



Monthly Newsletter

February 2024

Issue 2024 -02

Save The Date: 2024 Annual Meeting September 1 to 4, 2024, Prague (Czech Republic)

The meeting will celebrate 50 years of ICBDSR (1974 – 2024) and 60 years of congenital anomaly registration in Czech Republic (1964 – 2024). Details on hotel reservations and program registration are coming soon.

ICBD corner: tools in literature reviews

When writing reports and papers, one of the first actions is assembling a strong literature review. Here are some tools that may help (in addition to Pubmed and your topic area knowledge). Most of these tools have an AI engine behind them and offer a free version (and none are paying us for this blurb...). Let us know if you have others that you find particularly useful.

Elicit. A fast way to get a few initial key papers. These can be used as seed for further searches.

Litmaps. From a seed paper, this app generates networks of papers, sorted by relevance, citations, and time.

Connected Papers. Another tool that starts with a paper and provides a map of prior and derivative works .

Mendeley. Once you start finding papers, it makes sense to download the references in a reference manager, of which there are many – Mendeley is one that is fairly widely used, but there are others.

Good luck with your research – more about these tools coming but, but for now, we are looking forward to hearing about your favorite tools.

News from the ICBDSR and the World: a busy quarter of the year ahead

The first three months of the year provide many opportunities to advocate for communities and families impacted by birth defects. Consider putting together local activities and joining our many partners: we are stronger together.

- **January is National Birth Defects Awareness Month.** Our sister organization, the (US) National Birth Defect Surveillance Network, has prepared a helpful toolkit and is hosting webinars – for details, go to <https://www.nbdpn.org/bdam.php>
- **February 29 is Rare Disease Day** – a special day this year. Rare and Undiagnosed Diseases overlap in our space as clinicians, scientists, and public health professionals. Consider marking this day in your program with an event or celebration. Here are a few links where to find ideas and information:
 - <https://www.rarediseaseday.org/>
 - <https://rarediseases.org/rare-disease-day/>
- **March 3 is World Birth Defects Day** – the Clearinghouse is a founding partner of this event, and this year, as in the past, several members will participate in planning activities. We will share information on ideas and activities as these take form. We hope everyone involved in birth defects will do their best to spread the word about birth defects, their impact, and available solutions – better care and better primary prevention.
 - Sign up as a WBDD partner at [2023 WBDD Partner Form - World Birth Defects Day](#)
 - The [toolkit of resources](#) is still valid to guide your awareness activities for WBDD.

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

Instagram: [worldbddayhttps://www.instagram.com/worldbdday/](https://www.instagram.com/worldbdday/).

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

A selection from the recent literature – new in 2024

Please send suggestions to centre@icbdsr.org by the 1st Friday of the month.

Spotlight on birth defects and cancer

[Germline mutations in cancer predisposition genes among pediatric patients with cancer and congenital anomalies.](#) Dangoni GD, Teixeira ACB, da Costa SS, Scliar MO, Carvalho LML, Silva LN, Novak EM, Vince CSC, Maschietto MC, Sugayama SMM, Odone-Filho V, Krepischi ACV. *Pediatr Res.* 2024 Jan 5. doi: 10.1038/s41390-023-03000-7. Online ahead of print. PMID: 38182823

[Role of non-chromosomal birth defects on the risk of developing childhood Hodgkin lymphoma: A Children's Oncology Group study.](#) Peckham-Gregory EC, Boff LM, Schraw JM, Spector LG, Linabery AM, Erhardt EB, Ribeiro KB, Allen CE, Scheurer ME, Lupo PJ. *Pediatr Blood Cancer.* 2024 Mar;71(3):e30822. doi: 10.1002/pbc.30822. Epub 2023 Dec 25. PMID: 38146016

[Nonchromosomal birth defects and risk of childhood acute leukemia: An assessment in 15 000 leukemia cases and 46 000 controls from the Childhood Cancer and Leukemia International Consortium.](#)

Lupo PJ, Chambers TM, Mueller BA, Clavel J, Dockerty JD, Doody DR, Erdmann F, Ezzat S, Filippini T, Hansen J, Heck JE, Infante-Rivard C, Kang AY, Magnani C, Malagoli C, Marcotte EL, Metayer C, Bailey HD, Mora AM, Ntzani E, Petridou ET, Pombo-de-Oliveira MS, Rashed WM, Roman E, Schüz J, Wesseling C, Spector LG, Scheurer ME. *Int J Cancer.* 2024 Feb 1;154(3):434-447. doi: 10.1002/ijc.34720. Epub 2023 Sep 11. PMID: 37694915

Spotlight on folate / nutrition

[Global Neurosurgery at the 76th World Health Assembly \(2023\): First Neurosurgery-driven Resolution Calls for Micronutrient Fortification to Prevent Spina Bifida.](#) Gomez MG, Arynchyna-Smith A, Ghotme KA, Garcia R, Johnson WD, Boop FA, Park KB, Caceres A, Pardo Vargas RA, Ayala R, Ibbotson G, Sheneman N, Peterson DB, Öcal E, Nyalundja AD, La Fuente J, Khan T, Hobart-Porter L, Moser RP, Ahmed YS, El Abbadi N, Woodrow S, Roozen S, Sundell K, Osendarp SJM, Martinez H, Blount JP, Rosseau GL. *World Neurosurg.* 2024 Jan 22:S1878-8750(24)00101-3. doi: 10.1016/j.wneu.2024.01.089. Online ahead of print. PMID: 38266995

[Fetal spina bifida associates with dysregulation in nutrient-sensitive placental gene networks: Findings from a matched case-control study.](#) White M, Arif-Pardy J, Van Mieghem T, Connor KL. *Clin Transl Sci.* 2024 Jan;17(1):e13710. doi: 10.1111/cts.13710. PMID: 38226444

[Folic acid supplementation use during the peri-conceptual period among professionals of a hospital in France.](#) Blanc-Petitjean P, Jézequel M, Manunta A, Olivari-Philipponnet C, Samson E, Bajoux E. *Prev Med Rep.* 2023 Dec 17;38:102568. doi: 10.1016/j.pmedr.2023.102568. eCollection 2024 Feb. PMID: 38283960

[Maternal pre-pregnancy overweight or obesity and risk of birth defects in offspring: Population-based cohort study.](#) Liu W, Ren L, Fang F, Chen R. *Acta Obstet Gynecol Scand.* 2024 Jan 28. doi: 10.1111/aogs.14786. Online ahead of print. PMID: 38282287

[Maternal exposure to zolpidem and risk of specific birth defects.](#)

Howley MM, Werler MM, Fisher SC, Tracy M, Van Zutphen AR, Papadopoulos EA, Hansen C, Ailes EC, Reefhuis J, Wood ME, Browne ML; National Birth Defects Prevention Study. *J Sleep Res.* 2024 Feb;33(1):e13958. doi: 10.1111/jsr.13958. Epub 2023 Jun 2. PMID: 37269133

Spotlight on birth defect epidemiology – risk, outcomes, methods

[Prevalence and early surgical outcome of congenital diaphragmatic hernia in the Netherlands: a population-based cohort study from the European Pediatric Surgical Audit.](#) Teunissen NM, Daniels H, Schnater JM, de Blaauw I, Wijnen RMH. Arch Dis Child Fetal Neonatal Ed. 2024 Jan 9:fetalneonatal-2023-326311. doi: 10.1136/archdischild-2023-326311. Online ahead of print. PMID: 38195217

[Factors associated with infant sex and preterm birth status for selected birth defects from the National Birth Defects Prevention Study, 1997-2011.](#) Williford EM, Yang W, Howley MM, Ma C, Collins RT, Weber KA, Heinke D, Petersen JM, Agopian AJ, Archer NP, Olshan AF, Williams LA, Browne ML, Shaw GM; National Birth Defects Prevention Study. Birth Defects Res. 2024 Jan;116(1):e2294. doi: 10.1002/bdr2.2294. Epub 2023 Dec 28. PMID: 38155422

[A comparison of infants' birth defects self-reported by mothers with data provided by general practitioners: Data from the Dutch Pregnancy Drug Register.](#) Maas VYF, Ederveen EGT, van Rijt-Weetink YRJ, Woestenberg PJ, Bergman JEH, Conijn M. Birth Defects Res. 2024 Jan;116(1):e2276. doi: 10.1002/bdr2.2276. Epub 2023 Nov 23. PMID: 37997185

[Leveraging automated approaches to categorize birth defects from abstracted birth hospitalization data.](#) Newton SM, Distler S, Woodworth KR, Chang D, Roth NM, Board A, Hutcherson H, Cragan JD, Gilboa SM, Tong VT. Birth Defects Res. 2024 Jan;116(1):e2267. doi: 10.1002/bdr2.2267. Epub 2023 Nov 6. PMID: 37932954

[An epidemiologic study of penoscrotal transposition by maternal characteristics using data from the Texas birth defects registry.](#) Allred RP, Nguyen J, Agopian AJ, Canfield MA, Shumate CJ. Birth Defects Res. 2024 Jan;116(1):e2270. doi: 10.1002/bdr2.2270. Epub 2023 Nov 6. PMID: 37929661

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

International Clearinghouse for Birth Defects Surveillance and Research (ICBDSR)

Website: www.icbdsr.org

ICBDSR training platform: www.icbdsrtraining.org

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