

Canadian Congenital Anomalies Surveillance Network (CCASN)
8th Annual Scientific Meeting
**Environmental & Nutritional Vulnerability
for Congenital Anomalies**

November 17-19, 2010

Lord Elgin Hotel

Ottawa, Ontario

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

OBJECTIVES:

- Highlight maternal characteristics and socio-demographic factors affecting health during pregnancy, fetal development and susceptibility for congenital anomalies.
- Review epidemiological studies on nutritional deficiencies and excesses associated with congenital anomalies, focusing on the evolution of scientific literature and policy recommendations surrounding micronutrient intakes, including folate.
- Share up-to-date information on key environmental exposures and risk factors, including how they may affect or interact with nutrition in pregnancy and impact the prevalence of congenital anomalies.
- Raise awareness on the importance of integrating congenital anomalies surveillance and research into current public health initiatives.

Meeting Chair

Jane Evans, *Chair, CCASN*

DAY 1:	WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17	LOCATION
4:00 p.m.	Business Meeting of the Communications & Scientific Meetings Working Group (<i>CSMWG members only</i>)	Pearson Room
5:00	Business Meeting of the CCASN Advisory Group (<i>Advisory Group members only</i>)	Pearson Room
5:30	Registration begins	Mezzanine
6:00	Welcome to participants & CCASN update <i>by Jane Evans, Chair, CCASN (Open to all)</i>	Pearson Room
6:15 – 7:15	Keynote presentation (Open to all): Epidemiologic musings on nutrients, related-genes, and risks of human birth defects <i>G Shaw, Stanford University, CA, USA</i>	Pearson Room
7:15 – 8:00	Poster viewing & networking (Open to all)	Mezzanine

DAY 2:

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18

PEARSON RM

Opening Remarks

- 8:00 a.m. Government of Canada - Health Portfolio Officials
Health Canada or Public Health Agency of Canada representative
Catherine McCourt, Director, Health Surveillance and Epidemiology Division

Session 1

Maternal and Socio-Demographic Factors

Moderator: *Brian Lowry, Alberta Children's Hospital, AB*

- 8:15 a.m. **Maternal characteristics associated with gastroschisis**
Eric Skarsgard for CAPSNeT, University of British Columbia, BC
- 8:45 **Maternal race/ethnicity and nativity as risk factors for congenital anomalies**
Russell Kirby, National Birth Defects Prevention Network, University of South Florida, FL, US

Session 2

Environmental Exposures

Moderator: *Laura Arbour, University of British Columbia, BC*

- 9:30 a.m. **Current Canadian studies: Maternal-Infant Research on Environmental Chemicals (MIREC) & Plastics and Personal-care Product use in Pregnancy (P4)**
Tye Arbuckle, Health Canada, ON
- 10:15 **Break** and refreshments
- 10:30 **Chlorination by-products in public drinking water supplies and birth defects**
Linda Dodds, IWK Health Centre, NS

Session 3

Abstract Communications: Oral Presentations and Posters

Moderator: *Julian Little, University of Ottawa, ON*

Presentation of abstracts I (3 x 15 minutes)

- 11:00 a.m. Oral abstract #1
- 11:15 Oral abstract #2
- 11:30 Oral abstract #3
- 11:45 Oral abstract #4
- 12:00 p.m. Oral abstract #5
- 12:15 Oral abstract #6
- 12:30 p.m. Synthesis of poster abstracts (1 slide limit to introduce posters)
- 12:35 Lunch & poster viewing

Session 4 | Nutritional Deficiencies and Excesses

Moderator: *Aideen Moore, The Hospital for Sick Children, University of Toronto, ON*

- 1:30 p.m. **Nutritional deficiencies: Vitamin B12 & neural tube defects in Canada**
JG Ray, St. Michael's Hospital, ON
- 2:00 **Folate status of Canadians post folic acid fortification of the food supply: Too high for some?**
Debra O'Connor, Hospital for Sick Children, ON
- 2:30 **Break** and refreshments
- 2:45 **A review of key micronutrients in pregnancy: Current evidence and concerns for congenital anomalies**
Speaker: Joe Leigh Simpson, Florida International University, FL, USA

Session 5 | Environmental, Nutritional and Genetic Interactions

Moderator: *Michiel Van den Hof, IWK Health Centre, Dalhousie University, NS*

- 3:30 p.m. **Genetic, nutrient & environmental determinants of CHDs in Aboriginal children and their mothers**
Laura Arbour University of British Columbia, BC
- 4:15 **Pre-pregnancy obesity and risk for birth defects**
Sonja A Rasmussen, Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), GA, USA
- 5:00 **Closing remarks**
Jane Evans, Chair, CCASN

DAY 3: | FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19

PEARSON RM

Regional Reporting and Current Topics *(open to all)*

Moderators: *Jane Evans, University of Manitoba, MB &*
Juan Andrés León, Public Health Agency of Canada, ON

- 8:30 a.m. **Canadian Congenital Anomalies Surveillance System – Progress update**
Maternal & Infant Health Section, Public Health Agency of Canada, ON
- 8:45 **Program reporting from jurisdictions participating in congenital anomalies surveillance enhancement (CASE) activities**
- *Saskatoon Health Region, SK*
 - *Yukon Health & Social Services, YT*
 - *Nunavut Health & Social Services, NU*
 - *Nova Scotia Reproductive Care Program, IWK Health Centre, NS*
 - *New Brunswick Department of Health, NB*
 - *Alberta Congenital Anomalies Surveillance System, AB*

- 9:45 **Updates from other programs or jurisdictions**
- 10:15 **Break** and refreshments
- 10:30 **Current topics discussion: Privacy assessments and ethics approvals**
- 11:30 **CCASN involvement opportunities**
- 12:00 p.m. **Meeting adjourns**

CCASN Business Meetings

- 12:05 p.m. CCASN Working Lunch (offsite)
- 1:30 Business Meeting of the CCASN Surveillance Implementation Committee (IC)
(IC members only)
- 3:00 Working meeting adjourns