



National Birth Defects Prevention Network Newsletter

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Mission Statement

The mission of the National Birth Defects Prevention Network is to establish and maintain a national network of state and population-based programs for birth defects surveillance and research to assess the impact of birth defects upon children, families, and health care; to identify factors that can be used to develop primary prevention strategies; and to assist families and their providers in secondary disabilities prevention.

Advances and Opportunities for Birth Defects Surveillance, Research, and Prevention

National Birth Defects NBDPN Prevention Network

10th Annual Meeting
February 4-7, 2007
The Historic Menger Hotel
San Antonio, TX

Sponsored by
National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Introduction

This supplemental edition of the National Birth Defects Prevention Network's Newsletter is being produced in honor of NBDPN having held its 10th annual meeting! A very special thanks to the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the March of Dimes for sponsoring this event. The grand success of this meeting was not possible without the vision and hard work of the members of the Planning Committee. They once again deserve a standing ovation for providing an outstanding location and agenda. And of course a special acknowledgment to each individual member who attended. Your accomplishments during the past year are an inspiration to us all throughout the new year.



10th Annual NBDPN Meeting



On February 5, 2007 the NBDPN celebrated its **10th Annual Meeting** at the Menger Hotel in San Antonio, Texas. A record-popping 264 participants from all 50 states, as well as Puerto Rico and Canada countries attended, including 90 who had never been to an NBDPN meeting. Professional roles represented in the following proportions:

- Birth Defects Program Manager 23%
- Surveillance Staff/Abstractor 27%
- Other Public Health 17%
- Clinical Medicine 3%
- Academics/Research 19%
- Other 12%

Evaluations were overwhelmingly positive; the most highly rated sessions were:

- Embryology of the Heart and Associated Malformations (Thomas Sadler)
- Family/Individual Perspectives on Heart Defects (Sheryleen Grothus and Wesley Ledoux)
- Syndromes Associated with Heart Defects (Angela Lin and Tiffany Riehle Colarruso)
- Are amphibians canaries? What frogs may be telling us about pesticides and birth defects (Tyrone Hayes)

Other popular sessions included Prenatal Diagnosis Surveillance Methods, Monitoring for Changes in Birth Defects Prevalence, and The Heart of Surveillance: Tips on Coding.

Welcome NACCHO!

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities Project is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Since August 15, 2005, the BDDD project has provided information and analyses on the prevention of birth defects and developmental disabilities to local health officials and programmatic staff. The goal of the project is to assist local health departments in the effective delivery of services and health promotion messages to prevent birth defects and developmental disabilities.

Project staff began working with NBDPN last fall to develop a query to understand the relationship between state and local health departments in birth defects surveillance, research, and prevention. Results from this survey were shared during a breakout session at the NBDPN Annual Meeting.

This breakout session also included a discussion around state and local collaboration in birth defects prevention and referral efforts. An overview of two state and local partnerships was given. Sangamon County, Illinois Department of Public Health, and the New Jersey Department of Health were featured.

NACCHO's Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities projects sponsored six local health department representatives to attend the NBDPN Annual Meeting in San Antonio, TX and share their experiences during the breakout session. The scholarship recipients were chosen because of their demonstrated commitment to collaboration with their state health department in birth defects prevention and referral activities.

The scholars were: Karen Ayala, Winnebago County, IL; Alvina Eineke, Kane County, IL; Lois Eisenbret, Akron, OH; Tracey Sloat, Maricopa County, AZ; Jeanne Sloan, Monroe County, NY; and Allie Stender-Mrazek, Coconino County, AZ.



<http://www.naccho.org/>



National Birth Defects Prevention Network 2006 Awards

Birth Defects Education and Prevention Award

University of South Florida
Birth Defects Surveillance Program



State Leadership Award

New York State Congenital
Malformations Registry



Godfrey P. Oakley, Jr. Award



Lowell Sever

Presidents Award



Linda Jackson

Distinguished Service Awards



Amy Case

Tim Flood

NBDPN Special Recognition



Carol Stanton

Awards

Birth Defects Education and Prevention Award

Honors the outstanding activities of an organization to promote public awareness of birth defects through innovative and collaborative education and prevention efforts.

State Leadership Award

Honors the outstanding contribution or leadership by a state registry in the development or expansion of birth defects surveillance, or its use in prevention.

Godfrey P. Oakley, Jr. Award

Recognizes an individual who has made significant contributions to the field of birth defects.

Presidents Award

Honors an NBDPN member who has made significant contributions important to the mission and goals of the NBDPN.

Distinguished Service Awards

Honoring an NBDPN member who has provided significant time and effort over many years in support of the mission and goals of the NBDPN

NBDPN Special Recognition

In recognition of her dedication and leadership as President of the NBDPN during 2006



A Huge Thanks to the Menger Hotel for donating a free weekend stay to the NBDPN 2007 Raffle!

Spotlight



A private tour of the Alamo was set up specifically for NBDPN members!



NBDPN's first fund generating raffle was a great success. Thanks to all those who donated items and to those who bought tickets.



NBDPN Poster Award Winners



Category 1: Case Ascertainment- Innovative Approaches, Use of Physician Office Data, Prenatal Surveillance, Pediatric Cardiac Registries, Record Linkage

C1.17 Prenatal Surveillance for Birth Defects in South Texas

Mary K. Ethen, Jorge Trevino, Mark A. Canfield, Peter de Forest, Martin Conde
Texas Department of State Health Services, Birth Defects Epidemiology and Surveillance Branch

Honorable Mention

C1.15 Development of a Geocoding System for Obtaining Rural Route Address Coordinates

Mohammed Serghini, Kay Pearson
Oklahoma Birth Defects Registry

Category 2: Birth Defects Risk Factors- Prescription and Over-The-Counter Medicines, Alcohol and Illegal Drugs, Infectious Agents, Other Hazardous Substances, Links to Environmental Data

C2.12 Clinical Phenotype and Maternal Factors Involved in Amniotic Band Syndrome

Stuart K. Shapira, Martha M. Werler, Cynthia A Moore, Lewis B. Holmes
National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities, CDC

Category 3: Birth Defects Rates and Trends- Graphical Presentation of Data, Statistical Assessment (Simple or Complex), Cluster Evaluations

C3.14 Proximity of Clinical Genetic Services to Infants and Children with Selected Birth Defects in Texas

Amy Case, Mark Canfield, Reggie Louis, Ann Barnett, Patricia Raimondo,
Jenifer Kowalick, Margaret Drummond-Borg
Birth Defects Epidemiology and Surveillance Branch, Texas Dept. of State Health Services/ Texas
Center for Birth Defects Research and Prevention

Category 4: Prevention, Intervention, and Public Policy- Systematic Evaluation of Prevention Activities and Improving Access to Services, Analysis of Public Policy, Analysis of Public Awareness, Use of Surveillance Data to Measure Outcomes

C4.8 Analysis of a Folic Acid Advertisement at the 2006 Minnesota State Fair

Jeannette Sample, Becky Bernauer, Myron Falken, Maureen Alms
Minnesota Department of Health Birth Defects Program

A special thank you to: Tim Flood, Kim Hauser, Adolfo Correa, Marlene Anderka, Peter Langlois, Robert Meyer, Russel Rickard, Leslie Beres-Sochka, Marilyn Browne, Miland Palmer and Joe Mulinare for agreeing to judge the posters.

Kudos to April Montgomery not only judging, but also organizing the session.



“Comments” from the Members



A journal entry found from a meeting attendee ...

Representatives from all states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and Canada gathered in San Antonio, Texas to participate in the 10th Annual NBDPN National Meeting. The unceasing flow of information and comradeship made even the waters of the river walk jealous. As news of the meeting spread quickly through the streets, 90 first time attendees rushed in to join the activities. Each speaker was greeted with respectful silence as they approached the podium and departed in such thunderous applause that the ghosts at the Menger said it rivaled the guns of Santa Anna’s armies. How fitting that this glorious event was held only a stone’s throw away from the Alamo!

The Poster Hall was filled with a record number of displays of outstanding accomplishments made during the past year. More than a few eyes became misty on viewing the cornucopia generously offered by the country’s best. And just when we thought the night could not get any better, someone cried out: “Here comes the Amniotic Band!”

The NBDPN Annual Meeting Committee was hailed for providing a feast of opportunities for those in attendance. The agenda for this meeting covered the scale of topics from Analysis to Zygote embryology.

As the attendees bid farewell on Wednesday afternoon, they left knowing themselves that: *Indeed, the Stars do shine bright deep in the Heart of Texas.*



National Birth Defects Prevention Network

Executive Committee

National Birth Defects
Prevention Network (NBDPN)
14781 Memorial Dr.
Number 1561
Houston, TX 77079

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
[HTTP://WWW.NBDPN.ORG](http://www.nbdpn.org)

Important information about...

Preventing Birth Defects



| | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| President: | Phil Cross (NY) |
| President-Elect: | Sam Viner-Brown (RI) |
| Past-President: | Carol Stanton (CO) |
| Secretary-Treasurer: | Glenn Copeland (MI) |
| Member-at-Large: | Judy Major (NC) |
| Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: | Leslie O'Leary and Cara Mai |
| March of Dimes: | Melanie Lockhart |
| Annual Meeting: | Allison James (AZ) and Amy Case (TX) |
| Education and Outreach: | Mary Knapp (NJ) |
| Ethical, Legal, and Social Issues: | Debra Musa (NY) |
| Membership and Elections: | Carol Stanton (CO) |
| NTD Surveillance and Folic Acid Education: | Julianne Collins (SC) |
| Publications and Communications: | Russel Rickard (CO) |
| State Data: | David Law (TN) and Craig Mason (ME) |
| Surveillance Guidelines and Standards: | Brad McDowell (IO) |

For membership information contact:
Cara Mai at (404) 498-3918 or email cwm7@cdc.gov

NBDPN Newsletter Editorial Board: Russel Rickard – Chair, Julianne Collins,
Russ Kirby and Cara Mai

The National Birth Defects Prevention Network (NBDPN) is a group of individuals involved in birth defects surveillance, research, and prevention.

This newsletter is published twice a year. If you would like to be added to the mailing list, please contact Cara Mai at cwm7@cdc.gov.

The newsletter and additional information are also available on the internet at <http://www.nbdpn.org>.

Please send comment or questions about this newsletter to Russel Rickard at russel.rickard@state.co.us