



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

March 2022

Issue 2022-03

### Appeal from Ukraine OMNI-Net registry.

Our colleagues from OMNI-Net and Ukrainian Children’s Hospitals disseminated an appeal through social media. If you want to share the appeal with related documents, please contact us at [centre@icbdsr.org](mailto:centre@icbdsr.org), we will be happy to forward you the appropriate documents:

*“There is war in Ukraine and young children are in particular danger. Baby food and special formulas for those with metabolic disorders are vanishing. In the increasingly chaotic circumstances, the nutritional needs of infants and young children need emphasis. We have asked Nestle S.A., and other large producers to donate baby food and special formulas for those with metabolic disorders. We also asked for producers of baby food to establish dedicated partnerships with the International Red Cross and other humanitarian assistance organizations that can deliver baby food to children’s hospitals in Ukraine.*

*We ask you to disseminate this appeal and ask others to participate and do likewise. You also can enhance this appeal by:*

1. Forwarding the letter with attachments to colleagues and organizations.
2. Sending your letter of support to Nestle, S.A. or to other sources of support (organizations, baby food producers, media, etc.)
3. Post this appeal on social media of your preference

### 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/>

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 WBDD partners for their partnership and support of World Birth Defects Day (WBDD) on March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Here the highlights for the **World Birth Defects Day Global Twitter Chat**, held on March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 11am EST/8am PST/5pm CET, hosted and coordinated by March of Dimes:

- 2,201 Tweets used the hashtag #WorldBDDay and garnered 5,387 engagements (3,449 likes, 1,802 shares, and 136 comments) and resulted in more than **15 million potential impressions**
- The top countries for WBDD tweets were: the United States, Columbia, Spain, Italy, and India.
- 70 tweets/retweets w/comment from March of Dimes channels (@MarchofDimes & @Nacersano): garnered 68,725 impressions, 1,725 engagements, 32 link clicks.

The **World Birth Defects Day Instagram Live event**, hosted and coordinated by MotherToBaby, has been recorded. The whole presentation is available at the following link for download:

<https://1drv.ms/v/s!AkiZ9FU7mA5FhqJjplbZyO0erPHW-w?e=MKHxln>. MotherToBaby has already published it on its YouTube channel and can be viewed here: <https://youtu.be/ZtofC1PLnwo>

### WHO South-East Asia Regional Office

Dr Poonam Khetrpal Singh, WHO Regional Director for South-East Asia, released the statement “*World Birth Defects Day: “Many Birth Defects, One Voice”*”: <https://www.who.int/southeastasia/news/detail/03-03-2022-world-birth-defects-day-many-birth-defects-one-voice>

Continue to raise awareness on birth defects throughout the year!

Join the WBDD partners at <https://www.worldbirthdefectsday.org/application-form/>

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). See full information at <http://www.icbdsr.org/alessandra-lisi-award/>

#### 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.

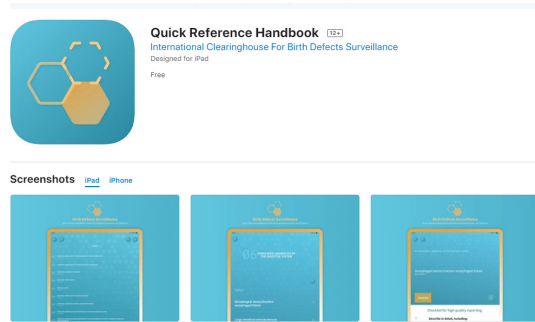
#### Timeline

**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)



### ***The ICBD needs you.... To test and review the App of the Quick Reference Handbook (QRH)***

This app brings to the mobile environment the QRH developed by ICBD / ICDSR in collaboration with CDC and WHO. **Now, checklists, definitions, codes, diagnostic pearls, photos and diagrams** for several major internal and external anomalies are literally at your fingertips.

**Do you have a few minutes to help disseminate and improve this app? If so, please download the app and provide feedback to [centre@icbdsr.org](mailto:centre@icbdsr.org). If you appreciate it, consider providing a review on the store (Apple Store or Google Play)**

**You will find the app here, by searching for 'QRH birth defects':**

- IOS: <https://apps.apple.com/ie/app/quick-reference-handbook/id1592730552>
- Android: [https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.icbdsr.qrh&hl=en\\_US&gl=US](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.icbdsr.qrh&hl=en_US&gl=US)

Thank you for your help in improving and disseminating knowledge on congenital anomalies.

*For the ICBD,  
Lorenzo Botto, ICBD Director*

## COVID-19 DATA

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

Globally, as of **7:57pm CET, 16 March 2022**, there have been **460.280.168 confirmed cases** of COVID-19, including **6.050.018 deaths**, reported to WHO. As of **15 March 2022**, a total of **10.720.568.760 vaccine doses** have been administered.

**United States:** US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provide COVID Data Tracker in the United States at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-updates/index.html>

**Europe:** European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) provides data on the daily number of new reported COVID-19 cases and deaths by EU/EEA <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/cases-2019-ncov-eueea>

**Africa:** Latest updates on the COVID-19 crisis from Africa CDC <https://africacdc.org/covid-19/>.

**Southeast Asia:** Covid-19 Tracker by country from Center for Strategic & International Studies (CSIS) <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/>

### **Strategic and Technical Advisory Group on the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases (STAG-NCD) provides 18 recommendations for WHO**

The meeting report of the first Strategic and Technical Advisory Group on the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases (STAG-NCD) meeting was recently released.

The STAG-NCD acts as an advisory body to WHO to further WHO's efforts and work in addressing the prevention and control of NCDs. The aim is to strengthen action to:

- reduce premature mortality from NCDs through prevention and treatment;
- progressively cover additional people with health services, medicines, vaccines, diagnostics and health technologies; and
- strengthen efforts to address NCDs as part of Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

At this first meeting, WHO requested STAG-NCD to review and advise on a number of areas of our NCD work.

The first meeting has made 18 recommendations to WHO which can be [read in full here](#). For more information of who is in the STAG then [click here](#)

### **NHS Health Education England – Workforce Planning and Leadership Development Programme**

Health Education England (HEE) is the strategic workforce body for England's NHS, and is responsible for providing system-wide leadership and oversight of the NHS' workforce planning, education, and training.

The WHO and HEE are working in collaboration to develop the next generation of Human Resources for Health (HRH) system leaders, creating a lasting impact and strengthening health systems globally.

This programme will be delivered in a series of four seminars and eight Action Learning Sets, presented by leaders in the field of workforce planning. All seminars can be accessed by everyone, all you need to do is register. Click [here](#) to learn more.

HEE will also help to facilitate eight Action Learning Set sessions through 2022, with up to 60 participants from eight low- and middle-income countries around the globe. This part of the programme is aimed to bring together future influencers and leaders from all realms of the social, economic, and political spheres.

### **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*

#### **Epidemiology and Surveillance**

Farr SL, Riley C, Van Zutphen AR, Brei TJ, Leedom VO, Kirby RS, Pabst LJ. [Prevention and awareness of birth defects across the lifespan using examples from congenital heart defects and spina bifida](#). Birth Defects Res. 2022 Jan 15;114(2):35-44. doi: 10.1002/bdr2.1972. Epub 2021 Dec 18. PMID: 34921598; PMCID: PMC8902432.

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. English, Spanish. doi: 10.5546/aap.2022.eng.6. Epub 2021 Dec 3. PMID: 35068114.

Langlois PH, Marengo L, Lupo PJ, Drummond-Borg M, Agopian AJ, Nembhard WN, Canfield MA. [Evaluating the proportion of isolated cases among a spectrum of birth defects in a population-based registry](#). Birth Defects Res. 2022 Feb 26. doi: 10.1002/bdr2.1990. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 35218607.

Navarro Sanchez ML, Swartz MD, Langlois PH, Canfield MA, Agopian AJ. [Epidemiology of Nonsyndromic, Orofacial Clefts in Texas: Differences by Cleft Type and Presence of Additional Defects](#). Cleft Palate Craniofac J. 2022 Feb 28;10556656221080932. doi: 10.1177/10556656221080932. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 35225696.

### Outcomes and Longitudinal Studies

Ludorf KL, Benjamin RH, Malik S, Langlois PH, Canfield MA, Agopian AJ. [Association between maternal smoking and survival among infants with trisomy 21](#). Birth Defects Res. 2022 Feb 24. doi: 10.1002/bdr2.1993. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 35212191.

### Prevention / Risk Factors

Acosta-Manzano P, Acosta FM, Flor-Aleman M, Gavilán-Carrera B, Delgado-Fernández M, Baena-García L, Segura-Jiménez V, Aparicio VA. [The Protective Role of Physical Fitness on Cardiometabolic Risk During Pregnancy: The GESTAtion and FITness Project](#). Int J Sport Nutr Exerc Metab. 2022 Mar 2;1-14. doi: 10.1123/ijsnem.2021-0274. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 35240580

Glinianaia SV, Rankin J, Pierini A, Coi A, Santoro M, Tan J, Reid A, Garne E, Loane M, Given J, Caverro-Carbonell C, de Walle HEK, Gatt M, Gissler M, Heino A, Khoshnood B, Klungsøyr 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 Mar 1;149(3):e2021053793. doi: 10.1542/peds.2021-053793. PMID: 35146505.

Kerr S, Heinke D, Yazdy MM, Mitchell AA, Darling AM, Lin A, Nestoridi E, Werler MM; National Birth Defects Prevention Study. [Use of vasoactive medications in pregnancy and the risk of stillbirth among birth defect cases](#). Birth Defects Res. 2022 Mar 2. doi: 10.1002/bdr2.1996. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 35238183.

Kjersgaard CL, Arendt LH, Ernst A, Søndergaard Lindhard M, Olsen J, Henriksen TB, Strandberg-Larsen K, Ramlau-Hansen CH. [Lifestyle in Pregnancy and Hypospadias in Sons: A Study of 85,923 Mother-Son Pairs from Two Danish Pregnancy Cohorts](#). Clin Epidemiol. 2022 Feb 9;14:149-157. doi: 10.2147/CLEP.S335877. PMID: 35173488; PMCID: PMC8841293

Li M, Chen X, Zhang Y, Chen H, Wang D, Cao C, Jiang Y, Huang X, Dou Y, Wang Y, Ma X, Sheng W, Yan W, Huang G; Birth Defect Prevention Group. [Red Blood Cell Folate and Serum Folate, Vitamin B-12, and Homocysteine in Chinese Couples Pre-Pregnancy in the SPCC](#). J Nutr. 2022 Mar 8:nxac050. doi: 10.1093/jn/nxac050. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 35259272.

Mezzasalma L, Santoro M, Coi A, Pierini A. [Association between maternal body mass index and congenital anomalies: A case-control study in Tuscany \(Italy\)](#). Birth Defects Res. 2022 Feb;114(3-4):116-123. doi: 10.1002/bdr2.1970. Epub 2021 Dec 16. PMID: 34913275.

Noh Y, Lee H, Choi A, Kwon JS, Choe SA, Chae J, Kim DS, Shin JY. [First-trimester exposure to benzodiazepines and risk of congenital malformations in offspring: A population-based cohort study in South Korea](#). PLoS Med. 2022 Mar 2;19(3):e1003945. doi: 10.1371/journal.pmed.1003945. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 35235572.

Papadopoulos EA, Fisher SC, Howley MM, Browne ML; National Birth Defects Prevention Study. [Maternal hereditary hemolytic anemia and birth defects in the National Birth Defects Prevention Study](#). Birth Defects Res. 2022 Mar 5. doi: 10.1002/bdr2.2000. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 35247031.

Szalai S, Farkas N, Veszpremi B, Bodis J, Kovacs K, Farkas B. [Assessment of the potential impacts of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster on maternal and fetal health in Hungary](#). J Matern Fetal Neonatal Med. 2022 Mar 3:1-8. doi: 10.1080/14767058.2022.2044471. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 35240917.



## Infections, including COVID-19

Bailey MJ, Bart L, Lang VW. [The Missing Baby Bust: The Consequences of the COVID-19 Pandemic for Contraceptive Use, Pregnancy, and Childbirth Among Low-Income Women](#). Popul Res Policy Rev. 2022 Mar 2:1-21. doi: 10.1007/s11113-022-09703-9. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 35250129; PMCID: PMC8888131.

Dolk H, Damase-Michel C, Morris JK, Loane M. [COVID-19 in pregnancy-what study designs can we use to assess the risk of congenital anomalies in relation to COVID-19 disease, treatment and vaccination?](#) Paediatr Perinat Epidemiol. 2022 Mar 2. doi: 10.1111/ppe.12840. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 35234297.

Hernandez-Diaz S, Smith LH, Dollinger C, Rasmussen SA, Schisterman EF, Bellocco R, Wyszynski DF. [International Registry of Coronavirus Exposure in Pregnancy \(IRCEP\) - Cohort Description and Methodological Considerations](#). Am J Epidemiol. 2022 Mar 8:kwac046. doi: 10.1093/aje/kwac046. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 35259213.

Kuehn BM. [Registry Tracks Zika-Related Birth Defects in US](#). JAMA. 2022 Mar 8;327(10):910. doi: 10.1001/jama.2022.2206. PMID: 35258525.

## Recommendations from readers

Yang J, Kang Y, Chang Q, Zhang B, Liu X, Zeng L, Yan H, Dang S. Maternal Zinc, Copper, and Selenium Intakes during Pregnancy and Congenital Heart Defects. Nutrients. 2022; 14(5):1055.

Full text: [file:///C:/Users/Simo/Downloads/nutrients-14-01055%20\(1\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/Simo/Downloads/nutrients-14-01055%20(1).pdf)

## News from ICBD SR 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, **550 trainees** from **72 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

**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)

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