

*Wednesday, February 13, 8:00AM-9:30AM  
Concurrent Breakout Session E*

***Moving from Guidelines to Standards: Concepts and Pitfalls***

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The NBDPN Guidelines for Conducting Birth Defect Surveillance provide recommendations designed to improve the quality and utility of surveillance data. The Surveillance Guidelines and Standards Committee has been gathering opinions and leading discussions on how to move from guidelines that programs “should” follow to standards that programs “must” follow. Such a move has been considered to be an important component of the long term NBDPN strategy. In this session we will describe the conceptual approach that has been guiding recent discussions, as well as the pitfalls associated with some of the traditional terminology. A draft version of surveillance standards will be shared.