible. The meeting venue remains the Relais Bellaria Hotel & Congressi in Bologna (Italy), as already planned. Updates on the annual meeting will be posted to the [ICBDSR website](https://www.icbdsr.org/).

NEWS AND UPDATE ON COVID-19

- Get the full database of COVID-19 resources from WHO: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>
- Get the latest public health information from CDC: <https://www.coronavirus.gov>
- Get the latest research from NIH: <https://www.nih.gov/coronavirus>
- Find SARS-CoV-2 literature, sequence, and clinical content: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sars-cov-2/>.

NCD Voices in the Decade of Action

The Global Coordination Mechanism on the Prevention and Control of Non Communicable Diseases, (GCM/NCD) is launching a new webinar series called *NCD Voices in the Decade of Action*. It will highlight the voices of marginalized groups through a 'pass the mic' ethos, aiming to better support a meaningful participatory process for populations that are often left behind in global dialogues. The first webinar within this series focused on the value of linking COVID-19 and NCDs to 'build back better' and took place on June 18th. The webinar highlighted the links between COVID-19 and NCDs and mental health conditions, allowing for knowledge sharing, with a strong emphasis on lived experience around the subject matter, ultimately helping us to better understand the interlinkages of this double burden of disease within a global pandemic. There are two upcoming as part of this series:

- ✓ 25 June- Gender, Equity, NCDs and Mental Health Conditions - [register here](#)
- ✓ 2 July- Prescriptions for a healthy and green recovery from COVID-19 - [register here](#)



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

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.

The Indian Institute of Public Health-Delhi (IIPH-Delhi), Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) announces the 'Call for Applications' for following on-campus academic programs for the session 2020-21:

- ✓ **Master of Public Health (MPH)**, Affiliated to Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST), Trivandrum. Web link: [Master of Public Health](#)
- ✓ **Integrated MSc & PhD in Clinical Research** (Jointly conducted by PHFI & AcSIR#), #Academy of Scientific & Innovative Research (AcSIR) has been established as an 'Institution of National Importance', by an Act of Parliament. Web link: [Integrated MSc and PhD in Clinical Research](#)
- ✓ **Post Graduate Diploma in Public Health Management (PGDPHM)**, Supported under National Health Mission (NHM), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW), Government of India. Web link: [Post Graduate Diploma in Public Health Management](#)

A limited number of scholarships may be awarded to deserving and meritorious candidates, subject to availability of funds. For further details and eligibility criteria please visit the website: [Scholarships](#). The placement cell at IIPH-Delhi supports the placement process by identifying relevant career opportunities for those who are seeking placement assistance. More than 93% placements have taken place since inception. Details of placement cell at: [Placements](#). The program brochures and application forms are available on the website: [On-campus Academic Programs](#). Applications may be submitted on-line/hard copy. The last date for receiving applications for MPH is June 20, 2020 and for MSc CR and PGDPHM is July 31, 2020. For additional information, please visit the website www.phfi.org.

Frontiers Research Topics

Congenital Anomalies: State of the Art and the New Paradigms for a Precision Public Health Approach

Frontiers is a leading Open Access Publisher and Open Science Platform. With their unique mixes of varied contributions from Original Research to Review Articles, **Research Topics** unify the most influential researchers, the latest key findings and historical advances in a hot research area.

Congenital anomalies are common health events, comprising a total prevalence of 3-4 % and a live birth prevalence of 2-3%. They have a substantial impact on the risk of infant and childhood mortality and long-term health outcomes. They are also associated with large personal, familial and health system costs during childhood and across the lifespan. The etiology of many congenital anomalies is poorly understood, but this is an important and very active area of research. There is a growing literature on the risk factors, particularly genetic and epigenetic factors, as well as environmental factors and teratogenic effects of medications that can be further explored by an increasing variety of approaches.

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. Full information at <https://www.frontiersin.org/research-topics/11976/congenital-anomalies-state-of-the-art-and-the-new-paradigms-for-a-precision-public-health-approach#overview>

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, **318 trainees** from **57 countries** have participated in the course. Additional 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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Meetings and Conferences

60th Annual Meeting of the Society for Birth Defects Research and Prevention

The Society for Birth Defects Research and Prevention 60th Annual Meeting is going virtual.

The program offers an exciting variety of scientific sessions on topics including:

- *Coronavirus (COVID-19) and pregnancy (free pre-meeting session on Thursday, June 11th)*
- *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*

Please visit the Annual Meeting website for complete program and registration details:

<https://www.birthdefectsresearch.org/meetings/2020/>

EUROCAT Registry Leader Meeting and 15th 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 July 2, 2020 in Valencia, Spain. Information about a new date will be available as soon as possible. For any questions, please contact: 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

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