



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

February 2022

Issue 2022-02

### ICBDSR ANNUAL MEETING

The **48<sup>th</sup> ICBDSR Annual Meeting** will be held from **September 18<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022** in Bologna, Italy, at Hotel Relais Bellaria. It will be an in-person meeting with the possibility to join the scientific session by live stream. Information on hotel reservation and registration: <http://www.icbdsr.org/48th-icbdsr-annual-meeting/>

According to the results of the online survey on the intention to attend the meeting, the ICBDSR Annual Meeting Committee agreed about the following general plan of the meeting:

<b>Sun, Sep 18<sup>th</sup></b>	Executive Committee (EC) Meeting ( <i>restricted to EC members</i> ) <i>Welcome Reception at Hotel Bellaria, offered by ICBDSR</i>
<b>Mon, Sep 19<sup>th</sup></b>	Scientific Sessions at Hotel Relais Bellaria <i>Dinner offered by IMER registry</i>
<b>Tue, Sep 20</b>	Scientific Session at Emilia Romagna Region Health Authority Hall: "Congenital Heart Defects : From Prenatal Diagnosis to Adulthood" <i>Dinner at Hotel (included in the registration fee)</i>
<b>Wed, Sep 21</b>	Business Meeting and Scientific Session at Hotel Relais Bellaria <i>Afternoon/evening: Tour/social activity (personal payment, optional)</i>

Venues of future Annual Meetings:

2023: Malta

2024: Prague (Czech Republic)



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

The WBDD Planning Team thanks the partner organizations for their partnership and support of World Birth Defects Day (WBDD). Join WBDD promotion: [Application Form – World Birth Defects Day](#), and post a **"Birth defects matter"** selfie: [Birth Defects Matter Campaign – World Birth Defects Day](#)  
For further information visit WBDD website <https://www.worldbirthdefectsday.org/>

### #WORLDDBDDAY Global Twitter Chat

March 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 11AM EST / 8AM PST / 5PM CET

Join us for our Twitter chat in one voice to raise awareness of birth defects globally!

Partner engagement opportunities, including webinars, Twitter chat, Instagram live event, available at <https://www.worldbirthdefectsday.org/engagement/>

Email [info@worldbirthdefectsday.org](mailto:info@worldbirthdefectsday.org)  
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/>.

## ICBDSR ALESSANDRA LISI AWARD

We are pleased to announce the 2022 Edition of the “Alessandra Lisi Award”. This award was established in 2007, in memory of Alessandra Lisi, a young researcher at ICBDSR Coordinating Centre,

### Eligibility requirements

- ✓ Active contribution to the epidemiology or surveillance of birth defects, preferably with an ICBDSR full member program
- ✓ Evidence of a promising research career and ongoing commitment to the field, as demonstrated by high quality publications in peer-reviewed journals, initiating or coordinating research projects, or obtaining funding for research in the field of birth defects epidemiology.
- ✓ Candidates must be within seven years of the date from their last formal training in a field directly related to the disciplines of Birth Defects, Developmental Biology, Epidemiology, or Teratology (e.g. degree conferral, postdoctoral fellowship, residency program, etc.)

### Application

The application package should be sent electronically to [centre@icbdsr.org](mailto:centre@icbdsr.org) and describe in detail the candidate’s accomplishments, date of the last formal training in a relevant discipline listed above, current research interests and projects, and why the nominator believes the candidate's career will promote knowledge of birth defects.

The application package should consist of:

- ✓ A **letter of nomination** from a member of the ICBDSR.
- ✓ A **second letter of reference** from another individual who is familiar with the candidate's research career.
- ✓ The candidate's **curriculum vitae**.
- ✓ **Up to three representative publications** of the candidate. The candidate is not required to be the first author on each publication, but it should be clear that he/she had a major role in the design and implementation of the research that led or is likely to lead to an advance in birth defects research.

The candidate may supply a summary of his/her research career with a description of future research directions (optional).

### Nature of the award

The winner will receive a plaque and a travel stipend to attend the ICBDSR Annual Meeting, held in Bologna, Italy, from 18<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> September 2022. The award will be presented at the meeting, during which the awardee will present his/her research on birth defects.

### Timeline

**June 30<sup>th</sup>** : Deadline for submitting application

**July 15<sup>th</sup>**: Notification of the winner

**September 19<sup>th</sup>**: Award winner will give his/her presentation at the ICBDSR Annual Meeting

Information on the Award and past Awardees at <http://www.icbdsr.org/alessandra-lisi-award/>

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

This month we would like to underscore (once more) the value and interesting data from the Global Health Data Exchange, developed and maintained by the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME): <https://www.healthdata.org/>. Many of us involved in birth defects increasingly appreciate the value of triple surveillance and action – that is, understanding and acting upon the continuum from causes to health outcome. But how do we get the data about risk factors and health outcomes (given that the focus of many programs is birth defect occurrence only)? The IHME is a massive and free resource to start exploring the

landscape of risks and outcomes in our own countries and regions – and using this information to promote awareness of birth defects and the strategies for prevention and better care.

Let us know what you think about these resources and how you use them. Do you have additional such resources to share ?

*Lorenzo Botto, ICBD Director*

## UPDATE ON COVID-19

### WHO Coronavirus (Covid 19) Dashboard

The WHO Coronavirus disease situation dashboard presents official daily counts of COVID-19 cases and deaths worldwide: <https://covid19.who.int/>.

Globally, as of 5:53pm CET, **22 February 2022**, there have been **424.822.073 confirmed cases** of COVID-19, including **5.890.312 deaths**, reported to WHO. As of **21 February 2022**, a total of **10.407.359.583 vaccine doses** have been administered.

### US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

COVID Data Tracker: Find maps and charts tracking cases, deaths, and trends of COVID-19 in the United States: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-updates/index.html>

### European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)

Covid-19 Dataset: data on the daily number of new reported COVID-19 cases and deaths by EU/EEA country is available to download. ECDC continues to publish weekly updates on the number of cases and deaths reported in the EU/EEA and worldwide every Thursday. The daily and weekly data are available as downloadable files in the following formats: XLSX, CSV, JSON and XML.

<https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/cases-2019-ncov-eueea>

### Africa CDC

Latest updates on the COVID-19 crisis from Africa CDC: <https://africacdc.org/covid-19/>. Africa CDC is a specialized technical institution of the African Union established to support public health initiatives of Member States and strengthen the capacity of their public health institutions to detect, prevent, control and respond quickly and effectively to disease threats.

### Center for Strategic & International Studies (CSIS)

Southeast Asia Covid-19 Tracker by country , that includes information on National Responses, International Assistance, and CSIS Analysis. Data is available at:

<https://www.csis.org/programs/southeast-asia-program/projects/southeast-asia-covid-19-tracker>

## What's Going on

**EUROlinkCAT European Conference “Health and education outcomes of children across Europe with congenital anomalies”** will be held on April 7-9, 2022 in Poznan, Poland.

The conference will be hosted entirely online, so everyone interested in attending can engage with the conference in a safe and secure way.

The conference welcomes healthcare professionals, academic researchers, educators, leaders in healthcare and education, students, parents and carers, and any others who work or are interested in the field of congenital anomalies.

The Conference aims to disseminate EUROlinkCAT results, discuss them in the context of related research and to agree a set of recommendations for the medical care and education of children with congenital anomalies.

Conference website: <http://eurolinkcat2022.bok-ump.pl/>

**Indian Institute of Public Health- Delhi (IIPH-Delhi), Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI)  
Training workshops scheduled during March 2022.**

Please click the following links for details of each workshop and to apply online:

- ✓ [Systematic Reviews and Meta-analysis using RevMan \(March 28 - April 1, 2022\)](#) - Deadline for registration: 14<sup>th</sup> Mar, 2022
- ✓ [Approaches for Implementing Adolescent Health Programs \(Mar 29 - Apr 1, 2022\)](#) – Deadline for registration: 15<sup>th</sup> Mar, 2022

Training Venue:

Indian Institute of Public Health- Delhi (IIPH-Delhi), Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) - website:  
[www.phfi.org](http://www.phfi.org)

A 10% concession will be given upon registration of 5 or more candidates in one workshop. For more queries please contact [traininigs@iiphd.org](mailto:traininigs@iiphd.org)

**Joint Workforce Planning seminar with Health Education England (HEE)**

With Health Education England, WHO Health Workforce is producing a joint Action Learning series on Workforce Planning for global health system strengthening – as part of HEE’s support and contribution for the Year of Health and Care Workers. A series of four (4) open access seminars will be scheduled over the next 9-12 months. The recording of Seminar one – “An introduction to systemic workforce planning”, held on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2021, is available at <https://global.hee.nhs.uk/yhcw/>. For registration links to subsequent seminars, please check this page in Spring 2022.

**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*

**New section: Genomics (selected reviews)**

Edwards NA, Shacham-Silverberg V, Weitz L, Kingma PS, Shen Y, Wells JM, Chung WK, Zorn AM. [Developmental basis of trachea-esophageal birth defects](#). Dev Biol. 2021 Sep;477:85-97. doi: 10.1016/j.ydbio.2021.05.015. Epub 2021 May 21. PMID: 34023332

Wojcik MH, Agrawal PB [Deciphering congenital anomalies for the next generation](#). Cold Spring Harb Mol Case Stud. 2020 Oct 7;6(5):a005504. doi: 10.1101/mcs.a005504. Print 2020 Oct. PMID: 32826208

**Prevention / Risk Factors**

Zhou Y, Crider KS, Yeung LF, Rose CE, Li Z, Berry RJ, Li S, Moore CA. [Periconceptional folic acid use prevents both rare and common neural tube defects in China](#). Birth Defects Res. 2022 Jan 31. doi: 10.1002/bdr2.1983. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 35098705.

Bowie AC, Werler MM, Velez MP, Li W, Camden A, Guttmann A, Brogly SB. [Prescribed opioid analgesics in early pregnancy and the risk of congenital anomalies: a population-based cohort study](#). CMAJ. 2022 Feb 7;194(5):E152-E162. doi: 10.1503/cmaj.211215. PMID: 35131753.

Gaudio M, Konstantara E, Joy M, van Vlymen J, de Lusignan S. [Valproate prescription to women of childbearing age in English primary care: repeated cross-sectional analyses and retrospective cohort study](#). BMC Pregnancy Childbirth. 2022 Jan 27;22(1):73. doi: 10.1186/s12884-021-04351-x. PMID: 35086478; PMCID: PMC8793222.

Reece AS, Hulse GK. [Cannabinoid and substance relationships of European congenital anomaly patterns: a space-time panel regression and causal inferential study](#). Environ Epigenet. 2022 Feb 3;8(1):dvab015. doi: 10.1093/eep/dvab015. PMID: 35145760; PMCID: PMC8824558.

Stayner LT, Jensen AS, Schullehner J, Coffman VR, Trabjerg BB, Olsen J, Hansen B, Pedersen M, Pedersen CB, Sigsgaard T. [Nitrate in drinking water and risk of birth defects: Findings from a cohort study of over one million births in Denmark.](#) Lancet Reg Health Eur. 2022 Jan 12;14:100286. doi: 10.1016/j.lanepe.2021.100286. PMID: 35141697; PMCID: PMC8814759.

### **Outcomes and Longitudinal Studies**

Derridj N, Bonnet D, Calderon J, Amedro P, Bertille N, Lelong N, Goffinet F, Khoshnood B, Guedj R. [Quality of life of children born with a congenital heart defect.](#) J Pediatr. 2022 Jan 13:S0022-3476(22)00003-8. doi: 10.1016/j.jpeds.2022.01.003. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 35033563.

Glinianaia SV, Rankin J, Pierini A, Coi A, Santoro M, Tan J, Reid A, Garne E, Loane M, Given J, Cavero-Carbonell C, de Walle HEK, Gatt M, Gissler M, Heino A, Khoshnood B, Klungsoyr K, Lelong N, Neville AJ, Thayer DS, Tucker D, Urhøj SK, Wellesley D, Zurriaga O, Morris JK. [Ten-Year Survival of Children With Congenital Anomalies: A European Cohort Study.](#) Pediatrics. 2022 Feb 11:e2021053793. doi: 10.1542/peds.2021-053793. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 35146505.

Sentenac M, Benhammou V, Aden U, Ancel PY, Bakker LA, Bakoy H, Barros H, Baumann N, Bilsteen JF, Boerch K, Croci I, Cuttini M, Draper E, Halvorsen T, Johnson S, Källén K, Land T, Lebeer J, Lehtonen L, Maier RF, Marlow N, Morgan A, Ni Y, Raikkonen K, Rtimi A, Sarrechia I, Varendi H, Vollsaeter M, Wolke D, Ylijoki M, Zeitlin J. [Maternal education and cognitive development in 15 European very-preterm birth cohorts from the RECAP Preterm platform.](#) Int J Epidemiol. 2022 Jan 6;50(6):1824-1839. doi: 10.1093/ije/dyab170. PMID: 34999864.

### **Epidemiology and Surveillance**

Gilboa SM, Tepper NK, Reefhuis J. [Multijurisdictional Analyses of Birth Defects: Considering the Common Data Model Approach.](#) Pediatrics. 2022 Feb 11:e2021055285. doi: 10.1542/peds.2021-055285. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 35146507.

Groisman B, Barbero P, Liascovich R, Brun P, Bidondo MP. [Detection of critical congenital heart disease among newborns in Argentina through the national surveillance system of congenital heart disease \(RENAC\).](#) Arch Argent Pediatr. 2022 Feb;120(1):6-13. Spanish, English. doi: 10.5546/aap.2022.eng.6. Epub 2021 Dec 3. PMID: 35068114.

Nava de Escalante Y, Abayomi A, Erickson A, Ye X, Armour R, Arbour L, Langlois S, Henry B. [Implementation of the BC Congenital Anomalies Surveillance System \(BCCASS\).](#) Can J Public Health. 2022 Feb 11. doi: 10.17269/s41997-021-00607-3. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 35149971.

Yue W, Zhang E, Liu R, Zhang Y, Wang C, Gao S, Su S, Gao X, Wu Q, Yang X, Papageorghiou AT, Yin C. [The China birth cohort study \(CBCS\).](#) Eur J Epidemiol. 2022 Feb 11. doi: 10.1007/s10654-021-00831-8. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 35146635.

### **Infections, including COVID-19**

Roth NM, Reynolds MR, Lewis EL, Woodworth KR, Godfred-Cato S, Delaney A, Akosa A, Valencia-Prado M, Lash M, Elmore A, Langlois P, Khuwaja S, Tufa A, Ellis EM, Nestoridi E, Lyu C, Longcore ND, Piccardi M, Lind L, Starr S, Johnson L, Browne SE, Gosciminski M, Velasco PE, Johnson-Clarke F, Locklear A, Chan M, Fornoff J, Toews KE, Tonzel J, Marzec NS, Hale S, Nance AE, Willabus T, Contreras D, Adibhatla SN, Iguchi L, Potts E, Schiffman E, Lolley K, Stricklin B, Ludwig E, Garstang H, Marx M, Ferrell E, Moreno-Gorrin C, Signs K, Romitti P, Leedom V, Martin B, Castrodale L, Cook A, Fredette C, Denson L, Cronquist L, Nahabedian JF 3rd, Shinde N, Polen K, Gilboa SM, Martin SW, Cragan JD, Meaney-Delman D, Honein MA, Tong VT, Moore CA. [Zika-Associated Birth Defects Reported in Pregnancies with Laboratory Evidence of Confirmed or Possible Zika Virus Infection - U.S. Zika Pregnancy and Infant Registry, December 1, 2015-March 31, 2018.](#) MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep. 2022 Jan 21;71(3):73-79. doi: 10.15585/mmwr.mm7103a1. PMID: 35051132; PMCID: PMC8774158.

Quintans MDS, Bueno AC, Cardoso CAA. [Microcephaly caused by or associated with congenital infections in the last 20 years in Brazil: a systematic review](#). Rev Inst Med Trop Sao Paulo. 2022 Feb 2;64:e7. doi: 10.1590/S1678-9946202264007. PMID: 35137901.

Zimmerman LA, Knapp JK, Antoni S, Grant GB, Reef SE. [Progress Toward Rubella and Congenital Rubella Syndrome Control and Elimination - Worldwide, 2012-2020](#). MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep. 2022 Feb 11;71(6):196-201. doi: 10.15585/mmwr.mm7106a2. PMID: 35143468.

## Recommendations from readers

Ho PSY, Quigley MA, Tucker DF, Kurinczuk JJ. Risk factors for hospitalisation in Welsh infants with a congenital anomaly. *BMJ Paediatrics Open* 2022;6:e001238. doi: 10.1136/bmjpo-2021-001238.

Full text: <https://bmjpaedsopen.bmj.com/content/bmjpo/6/1/e001238.full.pdf>

## News from ICBDSR Executive Committee

### 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, **546 trainees** from **71 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

**ICEPH 2022: 16<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Epidemiology and Public Health**, 3-4 March 2022, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. <https://waset.org/epidemiology-and-public-health-conference-in-march-2022-in-rio-de-janeiro>

**Euro Pediatrics 2022 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Global Experts Meeting on European Pediatrics**, 4-6 April 2022, Rome, Italy - Exploring knowledge, translation & innovations in Pediatrics. <https://frontiersmeetings.com/conferences/europediatrics/>

**Global Experts Meeting on Pediatrics & Neonatology**, 25-27 April 2022, Las Vegas, USA - Recent advancements and emerging technologies for Pediatrics. <https://frontiersmeetings.com/conferences/pediatrics/>

**16<sup>th</sup> Congress of the European Society of Contraception and Reproductive Health**, 25-28 May 2022, Ghent, Belgium - Challenging times, are we ready? Novel approaches to sexual and reproductive health. <https://escrh.eu/event/16th-esc-congress/>

**ATINER 8<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference on Public Health**, 20-23 June 2022, Athens, Greece. The aim of the conference is to bring together academics and researchers from all areas of Public Health and related disciplines. Both remote (online or pre-recorded) and onsite presentations will be accepted. <https://www.atiner.gr/publichealth/>

**Society for Birth Defects Research and Prevention 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting**, Hyatt Regency Vancouver, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, June 25-29, 2022. The Annual Meeting and Education Courses will take

place in-person and will include a virtual experience to make remote participation possible in the event a registrant cannot attend in person. The theme for this year's meeting is "From Bench to Bedside and Back Again". <https://www.birthdefectsresearch.org/meetings/2022/>

**International Conference on Epidemiology & Public Health**, 25-25 July 2022, Toronto, Canada - New Challenges, Innovations & Current Trends in Epidemiology & Public Health.  
<https://scientificwisdom.org/conferences/epidemiology-publichealth.html>

**29<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Diverse Needs, Same Rights**, 5-9 September 2022 [updated dates] - online or Hybrid conference, depending on the COVID-19 situation.  
<https://www.ifglobal.org/our-work/if-conferences/>

**EAPS 2022 - 9<sup>th</sup> Congress of the European Academy of Paediatric Societies**, 7-11 October 2022, Barcelona, Spain - Shaping the Future of Child Health.  
<https://eaps2022.kenes.com/>

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

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

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