

Monthly Newsletter

Issue 2022-10 - October 2022

Remembering J David Erickson



It is with a sad heart that we inform you that Dr. J. David Erickson passed away on October 27th. Dave was a good friend and supporter of the International Clearinghouse for decades and an outstanding epidemiologist and scientist. Over the years, he served as a member of the Executive Committee, providing leadership and active promotion of international collaboration in surveillance, research, and prevention. When Dave retired, the ICBDSR instituted the Dave Erickson Lectureship, an invitational lecture at the Annual Meeting, to honor Dave and his vision. The inaugural lecture was given by Dave himself at the Annual Meeting of the ICBDSR in Chianciano, Italy in 2007. This annual lecture continues and has since been given by distinguished members of the public health community and academia to honor him as an example for the next generation of epidemiologists, scientists, and clinicians.

2022 ICBDSR ANNUAL MEETING

The participants in the recent ICBDSR Annual Meeting, held in Bologna from 18th to 21st September 2022, are kindly requested to fill in the [online evaluation form](#) of the meeting. We would love to get your feedback and make the next meetings even better.

2023 ICBDSR ANNUAL MEETING

The **49th ICBDSR Annual Meeting** will take place in St. Julian's, Malta, from November 5th to 8th, 2023, at Cavalieri Art Hotel <https://www.cavalierihotel.com/>

The meeting will be hosted by the Malta Congenital Anomalies Registry, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, Directorate for Health Information and Research (DHIR), and with the support of the Malta Tourism Authority (MTA). Further information will be disseminated at a later time.

Venues of future Annual Meetings:

- 2024, September: Prague (Czech Republic)

What is going on

Clubfoot can be treated: A Course for Healthcare Workers

This course is targeted at healthcare workers and other professionals who care for babies and young children in their work. Its purpose is to raise awareness of the prevalence and impact of birth impairments, and the need to start the appropriate treatment as early as possible and support families who are affected. It takes a close look at clubfoot as one of several birth impairments which require early detection and treatment. It presents essential information on clubfoot and the non-surgical Ponseti method available to eliminate this lifetime disability.

Information in English: <https://bit.ly/PAHOVCClubfoot>, and Spanish: <https://bit.ly/CVOPSPieEquinovaro>

Organized by PAHO-WHO, Virtual Campus for Public Health, and MiracleFeet



European Day of Persons with Disabilities (EDPD).

The European Day of Persons with Disabilities is coming up soon! This day will be celebrated through an annual conference organised by the European Commission in partnership with European Disability Forum, also IF partner, in Brussels, Belgium on November 24 – 25 2022. This 2-day event brings together more than 400 policy-makers, high-level experts and disability advocates. The wide participation of people with disabilities allows us to hear their concerns and aspirations and to establish a dialogue with public authorities and other stakeholders. Link to [Conference website](#)



CDC's Public Health Informatics Fellowship Program (PHIFP)

The PHIFP extended its application to December 1, 2022. This program provides on-the-job training for professionals to apply their expertise in information science, computer science, and information technology to address current and future informatics needs. While working in CDC programs to enhance our agency's informatics workforce, fellows help state and local health departments and international public health agencies solve complex public health informatics challenges.

Full information at <https://www.cdc.gov/phifp/application/index.html>

World Birth Defects Day – WBDD, March 3

The countdown for World Birth Defects Day (WBDD) 2023 has started! Join the WBDD partners at <https://www.worldbirthdefectsday.org/application-form/>

Email info@worldbirthdefectsday.org

Follow @worldbdday on Twitter <https://twitter.com/WorldBDDay> and

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

Join the WBDD page on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/WBDDay/>

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

Publishing your research – a common challenge. You have spent time and effort to generate interesting and useful data from your program or project, and now you want to publish it – in English and in a good journal. In a competitive environment, small things – grammar, syntax, formatting - can make the difference between ‘accept’ and ‘reject/revise’. There are tools and teams available to make life easier – here are three:

- **The ICBD is available to support Clearinghouse members** in preparing papers for publication, for example, by providing feedback on language and structure of your text, and on the clarity of your tables and graphs. Our team includes experienced scientists who have published in major journals and who have significant editorial experience. If you think we can help, talk to us.

For those who enjoy apps, here are two (for starters) that I like – and that you might like too (of course, we have no conflicts of interest or commercial connections)

- **Writefull:** <https://www.writefull.com/> An AI tool to help people in academia write, paraphrase, copyedit, and more. Available for Word as a free app (with basic functions) and a paid plan (more functions). I have used it and, while it needs some supervision (of course), it can improve your first draft considerably.
- **Litmaps:** <https://www.litmaps.com/> A very interesting and visual tool to discover, search, and connect literature on your topic. It also supports collaboration and note keeping.

Best wishes for your next paper or poster!

*For the ICBD,
Lorenzo Botto, ICBD Director*

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.

Genetics and Genomics

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Risk factors, protective factors

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Epidemiology and Outcomes

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Recommendations from readers

No recommendations this month

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. 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](#).

Meetings and Events

A list of future Meetings & Events is available at <http://www.icbdsr.org/meetings/>.

All readers are kindly invited to contribute to this section of the Newsletter, sending information about future meetings/events at centre@icbdsr.org

International Clearinghouse for Birth Defects Surveillance and Research (ICBDSR)

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