



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 pandemic, 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 RelaisBellaria Hotel & Congressi in Bologna (Italy). Updates on the annual meeting will be posted to the [ICBDSR website](#).

NEWS AND UPDATE ON COVID-19

COVID-19 is an emerging, rapidly evolving situation:

- 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/>.

World Health Organization (WHO) - [EPI-WIN Webinar Series] Current topics in Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) in the context of COVID-19

On May 6, 2020, WHO outlined criteria for countries considering re-opening social and business activities in the context of COVID-19. We are now seeing the effect of reopening with varying degrees of adherence to those criteria. WHO headquarters is hosting a series of webinars focusing on RCCE tactics to assist countries in developing RCCE plans, activities, and messaging to support successful re-opening. The series is designed for WHO regional and country office staff who are designing and implementing COVID-19 RCCE strategies and interventions, Ministry of Health counterparts, and other communication partners.

Webinar 1: Managing Uncertainty through RCCE and Coordination, was held on Wednesday July 8, 2020

Subsequent webinars in the series:

- ✓ July 22 [time TBD]: Influencing Risk Perception through RCCE
Helping individuals and communities to understand their COVID-19 risks is crucial to successful transition to new stages of COVID-19 response. This webinar will consider messaging strategies that address populations at different risk levels and perceptions of their vulnerability.
- ✓ August 5 [time TBD]: Creating New Norms and Sustaining Behavior Change
Until a vaccine is available, COVID-19 is likely to be circulating somewhere in the world. New norms and behaviors will need to be sustained longer term. This webinar will identify elements of behavior change communication that can be adapted to RCCE to support the "new normal."

Further information at <https://extranet.who.int/goarn/partner-resources/323>



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 **Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI)** is pleased to announce its '**Call for Applications' for the 'eCourse in Clinical Research Methods (eLearning)'**, for academic session September 2020 - January 2021. The aim of this course is to provide participants with a multi-disciplinary perspective to facilitate their skills in health research. The course is designed as a four-month eCourse. It is a computer- based online course, largely self-taught, complemented with online lectures and comprehensive printed study materials.

The course is being offered to professionals including Medical postgraduate (MD/MS) students, Diplomate of National Board (DNB) students, junior to mid-career researchers, and PhD scholars in health and other closely-related disciplines, Public Health personnel, senior residents, faculty/clinicians from medical and other health sciences (dental, physiotherapy, nursing, AYUSH professionals, pharmacy, etc.) colleges/institutes, researchers from pharmaceutical industries, clinical research organizations, health and hospital establishments, and professionals with non-clinical backgrounds with an interest in professional capacity development in research design and analysis.

To submit the online applications and to download the course brochure, visit PHFI Centre for eLearning: <https://cdl.phfi.org/portal/node/268> and apply. The brochure is also available on PHFI website www.phfi.org. Please, send any queries and concerns at ecourse_crm@iiphd.org.

Last date for submission of online application is August 31, 2020. Program shall commence by September 21, 2020.

News from the ICBDSR Executive Committee

Becoming an affiliate member of ICBDSR

Individuals, Organizations, or Institutions may apply to become affiliates. Affiliates may collaborate with Clearinghouse members, participate in projects, and attend the ICBDSR Annual Meeting. Candidates for affiliates may include people or teams who are interested to develop a surveillance and prevention program, or are beginning to do so but do not yet meet membership criteria, as well as graduates from the Training Program in Surveillance and Prevention; professionals, advocates, and organizations with a strong interest and commitment to surveillance and prevention.

Requirements to become an affiliate member:

- ✓ A letter of recommendation sent to centre@icbdsr.org by an ICBDSR program director (check the list of program directors).
- ✓ Submission of the affiliate member's application form, available at <http://www.icbdsr.org/affiliate-membership-application/>. Please read the [ICBDSR Bylaws](#) prior to filling the form.

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, **329 trainees** from **57 countries** have joined the online 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 tocentre@icbdsr.org by the 1st Friday of the month.

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Meetings and Conferences

EUROCAT Registry Leader Meeting and 15thEuropean Symposium on Congenital Anomalies

Considering the development of the pandemic in Europe, after thoughtful deliberations, a decision was made to postpone the EUROCAT Scientific Symposium scheduled to take place on July2, 2020 in Valencia, Spain. Information about a new date will be available as soon as possible.

For 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/>