



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

**May 2022**

**Issue 2022-05**

### 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.

We invite you to submit **abstracts for oral and/or poster presentation** at the ICBDSR Annual Meeting. The **oral sessions** at the Meeting will be thematic; thus, abstract topics should fit one of the following thematic areas:

- Birth defect surveillance and descriptive epidemiology (including surveillance methodology)
- Risk factors for birth defects
- Rare disease
- Covid-19 and reproductive outcomes
- Impact of the pandemic on birth defects surveillance, prevention, and care

Abstract topics for the **poster session** may include, but are not limited to:

1. Birth defects surveillance and descriptive epidemiology (including surveillance methodology)
2. Risk factors for birth defects
3. Rare disease
4. Covid-19 and reproductive outcomes
5. Impact of the pandemic on birth defects surveillance, prevention, and care
6. Molecular genetics / molecular epidemiology / epigenetics and birth defects
7. Prenatal screening, early pregnancy / birth / postnatal outcomes
8. Psychosocial impacts of birth defects, quality of life, education and other related issues

Authors of accepted posters may be present either in person or virtually and all will be required to send a pre-recorded presentation of the poster, in order to make it available online.

Authors of an accepted poster who will attend in person are encouraged to bring a traditional poster to allow interactions with colleagues present in person.

The abstract is to be submitted using the [electronic abstract submission form](#) on the ICBDSR website. Deadline for submission of abstracts is **June 15, 2022**.

Information on hotel reservation and registration: <http://www.icbdsr.org/48th-icbdsr-annual-meeting/>

Please note: [deadline for hotel reservation is May 31, 2022](#)

Venues of future Annual Meetings:

2023: Malta

2024: Prague (Czech Republic)



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

Look at some of the different activities that were done across the world to promote the World Birth Defects Day: <https://www.worldbirthdefectsday.org/category/partner-activities-examples/>

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 the 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)

**Looking for your interesting ideas.** As you know, we are planning an ICBDSR report on birth defects worldwide, using also data and information from Clearinghouse members submitted as of the end of May. Rather than a series of tables as in the past, we are thinking about focusing on one or few interesting topics. What topics? We are looking for your brilliant ideas as we mull through options – please send them our way at [centre@icbdsr.org](mailto:centre@icbdsr.org) and be recognized. Also, if you have a young (or less young) investigator willing to help work on ICBD projects, let us know – there could be some support from the ICBD for the right person with the right skills and enthusiasm (contact us with ‘FY23 ICBD’ in the subject line).



For the ICBD,  
Lorenzo Botto, ICBD Director

## What's Going on

### International Federation for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus, G4 Alliance and GAPSBI-F

63<sup>rd</sup> World Health Assembly's Resolution on Birth Defects that appealed to member states to prioritize prevention of birth defects



**Save the Date**  
WHA75 SIDE EVENT

**A WHA Resolution:  
Folic Acid Fortification  
to Prevent Spina Bifida**

 Tuesday 24 May 2022  
 6.00 PM - 9.00 PM  
 **Hilton Geneva Hotel & Conference Centre**  
Route Francois-Peyrot 34 - Geneva, 1218, Switzerland

Hosted by  
 **G4 alliance**  **INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR SPINA BIFIDA AND HYDROCEPHALUS** 

With the support of  
 **REACHANOTHER FOUNDATION**  **DR JEFFREY BLOUNT**

### International Federation for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus

**IF International Youth Group** is currently looking for new members and a new Chairperson.

The IF International Youth Group, set up in early 2021, is a group of open-minded, young, passionate and fun people with Spina Bifida and/or Hydrocephalus (SBH) working together to advocate for the rights of young people with SBH as well as to provide support and raise awareness regarding the issues faced by the SBH youth community. Read more about the IF Youth Group [here](#).

- ✓ Are you interested in working for youth empowerment?
- ✓ Are you driven to be part of a big group consisting of internationally located, like-minded people?
- ✓ Are you passionate about becoming an agent of change for the SBH community?

If you think you embody these values then do not hesitate to join IF Youth Group by simply filling in [this form](#)

### Indian Institute of Public Health-Delhi (IIPH-Delhi), Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI)

The IIPH-Delhi, PHFI, announces the 'Call for Applications' for following on-campus academic programs for the session 2022-23.

On-campus academic programs:

- ✓ Master of Public Health (MPH) (Jointly conducted by PHFI &AcSIR#)

#Academy of Scientific & Innovative Research (AcSIR), an Institute of National Importance established by Act of Parliament

Web link: <https://phfi.org/course/master-of-public-health-mph/>

- ✓ Integrated MSc & PhD in Clinical Research - Jointly conducted by PHFI &AcSIR#

#Academy of Scientific & Innovative Research (AcSIR), an Institute of National Importance established by Act of Parliament

Web link: <https://phfi.org/course/integrated-msc-phd-in-clinical-research/>

- ✓ Post Graduate Diploma in Public Health Management (PGDPHM)

Supported under National Health Mission (NHM), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW), Government of India <https://phfi.org/course/iiphd-post-graduate-diploma-in-public-health-management-pgdphm/>

Limited number of scholarships may be awarded to the deserving and meritorious candidates, subject to availability of funds. For further details and eligibility criteria: <https://phfi.org/scholarships/>

The program brochures and application forms are available on the website: <https://phfi.org/iiph-delhi/on-campus-programs/>

The applications may be submitted online or in hard copy. The deadline for applications is **31<sup>st</sup> May, 2022**.

For any further information, please visit the website [www.phfi.org](http://www.phfi.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](mailto:centre@icbdsr.org) by the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month*

### **Outcomes and Longitudinal Studies**

Wydick B, Zahid M, Manning S, Maller J, Evsanaa K, Skjoldhorne S, Bloom M, Das A, Deshpande G. [The Impact of Cleft Lip/Palate and Surgical Intervention on Adolescent Life Outcomes](#). Ann Glob Health. 2022 Apr 13;88(1):25. doi: 10.5334/aogh.3679. PMID: 35509431; PMCID: PMC9009361.

Li Y, Zhou Y, Chen M, Fu MR, Luo B, Yu P, Zheng H, Liu F. [A WeChat-Based Rehabilitation Platform for Children and Adolescents with Congenital Heart Disease to Promote Cardiac FITness \(HeartFIT\): Protocol for a Mixed-Methods Strategy from Evidence-Based Design to Pilot Study](#). J Multidiscip Healthc. 2022 Apr 29;15:907-920. doi: 10.2147/JMDH.S349519. PMID: 35519154; PMCID: PMC9064066.

### **Genetics and Genomics**

Pitsava G, Feldkamp ML, Pankratz N, Lane J, Kay DM, Conway KM, Hobbs C, Shaw GM, Reefhuis J, Jenkins MM, Almli LM, Moore C, Werler M, Browne ML, Cunniff C, Olshan AF, Pangilinan F, Brody LC, Sicko RJ, Finnell RH, Bamshad MJ, McGoldrick D, Nickerson DA, Mullikin JC, Romitti PA, Mills JL; UW Center for Mendelian Genomics, NISC Comparative Sequencing Program and the National Birth Defects Prevention Study. [Exome sequencing identifies variants in infants with sacral agenesis](#). Birth Defects Res. 2022 Apr;114(7):215-227. doi: 10.1002/bdr2.1987. Epub 2022 Mar 10. PMID: 35274497.

Rashkin SR, Cleves M, Shaw GM, Nembhard WN, Nestoridi E, Jenkins MM, Romitti PA, Lou XY, Browne ML, Mitchell LE, Olshan AF, Lomangino K, Bhattacharyya S, Witte JS, Hobbs CA; National Birth Defects Prevention Study. [A genome-wide association study of obstructive heart defects among participants in the National Birth Defects Prevention Study](#). Am J Med Genet A. 2022 Apr 22. doi: 10.1002/ajmg.a.62759. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 35451555.

### **Prevention / Risk Factors**

Fisher SC, Howley MM, Romitti PA, Desrosiers TA, Jabs EW, Browne ML; National Birth Defects Prevention Study. [Maternal periconceptional alcohol consumption and gastroschisis in the National Birth Defects Prevention Study, 1997-2011](#). Paediatr Perinat Epidemiol. 2022 Apr 18. doi: 10.1111/ppe.12882. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 35437856.

Sagué-Vilavella M, Solé E, Pinzón-Espinosa J, Sandra-Hernández A, Roda E, Vieta E, Roca A. [Obstetric outcomes regarding the use of lithium in pregnant women with bipolar disorders: a prospective cohort study](#). Arch Womens Ment Health. 2022 May 6. doi: 10.1007/s00737-022-01234-8. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 35522327.

Zafeiri A, Raja EA, Mitchell RT, Hay DC, Bhattacharya S, Fowler PA. [Maternal over-the-counter analgesics use during pregnancy and adverse perinatal outcomes: cohort study of 151 141 singleton pregnancies](#). BMJ Open. 2022 May 3;12(5):e048092. doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2020-048092. PMID: 35504638.

Li J, Lin S, Wu J, Pei L, Shang X. [Association between maternal exposure to chemical fertilizer and the risk of birth defects in a rural population in northern China: a population-based study](#). Int Health. 2022 May 6;ihac027. doi: 10.1093/inthealth/ihac027. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 35521756.

Damkjaer M, Urhoj SK, Tan J, Briggs G, Loane M, Given JE, Barrachina-Bonet L, Caverro-Carbonell C, Coi A, Neville AJ, Heino A, Kiuru-Kuhlefelt S, Jordan S, Scanlon I, Pierini A, Puccini A, Garne E, Morris JK. [Prescription of cardiovascular medication in children with congenital heart defects across six European Regions from 2000 to 2014: data from the EUROLinkCAT population-based cohort study](#). *BMJ Open*. 2022 Apr 21;12(4):e057400. doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2021-057400. PMID: 35450908; PMCID: PMC9024225.

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

Hong H, Malfeld S, Smit S, Makhathini L, Fortuin M, Motsamai T, Tselana D, Manamela MJ, Motaze NV, Ntshoe G, Kamupira M, Khosa-Lesola E, Mokoena S, Buthelezi T, Maseti E, Suchard M. [A retrospective 5-year review of rubella in South Africa prior to the introduction of a rubella-containing vaccine](#). *PLoS One*. 2022 May 5;17(5):e0265870. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0265870. PMID: 35512030; PMCID: PMC9071131.

Prasad S, Kalafat E, Blakeway H, Townsend R, O'Brien P, Morris E, Draycott T, Thangaratinam S, Le Doare K, Ladhani S, von Dadelszen P, Magee LA, Heath P, Khalil A. [Systematic review and meta-analysis of the effectiveness and perinatal outcomes of COVID-19 vaccination in pregnancy](#). *Nat Commun*. 2022 May 10;13(1):2414. doi: 10.1038/s41467-022-30052-w. PMID: 35538060.

Ward JD, Cornaby C, Kato T, Gilmore RC, Bunch D, Miller MB, Boucher RC, Schmitz JL, Askin FA, Scanga LR. [The clinical impact of maternal COVID-19 on mothers, their infants, and placentas with an analysis of vertical transfer of maternal SARS-CoV-2-specific IgG antibodies](#). *Placenta*. 2022 May 1;123:12-23. doi: 10.1016/j.placenta.2022.04.006. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 35512490; PMCID: PMC9057562.

Aldrete-Cortez V, Bobadilla L, Tafoya SA, Gonzalez-Carpinteiro A, Nava F, Viñals C, Alvarado E, Mendizabal-Espinosa R, Gómez-López ME, Ramirez-Garcia LA, Perez-Miguel A. [Infants prenatally exposed to SARS-CoV-2 show the absence of fidgety movements and are at higher risk for neurological disorders: A comparative study](#). *PLoS One*. 2022 May 4;17(5):e0267575. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0267575. PMID: 35507630; PMCID: PMC9067650.

### **Epidemiology and Surveillance**

Zaganjor I, Keil AP, Luben TJ, Desrosiers TA, Engel LS, Reefhuis J, Michalski AM, Langlois PH, Olshan AF; National Birth Defects Prevention Study. [Is maternal employment site a source of exposure misclassification in studies of environmental exposures and birth outcomes? A simulation-based bias analysis of haloacetic acids in tap water and hypospadias](#). *Environ Epidemiol*. 2022 Mar 31;6(2):e207. doi: 10.1097/EE9.0000000000000207. PMID: 35434460; PMCID: PMC9005252.

Kaur A, Hornberger LK, Fruitman D, Ngwezi DP, Chandra S, Eckersley LG. [Trends in the prenatal detection of major congenital heartdisease in Alberta from 2008-2018](#). *J ObstetGynaecol Can*. 2022 May 2:S1701-2163(22)00339-5. doi: 10.1016/j.jogc.2022.03.020. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 35513257.

Wang H, Zhang Y, Ding W, Zhu Y, Lu H, Yue H, Dai X, Li D, Zhu X, Xu X. [Trends and influencing factors of perinatal birth defects in Huai'an from 2008 to 2020](#). *Zhejiang Da XueXue Bao Yi Xue Ban*. 2021 Mar 25;50(7):1-9. doi: 10.3724/zdxbyxb-2021-0120. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 35462467.

Kumar J, Saini SS, Sundaram V, Mukhopadhyay K, Dutta S, Kakkar N, Kumar P. [Prevalence & spectrum of congenital anomalies at a tertiary care centre in north India over 20 years \(1998-2017\)](#). *Indian J Med Res*. 2021 Mar;154(3):483-490. doi: 10.4103/ijmr.IJMR\_1414\_19. PMID: 35345074.

Çaylan N, Yalçın SS, Tezel B, Aydin Ş, Üner O, Kara F. [Evaluation of neural tube defects from 2014 to 2019 in Turkey](#). *BMC Pregnancy Childbirth*. 2022 Apr 19;22(1):340. doi: 10.1186/s12884-022-04678-z. PMID: 35439969; PMCID: PMC9020109.



## Recommendations from readers

No recommendation this month

## News from ICBSR 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, **551 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/>. Please, register through the online [registration form](#) .

Once registered, you will receive an email with guidance on how to self-enroll in the self-paced course in either English or Spanish.

## 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 10:14pm CEST, **20 May 2022**, there have been **521.920.560 confirmed cases of COVID-19**, including **6.274.323 deaths**, reported to WHO. As of **17 May 2022**, a total of **12.186.798.032** 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>. From 14 March 2022, this page will only be updated every Thursday.

**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>

## Meetings and Conferences

**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/>

**34<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the International Society for Environmental Epidemiology (ISEE)**, 18-21 September 2022, Athens, Greece. <https://isee2022.org/>

**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/>

**7<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the International Neonatology Association Committee (INAC)**, 17 – 20 November 2022, Dubai. <https://worldneonatology.com/2022/>

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

ICBDSR training platform: [www.icbdsrtraining.org](http://www.icbdsrtraining.org)

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