

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

June 2021

Issue 2021-06

### UPDATE ON ICBDSR ANNUAL MEETING

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the ICBDSR Executive Committee decided to hold a **virtual meeting in 2021** and return to an in-person meeting in 2022. The 2022 meeting will be hosted by Italy IMER Registry in Bologna. The virtual meeting will be held on **Monday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021**. The meeting will run from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. US Eastern Time EST (GMT -5). A detailed time zone schedule will be provided at a later time, according to local Daylight Savings Time. From 9-10 a.m. EST, we will conduct the ICBDSR Annual Business Meeting for Programs' representatives, and from 10 a.m.- 12 p.m. EST, we will conduct an abbreviated annual meeting for all members and guests. Updates on the virtual annual meeting will be posted on the [ICBDSR website](#).



### World Birth Defects Day – WBDD, March 3<sup>rd</sup>

Thanks to all the participants in the events of **March 3<sup>rd</sup> World Birth Defects Day**. Let us know what you did for celebrating WBDD: Email [centre@icbdsr.org](mailto:centre@icbdsr.org) so your activities can be published in the WBDD website.

Join World Birth Defects Day as **WBDD 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/>

### NEWS AND UPDATE ON COVID-19

#### 74<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly (WHA)

The WHA74 commenced on 24 May 2021 and concluded its sessions on 31 May 2021. Theme: Ending this pandemic, preventing the next: building together a healthier, safer and fairer world. In light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic the event was held virtually. You can replay the proceedings on the webcast [here](#).

#### EPI-WIN: WHO Information Network for Epidemics

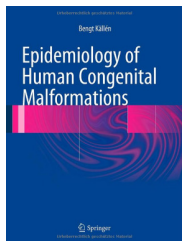
EPI-WIN is part of WHO's Health Emergency Programme's risk communication efforts and was established following the outbreak of coronavirus disease (COVID-19). EPI-WIN seeks to give everyone access to timely, accurate, and easy-to-understand advice and information from trusted sources on public health events and outbreaks. News and updates at <https://www.who.int/teams/risk-communication>.

## COVAX –Working for global equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines

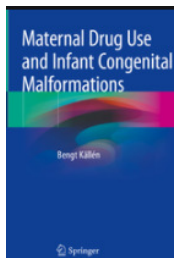
COVAX is co-led by [CEPI](#), [Gavi](#) and WHO, alongside key delivery partner [UNICEF](#). In the Americas, the PAHO Revolving Fund is the recognized procurement agent for COVAX. To date, COVAX has shipped over 81 million COVID-19 vaccines to 129 participants. Click [here](#) for news and updates of the COVAX roll-out.

- ✓ Get epidemiological updates 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 National Institute of Health: <https://covid19.nih.gov/>
- ✓ Find SARS-CoV-2 literature, sequence, and clinical content from the National Library of Medicine: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sars-cov-2/>

## ICBD corner: News and comments from the *International Centre on Birth Defects (ICBD)*



This month we break off from sharing resources on global data related to birth defect occurrence and outcomes to celebrate the life and works of Dr Bengt Källén, who died on 9 June 2021 at the age of 92. He was professor emeritus in embryology at the University of Lund and a founder of the Swedish Registry of Congenital Anomalies. Perhaps more importantly for our organization, he was a central force who developed, nurtured, and grew the International Clearinghouse from the earliest days, with unfailing drive (with several books and hundreds of papers published through 2019) and scientific rigor.



The Clearinghouse will pay fuller tribute on its website, so please consider sharing memories of your connection with him or ways in which he influenced your life and work. I remember his kindness when he hosted me in his house while I spent a few days with him in an early February in Lund to learn about birth defect epidemiology at the beginning of my work with ICBD many years ago.

The world of birth defects has lost a giant, but his legacy continues through the lives of many.

*Lorenzo Botto, ICBD Director*

## What's Going on Regarding Birth Defects

International Cleft Palate Master Course Amsterdam – 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> July 2021, (15:00 – 21:00 CET). An online, interactive digital Master Course, Webinar with breakout sessions and discussion in small groups <https://cleftpalate.nl/>

## A selection from the recent literature, and recommendations from readers

*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*

## A Selection from the Recent Literature

### Risk factors, Protective Factors

#### COVID-19

Sinaci S, Ocal DF, Seven B, Anuk AT, Besimoglu B, Keven MC, Goncu Ayhan S, Akin MS, Tayman C, Keskin HL, Yapar Eyi EG, Dinc B, Moraloglu Tekin O, Sahin D. [Vertical Transmission of SARS-CoV-2: a prospective cross-sectional study from a tertiary center.](#) J Med Virol. 2021 Jun 3. doi: 10.1002/jmv.27128. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 34081331.

Leyser M, Marques FJP, Nascimento OJMD. [Potential risk of brain damage and poor developmental outcomes in children prenatally exposed to SARS-COV-2: a systematic review.](#) Rev Paul Pediatr. 2021 May 26;40:e2020415. English, Portuguese. doi: 10.1590/1984-0462/2022/40/2020415. PMID: 34076204.

McBroom K. [A Comparison of Zika Virus and COVID-19: Clinical Overview and Public Health Messaging.](#) J Midwifery Womens Health. 2021 Jun 7. doi: 10.1111/jmwh.13230. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 34096682.

Yang J, D'souza R, Kharrat A, Fell DB, Snelgrove JW, Murphy KE, Shah PS. [COVID-19 pandemic and population-level pregnancy and neonatal outcomes: a living systematic review and meta-analysis.](#) Acta Obstet Gynecol Scand. 2021 Jun 6. doi: 10.1111/aogs.14206. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 34096034.

Khan DSA, Pirzada AN, Ali A, Salam RA, Das JK, Lassi ZS. [The Differences in Clinical Presentation, Management, and Prognosis of Laboratory-Confirmed COVID-19 between Pregnant and Non-Pregnant Women: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis.](#) Int J Environ Res Public Health. 2021 May 24;18(11):5613. doi: 10.3390/ijerph18115613. PMID: 34074005.

#### *Diabetes and other maternal exposures / factors*

Alyousif SMM, Aldokhel FT, Alkhanbashi OK, Alqahtani MHA, Aladawi AMM, Ashmawi AA, Al-Qunabibet A, Masuadi E. [The Incidence of Congenital Heart Defects in Offspring Among Women With Diabetes in Saudi Arabia.](#) Cureus. 2021 Mar 31;13(3):e14225. doi: 10.7759/cureus.14225. PMID: 33948414; PMCID: PMC8086745.

Zhang J, Jin L, Wang D, Wang C, Tong M, Yu J, Meng W, Ren A, Jin L. [Maternal periconceptional folic acid supplements use and fetus risk for limb defects.](#) Paediatr Perinat Epidemiol. 2021 May 31. doi: 10.1111/ppe.12775. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 34060120.

Yan F, Liu H, Zhang H, Yi L, Wu Y, Deng C, Qiu Y, Ma X, Li Q, Yang F, Xu W, Tao J, Buonocore JJ, Zhan Y, Dai L. [Association between maternal exposure to gaseous pollutants and atrial septal defect in China: A nationwide population-based study.](#) Environ Res. 2021 Jun 4:111472. doi: 10.1016/j.envres.2021.111472. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 34097890.

Haghighi MM, Wright CY, Ayer J, Urban MF, Pham MD, Boeckmann M, Areal A, Wernecke B, Swift CP, Robinson M, Hetem RS, Chersich MF, [Climate Change And Heat-Health Study Group. Impacts of High Environmental Temperatures on Congenital Anomalies: A Systematic Review.](#) Int J Environ Res Public Health. 2021 May 5;18(9):4910. doi: 10.3390/ijerph18094910. PMID: 34063033; PMCID: PMC8124753.

#### **Methods and Tools**

Lasky T, McMahon AW, Hua W, Forshee R. [Methodologic approaches in studies using real-world data \(RWD\) to measure pediatric safety and effectiveness of vaccines administered to pregnant women: A scoping review.](#) Vaccine. 2021 Jun 2:S0264-410X(21)00666-6. doi: 10.1016/j.vaccine.2021.05.071. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 34090699.

#### **Epidemiology of occurrence and outcomes – health and health related**

Di Giorgio E, Polli R, Lunghi M, Murgia A. [Impact of the COVID-19 Italian Lockdown on the Physiological and Psychological Well-Being of Children with Fragile X Syndrome and Their Families.](#) Int J Environ Res Public Health. 2021 May 27;18(11):5752. doi: 10.3390/ijerph18115752. PMID: 34071956.

Shakespeare C, Dube H, Moyo S, Ngwenya S. [Resilience and vulnerability of maternity services in Zimbabwe: a comparative analysis of the effect of Covid-19 and lockdown control measures on maternal and perinatal outcomes, a single-centre cross-sectional study at Mpilo Central Hospital.](#) BMC Pregnancy Childbirth. 2021 Jun 4;21(1):416. doi: 10.1186/s12884-021-03884-5. PMID: 34088285; PMCID: PMC8177257.

Snygg-Martin U, Giang KW, Dellborg M, Robertson J, Mandalenakis Z. [Cumulative incidence of infective endocarditis in patients with congenital heart disease: a nationwide, case-control study over nine decades](#). Clin Infect Dis. 2021 May 24:ciab478. doi: 10.1093/cid/ciab478. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 34036324.

### Undiagnosed and Rare Disease

Baldrige D, Wangler MF, Bowman AN, Yamamoto S; Undiagnosed Diseases Network, Schedl T, Pak SC, Postlethwait JH, Shin J, Solnica-Krezel L, Bellen HJ, Westerfield M. [Model organisms contribute to diagnosis and discovery in the undiagnosed diseases network: current state and a future vision](#). Orphanet J Rare Dis. 2021 May 7;16(1):206. doi: 10.1186/s13023-021-01839-9. PMID: 33962631; PMCID: PMC8103593.

Deutch NT, Beckman E, Halley MC, Young JL, Reuter CM, Kohler J, Bernstein JA, Wheeler MT; Undiagnosed Diseases Network, Ormond KE, Tabor HK. ["Doctors can read about it, they can know about it, but they've never lived with it": How parents use social media throughout the diagnostic odyssey](#). J Genet Couns. 2021 Jun 6. doi: 10.1002/jgc4.1438. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 34096130.

### Beyond medicine into art and antiquities

Lin AE, Murali CN, Neri G. [Syndromes and birth defects in art and antiquities: New perspectives on a familiar theme](#). Am J Med Genet C Semin Med Genet. 2021 Jun;187(2):107-110. doi: 10.1002/ajmg.c.31913. Epub 2021 May 29. PMID: 34050599 [Note, this is the introduction to an entire issue dedicated to genetics in art and antiquities, from which the following two papers were selected – but many others are of interest]

Botto LD. [Skeletal dysplasias in art and antiquities: A cultural journey through genes, environment, and chance](#). Am J Med Genet C Semin Med Genet. 2021 Jun;187(2):199-212. doi: 10.1002/ajmg.c.31908. Epub 2021 May 13. PMID: 33982868 [reprint available by request to [centre@icbdsr.org](mailto:centre@icbdsr.org)]

Lapunzina P, Tenorio-Castaño J, Nevado J, Campos Barros Á, Pachajoa H, Ruiz-Pérez VL, Castilla EE. [The portrayal of dwarfism without skeletal dysplasia in art: Proportionate short stature due to growth hormone deficiency and other disorders](#). Am J Med Genet C Semin Med Genet. 2021 Jun;187(2):186-191. doi: 10.1002/ajmg.c.31916. Epub 2021 May 16. PMID: 33998134

### Recommendations from readers

No recommendation this month

### News from ICBDSR Executive Committee and ICBDSR Members

#### 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 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, **500 trainees** from **65 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](http://www.icbdsr.org/course-registration). Once registered, you will receive an email with guidance on how to register 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.

### Meetings and Conferences

**Public Health Unit of Athens Institute for Education and Research (ATINER) 7<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference on Public Health**, June 21-24, 2021, Athens, Greece. <https://www.atiner.gr/publichealth/call>

**Society for Birth Defects Research and Prevention VIRTUAL 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting**. June 24–July 1, 2021. *“Building bridges in birth defects research and prevention: from innovation to application”*. <https://www.birthdefectsresearch.org/meetings/2021/>

**World Congress of Epidemiology WCE 2020** scheduled to be held in Melbourne during September 2020, will be held as a virtual event on September 3-6, 2021. The Conference will focus on “Methodological Innovations in Epidemiology” which reflects the innovative progress in Epidemiology and Public Health. <https://wce2020.org/>

Website: [www.icbdsr.org](http://www.icbdsr.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/ICBDSR](https://www.facebook.com/ICBDSR)

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/icbdsr/>

Twitter: @icbdsr <https://twitter.com/ICBDSR>

*You are receiving this Monthly Newsletter because your email address is included in the ICBDSR mailing list.  
To unsubscribe, kindly reply back to this email by putting in the subject UNSUBSCRIBE*