The Registry now has 10,314 cases in the data base. As this research tool continues to grow, we can use it to make more and more connections between environmental exposures and birth defects.
The NIEHS partners are a group of disease and patient advocacy groups who work together with the NIEHS to help discuss the future priorities of the NIEHS. BDRC’s Director, Betty Mekdeci is the co-chair of the Partners. Longtime director of the NIEHS, Dr. Linda Birnbaum (pictured bottom row, center) retired in June of 2020 and has been replaced by Dr. Richard Woychik.
Environmental Birth Defects

BDRC monitors research linking medications, metals, radiation, chemicals and other environmental toxins to birth defects. Through the National Birth Defect Registry, data on these exposures are collected to look for patterns of birth defects that may be associated with these toxins. These data are used for studies, community advocacy and as an early warning system for birth defect prevention.
Since 1990, Birth Defect Research for Children has collected data showing a pattern of birth defects and disabilities in the children of Vietnam veterans.

The Agent Orange Next Gen Campaign will draw attention to how many veterans’ families have been affected and raise funds to continue birth defect research.
BDRC’s Executive director has been participating in weekly Zoom meeting with Vietnam Veteran of America representatives to discuss the epidemic of birth defects and developmental disabilities found in the children and grandchildren of Vietnam veterans.
Birth Defect Research for Children has over 100 fact sheets on structural and functional birth defects that parents can download from BDRC’s website. This year, these fact sheets have been downloaded more than 142,000 times. Parents can also find connections to other families who have children with the same conditions by visiting BDRC’s Support Center or by participating in BDRC’s Parent Matching Program when they fill out the questionnaire for the National Birth Defect Registry.
Outreach and Education

Each month BDRC sends out Birth Defect news to over 5,000 subscribers. Every day, we post timely news items on Facebook to over 8,000 friends. These news articles report on the latest research on birth defects and their preventable causes.
One of our new projects is the National Birth Defect Registry Parent Forum. This is a closed group designed to bring together parents who have filled out the National Birth Defect Registry so they have a place to discuss their child’s conditions. Currently we have 383 parents in the forum with more being added everyday.
Thanks to a grant from the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, BDRC developed an on-line resource center that offers communities a step-by-step plan to investigate concerns about increases in birth defects and disabilities in their area.
A Position statement has been published and signed by 90 scientists warning about a possible link between acetaminophen and autism & other neurodevelopment problems. This link was first suggested in BDRC’s 2009 report.
BDRC’s Executive director participated in a three day Zoom meeting on Epigenetics with scientists in Bern Switzerland.

BDRC also attended a meeting with scientists on the adverse reproductive effects of the weed killer glyphosate.

New Scientific Projects