



## Message from the President



As my time as President comes to an end I would like to reflect on the accomplishments of this incredible organization and its members. I also want to thank everyone for their effort in assisting with moving this organization forward. We all volunteer our time on top of an already busy schedule. Every committee has made progress this year and their specific reports are further detailed under *Committee News*.

The members of the Network are a bright, motivated group with the collective goal of reducing the occurrence and burden of birth defects. The NBDPN has grown rapidly since 1997 due to this cohesive nature of its members. Now, we are at a critical point in strategizing our future. I recommend that every Network member seriously consider becoming actively involved in a committee.

The NBDPN is a relatively new organization, but we must position ourselves very carefully in the immediate and distant future. To this end, the NBDPN Past Presidents and Executive Committee met January 22, 2005, for the first strategic planning session. In preparation for this meeting a survey was sent out to attendees. Strengths and weaknesses as well as opportunities and threats were identified and compiled. These results became important discussion topics as we visualized our future direction as an organization. Dr. John Meaney facilitated this strategic planning process. During the meeting we discussed NBDPN priorities, identified and clarified external issues that affect current operations, and described the current operating climate. From a document developed by Tim Flood, we also learned about other organizational structures and methods of operations. An outcome of this meeting was the development of an immediate action plan of short and long-term goals. During the 2005 NBDPN annual meeting, we communicated progress from the Strategic Planning meeting.

As a result of identifying short and long-term goals, four goals were identified:

- 1) improve the NBDPN organization and structure;
- 2) identify long term and stable funding for the NBDPN;
- 3) strengthen relationships with external partners; and
- 4) continue to improve and maintain activities and products of the Network.

Following the meeting, goal groups were organized, and leaders were assigned to direct their teams. Goal group 2 remained inactive. Each goal group evaluated the objectives and determined a course of action. Monthly conference calls were held to monitor progress.

In August 2005, the NBDPN had the opportunity to apply for a small grant from the CDC to support a face-to-face meeting for a second strategic planning meeting. This meeting is scheduled to take place January 12-13, 2006 and will include leaders of each goal team (now called the Strategic Steering Group), and the Strategic Advisory Council (which includes past NBDPN officers and other selected members who are part of the Executive Committee). The CDC grant allowed us to hire a facilitator to guide us in the development of the strategic plan and to have a working document ready to present to the Network members at the 2006 Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C.

I would like to encourage NBDPN members, who are not currently involved in a committee, to join a committee that is of interest to them and become part of the process in planning our future.

It has been a great honor and pleasure to be the President of the NBDPN this year. I look forward to watching the continued growth of the organization and its members.

Sincerely,  
Marcia Feldkamp, 2005 NBDPN President

# News from the CDC



## *Centers for Birth Defects Research and Prevention*

The Centers for Birth Defects Research and Prevention (CDBRP) have continued to collaborate on the National Birth Defects Prevention Study (NBDPS), which now includes over 22,000 completed maternal interviews and over 9,500 infant DNA samples. NBDPS data have been presented at numerous national scientific meetings in 2005 including: Society for Epidemiologic Research; Society for Pediatric and Perinatal Epidemiology; Teratology Society; and American Society of Human Genetics. Two recent epidemiologic studies of the combined NBDPS data have been accepted for publication:

Carmichael SL, Shaw GM, Yang W, Laurent C, Herring A, Royle M, Canfield M. Predictors of intake of folic acid-containing supplements among pregnant women. Accepted June 2005. *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology* (in press).

Shaw GM, Carmichael SL, Laurent C, Rasmussen SA. Maternal nutrient intakes and risks of orofacial clefts. *Epidemiology*. (in press)

The new Computer Assisted Telephone Interview (CATI) is almost complete. All interviewers are being trained to use this new interviewing tool. The new CATI will be used for births beginning on January 1, 2006.

Two working groups have been established to determine research priorities for obesity and diabetes and for medications. This latter work group has identified often-used medication categories, including antibiotics and antihistamines, for which no study proposals had been submitted yet.

## *State Birth Defects Surveillance Cooperative Agreements*

CDC currently funds 15 states to develop or enhance their birth defects surveillance programs. In 2003, CDC began organizing regional meetings for funded states as well as other states with birth defects surveillance systems to better address regional needs and to facilitate discussions on birth defects surveillance and data utilization. The next regional meeting covered under this format is scheduled for the spring of 2006 in Baltimore, MD. CDC is in the process of designing the next phase of the regional meeting format and welcomes suggestions and comments. Comments can be sent to Cara Mai at [cmai@cdc.gov](mailto:cmai@cdc.gov).

## *Prevention Team Update*

### New Folic Acid Educational Material

The Prevention Research Team is happy to announce that the new folic acid educational material for adolescents, "B" Your Best with Folic Acid, is available on CDC's online order form (<http://www2.cdc.gov/ncbddd/faorder>). As with all of our materials, if you need them by a specific date, please indicate in the comments section of your order.

## *Public Health Grand Rounds*

The September 30th Public Health Grand Rounds, "Birth Defects Prevention: Realizing the Full Potential of Folic Acid," was a great success with an estimated 1500 viewers worldwide! Special thanks to our esteemed panelists, including Dr. Cordero of CDC, Sarah Verbiest of the Center for Maternal and Infant Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and Cindy Brownstein of the Spina Bifida Association of America, as well as to the 13 passionate contributors from our featured community in Colorado. If you missed the live broadcast you can view the webcast at: <http://www.publichealthgrandrounds.unc.edu>.

### *Science Ambassador*

Science Ambassador, a program in which CDC scientists work with current and future middle and high school science teachers to educate them about different scientific public health issues, held another successful workshop in June 2005. We had 12 teachers from around the country and 3 pre-service teachers from select universities travel to CDC. Participants attended lectures on topics like muscular dystrophy, risk factors for birth defects, fetal alcohol syndrome, autism, child development, diabetes, and hereditary blood disorders.

The Science Ambassador staff is busy finalizing the 2005 lesson plans and will add those to previous ones to make available a total of almost 60 lesson plans. All lesson plans meet National Science Education Standards, ensuring that teachers across the nation can use them in their classrooms. Lesson plans developed during the first two years are available to all teachers through NCBDDD's Web site

(<http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/folicacid/ScienceAmbassador.htm>) and the Georgia Learning Connections Web site (<http://www.glc.k12.ga.us/gei/NCBDDD/homepg.htm>).

We urge you to share this information with your state contacts to ensure that teachers around the U.S. can benefit from lesson plans developed by the Science Ambassador Program. Also, be sure to check back with us soon for more lesson plans from the 2005 program!

### *Optimal Nutrition*

The Optimal Nutrition Initiative is now in its last phase of creative development and testing. In November/December the final four ad concepts will be tested with our target audience (female undergraduate college students ages 18-24) to finalize the advertisements that will accompany the campaign. The campaign will be implemented locally in August 2006 (at the beginning of the 2006-2007 academic year) on approximately 8-10 of the largest universities across the country, and nationally, the ads will appear in popular women's magazines.

## News from NBDPN Liaisons



### *National Council on Folic Acid (NCFA)*

NCFA will launch the second National Folic Acid Awareness Week, January 9<sup>th</sup> through 15<sup>th</sup>, 2006. The theme is "Folic Acid You Don't Know What You Are Missing!" Numerous items are available at the NCFA website. The Information Kit contains a press release, letter to the editor, proclamation, fundraising letter and suggested activities. English and Spanish versions are available for the brochure, bookmark and poster online as pdf files or an electronic order form is available for all publications. A button to add to your website to promote National Folic Acid Awareness Week is also available on line. <http://www.folicacidinfo.org/campaign>.

Two member organizations of NCFA, SBAA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are jointly pursuing the corn meal fortification issue. They have contacted Gruma, the largest corn mill in Mexico, to initiate discussion regarding corn meal fortification.

NCFA is developing a work plan to provide guidance for the next eighteen months. The plan will modify the present committee structure into the development of short-term projects with specific goals, allowing all members to work on projects of their choice.

-- KAY PEARSON, OKLAHOMA CITY, OK

### *HuGE Net Update*

There are revised guidelines and format for HuGE Reviews are available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/genomics/hugenet/reviews/guidelines2.htm>. Prospective authors are encouraged to review the new formats, which include :1) full HuGE Reviews (carried out the first time the epidemiologic aspects of a specific gene are reviewed for HuGENet™); 2) Gene-disease Association Reviews; 3) Minireviews and 4) Prevalence Reviews.

The journal, *Pediatric and Perinatal Epidemiology*, marks the seventh journal currently collaborating with HuGENet™ to publish HuGE Reviews. Others include *American Journal of Epidemiology*, *Emerging Infectious Diseases*, *Epidemiologic Reviews*, *Epidemiology*, and *Genetics in Medicine and Teratology*.

On February 7-8, 2005, HuGENet™, the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) and the Public Population Project in Genomics (P3G) co-sponsored a meeting of multidisciplinary experts who are conducting or planning cohort studies that assess the role of genes and gene-environment interaction in the occurrence of human diseases. In addition to spurring collegial interactions, the main goal of the meeting was to discuss the possibility of producing an overall statement aimed at harmonizing the format and improving the quality of publications arising from Biobank-based genetic epidemiology studies. A detailed summary of this meeting is now available on the HuGENet™ web site at [www.cdc.gov/genomics/hugenet](http://www.cdc.gov/genomics/hugenet).

Of interest to the birth defects community, the most popular HuGE review visited online is “5,10-Methylenetetrahydrofolate reductase (MTHFR) Gene Variants and Congenital Anomalies,” which received an average 1,712 visits per month since July 2004. The most popular Fact Sheet is “FMR1 and the Fragile X Syndrome,” which has received an average of 682 visits per month since July 2004. In addition to the above, there are over 150 published literature articles and many other items coded under “congenital anomalies” in the Genomics and Disease Prevention Information System (GDPInfo). If you haven’t been to the HuGENet™ web site in a while, it is worth the visit!

-- MINDY CLYNE, ATLANTA, GA



## News from the March of Dimes

### *News from the March of Dimes*

Despite the hard work of the March of Dimes (MOD) and several members of the NBDPN,

obtaining additional federal support for health programs proved to be difficult. As expected, federal discretionary funding in fiscal year 2006 is extremely tight. With the exception of a small increase in the CDC’s folic acid education campaign, funding for birth defects activities at CDC is likely to be level funded or slightly reduced. In 2006, the MOD looks forward to working more closely with members of the NBDPN to reverse the recent trend of level funding for CDC’s birth defects activities.

With the recent reduction in cooperative agreements funded by the National Center for Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities and the continued tough fiscal climate, the MOD encourages you to take advantage of every possible opportunity to inform members of congress about the importance of birth defects surveillance, research and prevention. Some possible avenues to improve congressional awareness of the importance of these programs are: (1) sending a letter; (2) attending and speaking at a district meeting; (3) scheduling a personal meeting; and (4) calling your representative and/or senator’s office to advise them of your interest in federal support for birth defects surveillance, research and prevention.

The MOD continues to be active in the states advocating for birth defects related programs. The latest developments include an Ohio MOD advocacy initiative to promulgate the Birth Defects Surveillance Program regulations so that data collection can begin. And in Rhode Island, the MOD Chapter led a successful advocacy campaign to develop and promulgate regulations to improve and expand the Birth Defects Surveillance Program. The regulations went into effect on November 29, 2005. For 2006, at least 17 MOD Chapters plan to work on advocacy initiatives to support their state birth defects registries (AL, AZ, CA, FL, IA, IL, MA, MN, NH, NC, NV, OH, OR, SC, TX, UT and WI). To find out how you can help or for more information, contact the MOD state chapter or the Office of Government Affairs.

-- EMIL WIGODE, WASHINGTON, DC

# Committee News

## Surveillance Guidelines and Standards Committee (SGSC)

The bulk of the committee work is handled by its workgroups:

- ❖ The Guidelines Evaluation Workgroup has been working to enhance the use and usability of the current guidelines including: developing a web survey for feedback: putting a complete table of contents in the main Guidelines webpage: planning a focus group session at the annual meeting: and planning an educational workshop called "Guide to the Guidelines" at the annual meeting.
- ❖ The Coding Workgroup has taken up coding questions from the listserve and other sources creating standard responses that will be posted on the NBDPN Members Only web page. Also, at the annual meeting, there will be a coding breakout session.
- ❖ The Technical Tools Workgroup has been gathering technical tools and training tips from multiple surveillance programs to share via the NBDPN Members Only web page as well as during an education workshop at the annual meeting. The group is also developing a web survey to assess the skill sets needed by surveillance staff as well as to guidance for future training needs and options for creating birth defects surveillance staff certification.
- ❖ The Expansion Workgroup is working on a new chapter about Presenting Birth Defects Data. Another chapter project in the wings addresses prenatal diagnosis surveillance.

Check out the current Guidelines at <http://www.nbdpn.org/current/resources/bdsurveillance.html>. We can use more great people and ideas on the workgroups – please contact me at [ann.phelps@dshs.state.tx.us](mailto:ann.phelps@dshs.state.tx.us).

-- ANN PHELPS, AUSTIN, TX

## Education and Outreach Committee

Over the last few months our primary task has been development of the 2006 Birth Defects Prevention Month (BDPM) educational packet highlighting the importance of preconceptional health. Some of the materials to be included will be resources on folic

acid, family history, genetic counseling, management of chronic diseases that increase risk of birth defects in developing offspring, and the importance of seeking a preconceptional care visit with one's health care provider. Packet materials may be downloaded from the NBDPN website at: <http://www.nbdpn.org/current/resources/bdpm2006.html>

If you have an interest in promoting birth defects prevention strategies through working with this dedicated group of professionals, please join us for our in-person meeting at the 2006 NBDPN Conference!! We gladly welcome (and depend upon) new committee members! For more information please contact committee co-chairs Amy Nance (UT) [aenance@utah.gov](mailto:aenance@utah.gov) or Jane Simmermon (MI) [simmermonj@michigan.gov](mailto:simmermonj@michigan.gov)

Many thanks to all committee members who offered their time and talent to development of the 2006 packet. None of this important work could be done without you!!

-- JANE SIMMERMON, LANSING, MI  
-- AMY NANCE, SALT LAKE CITY, UT

## State Data Committee

Over the past six months, the State Data Committee has been working hard on the 2005 Annual Report, collaborative research projects, and policy and manuscript development. Current efforts and/or accomplishments include:

- ❖ Published state data and directory information for the 2005 Annual Report in Birth Defects Research Part A.
- ❖ Began discussions regarding the 2006 Annual Report. The option of web-based data and directory information submission is being explored.
- ❖ Submitted a paper on national prevalence estimates to MMWR; additional papers are planned.
- ❖ Published the article, "Changes in the Birth Prevalence of Selected Birth Defects after Grain Fortification with Folic Acid in the United States: Findings from a Multi-State Population-Based Study" in *Birth Defects Research Part A*. This was also presented at the MCH Epidemiology Conference. This was a collaboration between NTD Surveillance and State Data Committees.

- ❖ Data for the preterm births study are being analyzed. The study will be presented at the MCH Epidemiology and APHA conferences.
- ❖ The analysis of abdominal wall defects (e.g., gastroschisis and omphalocele) data has begun. A poster will be presented at the Canadian Congenital Anomalies Meeting and MCH Epidemiology Conference.
- ❖ Developed data sharing policies in collaboration with the ELSI committee and were approved by the Executive Committee.
- ❖ Submitted an abstract for the NBDPN Annual Meeting on interstate data exchange, in partnership with the ELSI Committee.
- ❖ Developing a chapter on data presentation for the Guidelines for Birth Defects Surveillance manual in partnership with the Surveillance Guidelines and Standards Committee.
- ❖ Developing a survey regarding ascertainment criteria.

A lot of exciting work is going on with birth defects data! If you would like to become involved with the State Data Committee or if you have any questions, please contact Sam Viner-Brown at [samv@doh.state.ri.us](mailto:samv@doh.state.ri.us).

-- SAM VINER-BROWN, PROVIDENCE, RI

#### **Publications and Communications Committee**

The 2005 Annual Report was successfully published. If you need extra hard copies please contact Cara Mai.

The NBDPN website is constantly undergoing enhancement. Clean up was done on “dead-links,” so if you run into any at the site, please let us know. There have been requests and discussion concerning a members’ forum. In 2006, we are planning to survey the membership as to how the site can be even more useful with respect to their needs.

The new format for the “Articles of Potential Interest” has been implemented and is updated periodically on the website.

We encourage your input for new ideas and articles for the NBDPN newsletter. Thanks to the SGSC Committee for the addition of a new regular column: Surveillance Question Corner! If you would like to become involved with this Committee,

please contact Russel Rickard at [russel.rickard@state.co.us](mailto:russel.rickard@state.co.us).

-- RUSSEL RICKARD, DENVER, CO

#### **Annual Meeting Committee**

The Annual Meeting Committee is finalizing the program for NBDPN’s 9th Annual Conference, which will be held January 30 – February 1, 2006 at the Marriott Gateway Crystal City in Arlington, Virginia. The conference theme is “NBDPN 2006: Advances and Opportunities for Birth Defects Surveillance, Research and Prevention.” Pre-conference activities will include committee meetings and a hands-on training seminar on “GIS Applications for Birth Defects Surveillance and Epidemiology” scheduled for January 29th. The conference will begin on Monday, January 30th and will include plenary sessions on the findings and future of the National Birth Defects Prevention Study, the impact of electronic medical records, a life course perspective on birth defects and the origins of controversial birth defects. In addition to the daytime plenary sessions, the March of Dimes will sponsor a training session on “Educating Policy Makers about Birth Defects” on Monday evening. On Tuesday evening, Dr. Judith Hall from the University of British Columbia will give a presentation entitled “Birth Defects and Culture: The Northwest Indians and their Totems.” Breakout sessions and repeating workshops will offer a wide variety of topics for participants. We need assistance identifying exhibitors for the conference and will be looking for volunteers to help with the poster session. If you would like more information, contact Russell Kirby ([rkirby@uab.edu](mailto:rkirby@uab.edu)), Phil Cross ([pkc02@health.state.ny.us](mailto:pkc02@health.state.ny.us)), or Cara Mai ([cmai@cdc.gov](mailto:cmai@cdc.gov)).

-- PHIL CROSS, TROY, NY

-- RUSS KIRBY, BIRMINGHAM, AL

#### **Membership and Elections**

The M&E Committee thanks the 47 state programs which responded to the online survey in Nov-Dec concerning issues related to funding. The state programs provided valuable information about the status of their programs, effects of funding cuts, and their views of the next 24 months. Results have been summarized and will be presented in Crystal City.

--TIM FLOOD, PHOENIX, AZ

### **Ethical, Legal, and Social Issues (ELSI)**

In collaboration with the Data Committee, the ELSI Committee has been involved with two projects this year. First, the ELSI committee helped develop data sharing policies for the NBDPN, namely the use of single-year and five-year data tables. Second, the ELSI committee continued to work on interstate data exchange agreements by examining percentage of out-of-state births and comparing these results to the survey results obtained in 2004. The latter project has resulted in a poster at the NBDPN annual meeting, and a manuscript is forthcoming. In 2006, a fact sheet on newborn screening and birth defects will be developed.

As of February 1, 2006, I will be resigning as Chair of this committee. During my two years as Chair, this committee developed several fact sheets on birth defects and HIPAA and templates for interstate data exchange agreements, both of which I hope have proven useful to many of you. I've met lots of impressive, dedicated people in the field of birth defects and have learned an immense amount, especially at the NBDPN annual meetings. Debra Musa from New York has graciously agreed to become the new Chair, and we hope you can join us for the ELSI meeting at the annual meeting in late January 2006. If you have suggestions for future projects, please let Debra know at [Debra.Musa@omr.state.ny.us](mailto:Debra.Musa@omr.state.ny.us) or 518-370-7456.

-- CYNTHIA CASSELL, RALEIGH, NC

### **NTD Surveillance and Folic Acid Education**

This committee is involved in several projects at various stages. We enthusiastically welcome new members, and encourage you to join us if you find any of these projects appealing or if you have ideas for new projects. Please contact Julianne Collins at [julianne@ggc.org](mailto:julianne@ggc.org) for more information.

NTD/FA committee members have been involved in a number of research projects that have led to publications, including:

- A manuscript analyzing trends in NTD occurrence by maternal race/ethnicity was published in the September 2005 issue of *Pediatrics*
- A manuscript comparing the occurrence of selected birth defects before and after mandatory

folic acid fortification was published in the October 2005 issue of *Birth Defects Research (Part A)*

- A manuscript measuring survival in infants with NTDs before and during folic acid fortification will be published in the April 2006 issue of *Pediatrics*

Additionally, a new project has been started that will estimate what additional changes can be expected in the rates of spina bifida and anencephaly since fortification.

A pamphlet advocating the continued use of folic acid and healthy habits for mothers post pregnancy has been created by a working group within the NTD/FA committee. Different versions of this pamphlet (including Spanish version) are currently being field-tested.

Another working group is trying to define the characteristics of a model program for NTD recurrence prevention. A survey has been developed and sent out to state contacts to help identify the features of successful NTD recurrence prevention programs.

Finally, NTD/FA committee members are interested in developing and promoting a folic acid curriculum for use in medical schools.

--JULIANNE COLLINS, GREENWOOD, SC

## ***Surveillance Question Corner***

**Where can I find suggestions for assessing our registry's data quality?**

Chapter 7 of the NBDPN's Guidelines for Conducting Birth Defects Surveillance ("Guidelines") is devoted to data quality management. Not only will you find several suggestions for how to measure the quality of your data, but also there are several suggestions for increasing data quality. Additionally, Guidelines Chapter 5 Section 5.5 addresses data quality issues in coding data.

### What tips do you have for birth defects registry abstractors dealing with hospitals that are transitioning from a paper to an electronic patient record?

Stay abreast of e-HIM industry practices and ask questions:

- \* What is the target date for completion of the migration and what health data (episodes of care) will be available on paper vs. electronic?
- \* What is the process for external customers needing access to an electronic medical record (password, username, security IT forms, record queues, audits)?
- \* What is the timeline for record availability to end-users after the patient is discharged (inpatient or outpatient)?
- \* Be prepared to be patient as the hospital works through electronic glitches that may result in system slowdowns and downtime.

### What terminology is important in birth defects surveillance?

Guidelines Chapter 3 Section 3.3 reviews a variety of terminology including terms related to the formation of major anomalies, terms related to tissue and organ formation, terms related to patterns of multiple anomalies occurring in a single child and more!

### What is the Coding Working Group (CWG) and how does it work?

The CWG is part of the Surveillance Guidelines and Standards Committee and includes members from five birth defect surveillance programs representing active, passive and mandatory reporting states. The goal of the CWG is to standardize the use of BPA and ICD-9-CM codes in birth defect surveillance systems. Such standardization will make it easier to compare and share data among states. Any NBDPN member may send a question to [ascheuerle@swbell.net](mailto:ascheuerle@swbell.net). The CWG discusses and agrees on an answer. Options for case finding and/or coding a particular defect are presented. These answers will be posted on a special section of the NBDPN Members Only web site.

### How can I give feedback on the NBDPN's Guidelines for Conducting Birth Defects Surveillance?

Keep an eye out for an announcement on the birth defects listserv about a web survey that will be released soon. It will be a short survey you will be able to take very quickly over the Internet. Let us know what you think! Also, you can always email your comments to the Surveillance Guidelines & Standards Committee chair, [ann.phelps@dshs.state.tx.us](mailto:ann.phelps@dshs.state.tx.us).

## Birth Defects on the Internet



Materials for National Folic Acid Awareness Week:  
January 9-15, 2006

<http://www.nbdpn.org/current/resources/bdpm2006.html>

Getting a Map without a Degree in Geographic Information Systems

(Quick information if you want to know more about a specific location. This site combines satellite imagery, maps and ease of use).

[www.earth.google.com](http://www.earth.google.com)

Public Health Grand Rounds: Birth Defects Prevention: Realizing the Full Potential of Folic Acid

[www.publichealthgrandrounds.unc.edu](http://www.publichealthgrandrounds.unc.edu)

Feeling Marginal: Fisher's Exact Test

[www.unc.edu/~preacher/fisher/fisher.htm](http://www.unc.edu/~preacher/fisher/fisher.htm)

# Mark Your Calendar



Jan 30-Feb 1

Title: **NBDPN Annual Meeting**

City: Arlington, VA

Location: Marriot Gateway Crystal

Contact: Cara Mai

Email: [cmai.cdc.gov](mailto:cmai.cdc.gov)

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

Feb 6-7

Title: **National Health Policy Conference**

City: Washington, DC

Location: Renaissance Washington

Website:

[www.academyhealth.org/nhpc/conferences/nhpc.htm](http://www.academyhealth.org/nhpc/conferences/nhpc.htm)

Mar 4-8

Title: **2006 Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs Annual Conference**

City: Arlington, VA

Location: Marriot Gateway Crystal City

Website: [www.amchp.org/news/2006/index.htm](http://www.amchp.org/news/2006/index.htm)

Mar 16-18

Title: **NICHQ's 5th Annual Forum for Improving Children's Health Care**

City: Orlando/Florida

Location: Royal Pacific Resort

Contact: Christina Gunther-Murphy

Phone: 617-301-4927927

Email: [cgunther-murphy@nichq.org](mailto:cgunther-murphy@nichq.org)

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

Mar 18-22

Title: **23rd Annual BRFSS Conference**

City: Palm Springs, CA

Location: Doral Desert Princess Resort

Contact: Julie Brown

Phone: 770-488-2546

Email: [jbrown4@cdc.gov](mailto:jbrown4@cdc.gov)

Website:

<http://www.cdc.gov/brfss/conference/index.htm>

Mar 20-24

Title: **Health Leadership Program at Duke**

City: Durham, North Carolina

Location: DoubleTree Guest Suites

Contact: Michelle J. Lyn, MBA, MHA

Phone: 919-681-5744

Email: [healthleadership@mc.duke.edu](mailto:healthleadership@mc.duke.edu)

Website: <http://healthleadership.duhs.duke.edu>

Apr 17-20

Title: **International Congress on Physical Activity and Public Health**

City: Atlanta, GA

Location: Grand Hyatt Atlanta Buckhead

Website:

<http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dnpa/ICPAPH/index.htm>

Apr 19

Title: **Texas Center for Birth Defects Research and Prevention Symposium**

City: Austin, TX

Contact: Amy Case

Email: [amy.case@dshs.state.tx.us](mailto:amy.case@dshs.state.tx.us) Website:

[www.dshs.state.tx.us/birthdefects/default.shtm](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/birthdefects/default.shtm)

May 19

Title: **Public Health Social Work in the 21st Century**

City: Boston

Location: Boston University

Email: [bjruth@bu.edu](mailto:bjruth@bu.edu)

June 21-24

Title: **Second American Congress of Epidemiology**

City: Seattle, Washington

Location: Westin Seattle Hotel

Website: [ww.epicongress2006.org/](http://ww.epicongress2006.org/)

# NATIONAL BIRTH DEFECTS PREVENTION NETWORK

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

<b>President:</b>	Marcia Feldkamp (UT)
<b>President-Elect:</b>	Carol Stanton (CO)
<b>Past-President:</b>	Laurie Seaver (HI)
<b>Secretary-Treasurer:</b>	Amy Case (TX)
<b>Member-at-Large:</b>	Kimberlea Hauser (FL)
<b>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:</b>	Larry Edmonds, Leslie O'Leary and Cara Mai
<b>March of Dimes:</b>	Joanne Petrini
<b>Annual Meeting:</b>	Phil Cross (NY) and Russ Kirby (AL)
<b>Education and Outreach:</b>	Amy Nance (UT) and Jane Simmermon (MI)
<b>Ethical, Legal, and Social Issues:</b>	Cynthia Cassell (NC)
<b>Membership and Elections:</b>	Tim Flood (AZ)
<b>NTD Surveillance and Folic Acid Education:</b>	Julianne Collins (SC)
<b>Publications and Communications:</b>	Russel Rickard (CO)
<b>State Data:</b>	Sam Viner-Brown (RI)
<b>Surveillance Guidelines and Standards:</b>	Ann Phelps (TX)

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

**NBDPN Newsletter Editorial Board:** Russel Rickard -Chair, Kimberlea Hauser, Russ Kirby, Julianne Collins 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](mailto:cwm7@cdc.gov).

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

Please send comments or questions about this newsletter to Russel Rickard at [russel.rickard@state.co.us](mailto:russel.rickard@state.co.us).