UPDATE ON ICBDSR ANNUAL MEETING

The 47th ICBDSR Annual Meeting will be held as virtual meeting in 2021 through the CVent platform. We will return to an in-person meeting in 2022, hosted by Italy IMER Registry in Bologna. The virtual meeting will be held on Monday, October 11th, 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 Program 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.

NEWS AND UPDATE ON COVID-19

WHO Coronavirus (Covid 19) Dashboard
World Health Organization Coronavirus disease situation dashboard presents official daily counts of COVID-19 cases and deaths worldwide: https://covid19.who.int/

EPI-WIN: WHO Information Network for Epidemics
EPI-WIN is part of the WHO Health Emergency Programme’s risk communication efforts and was established following the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak. 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.

✓ Get the latest public health information from CDC: https://www.coronavirus.gov./

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

1. You may be familiar with The Quick Reference Handbook, developed by WHO, CDC, and ICBDSR, provides diagnostic tips and checklists to help quickly and reliably identify and report several major external and internal anomalies. The QRH (as it is commonly abbreviated) has been designed for ease of use globally, for training as well as field activities. Be sure to check it out and give us your feedback. The PDF version is here: (https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240015418)

We are currently developing an app (for IOS and Android) – now in advanced beta testing -- for use of the QRH on mobile devices.

2. 30 years ago (Saturday 20 July 1991, to be exact), the Lancet published the results of the MRC vitamin study, which showed clearly (and through a randomized clinical trial) that folic acid could prevent spina bifida and anencephaly. Translating this science into practice has been
successful, but slow and incomplete (see also the paper by Morris et al. below) – in fact, it has been estimated that three quarter of preventable cases still occur every year because of inaction on the part of the many countries. On a positive note, New Zealand announced it will implement fortification – watch this video for a thoughtful and informative press release https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PaJF2sS43PU

Finally, consider taking this anniversary as an incentive to move the needle on primary prevention, by promoting mandatory fortification (in addition to diet and supplementation) to achieve sustained folate sufficiency among all peoples everywhere. Stay tuned for more ways to support these efforts. Saving even one life from death and disability is a goal worth fighting for.

Lorenzo Botto, ICBD Director

What’s Going on Regarding Birth Defects

FolicacidPH Webinar 2021
VYLH-Philippines is a network of proactive, service-oriented, empowering, and visionary leaders equipped with knowledge and skills in mobilizing the youth towards a healthy Philippines. “Start Right with B9: Fostering Good Nutrition through Folic Acid supplementation in the First 1000 Days of Life”. FolicacidPH is annually held in line with the observance of Nutrition Month, National Disability Prevention and Rehabilitation Week, and the founding anniversary of VYLH-Philippines.

Watch the webinar on demand: through the VYLH-Philippines Facebook page: https://https://facebook.com/vylhph/videos/323269976164186
Read more at: https://https://sites.google.com/site/vylhphilippines/our-activities/social-media-campaigns/folicacidph

World Birth Defects Day – WBDD, March 3rd

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 @worldbddd at Twitter https://twitter.com/WorldBDDay and Instagram worldbddd at https://www.instagram.com/worldbddd/.
Join WBDD page on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/WBDDay/.
Visit WBDD website https://www.worldbirthdefectsday.org/.

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 by the 1st Friday of the month

Causes: Risk factors, Protective Factors

COVID-19


Diabetes and other maternal exposures / factors


Occurrence: prevalence, descriptive epidemiology


Outcomes: survival, morbidity, quality of life


Recommendations from readers
No recommendation this month

News from ICBDSR Executive Committee and ICBDSR Members


New Zealand announced that folic acid will be added to bread to reduce conditions such as Spina Bifida. "Introducing mandatory fortification is a safe way to ensure women of childbearing age are supported to increase their Folic Acid consumption" Further information here

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, more than 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. Once registered, you will receive an email with guidance on how to register in the course platform www.icbdsrtraining.org and how to self-enroll in the self-paced course in either English or Spanish.

Meetings and Conferences

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/