



Working with Uncertainty

SHEPARD LECTURE

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ALFRED N ROMEO, RN, PHD

Disclosure

- Also employed by the University of Utah, Medical Home Portal
- No other disclosures or conflicts of interest



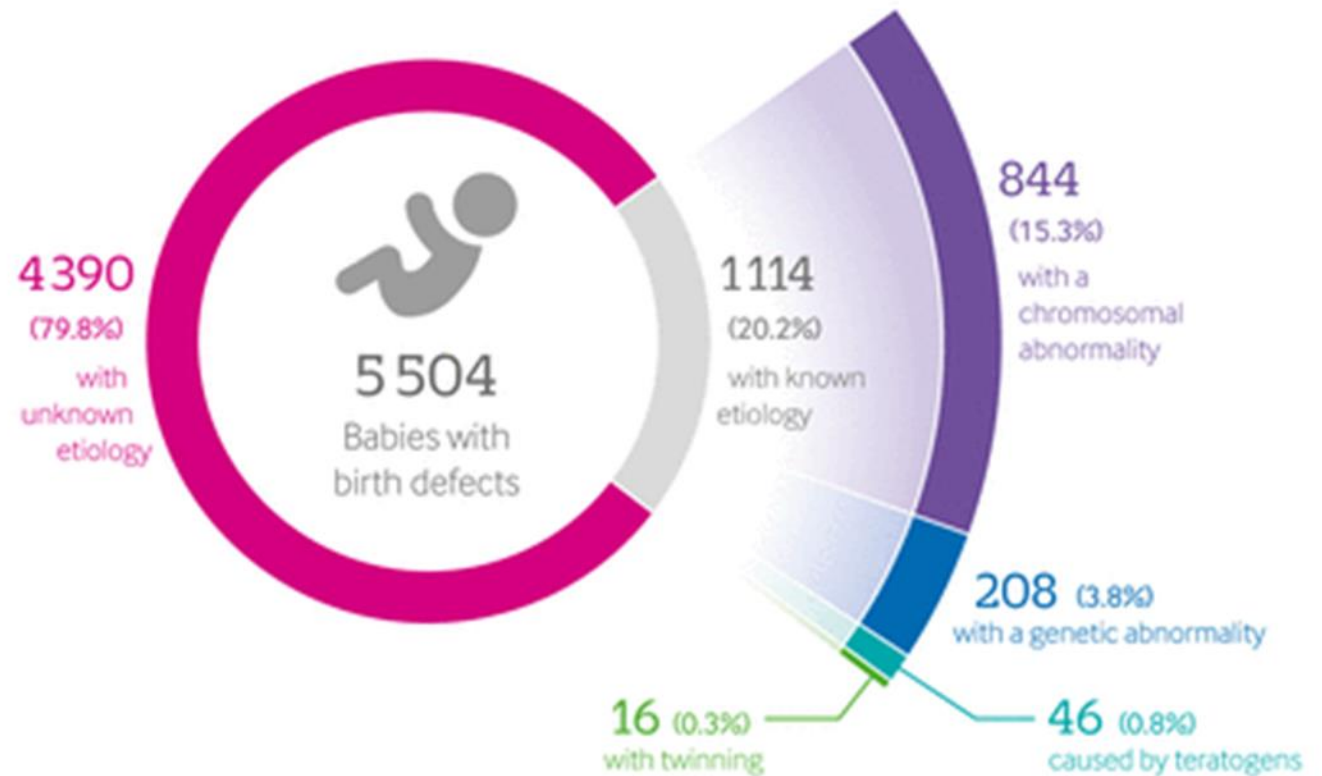
Thank You

- Shepard Lecture, Dr. Običan
- Teratogen Information Specialists
- MotherToBaby Utah / Pregnancy Risk Line mentors
 - Dr. John Carey, Director
 - Dr. Nancy Rose, Advisor
 - Julia Robertson, Manager
 - Lynn Martinez, OTIS President, 38 years, longest serving?
 - Marsha Leen-Mitchell, OTIS Secretary, 35 years, help starting OTIS as a professional society at meeting in Park City



Unknown Etiology

Image from “Etiology and clinical presentation of birth defects: population based study,” by Feldkamp et al., 2017



Seeking Information

- Questions and concerns from moms, providers, others
- Origins of Teratogen Information Centers (after Teratology Society)
- Trips to the library
- Reading the research
- Online libraries/publications



Learning the Processes

- Training
- Listening to colleagues, students
- Answering calls
- Monthly seminars, Shepard's Criteria
- Teaching students
- OTIS meetings and presentations
- Listserv questions



Applying the Processes

- Finding and comparing summaries
- Reading original research and meta-analyses
- Relying upon the literature and process
- Going through Shepard's Criteria
- Forming answer for risks
- Discussing answer and findings with colleagues



Responding to Inquiries

- Questions/probing for context
- Providing information for the situation
- Not providing medical advice
- Protecting privacy, demographics
- Study referrals, follow-up
- Filling a void that providers are not doing (system issues)



Representing Organizations

- National organizations, OTIS, TS/BDRP
 - Committee membership, committee leadership
 - Benefits for organization
 - Professional development for members
 - Supportive environment of co-chairs and members
- State and local committees
 - FASD, migrant health, diabetes, air quality, etc.



Becoming the “Expert”

- Blogs, podcasts, newsletters
- News interviews
- Fact Sheets
- Journal articles (teratogen update on antithyroid meds, MMI)
- Combinations (calls, fact sheets, articles)



Continuing the Cycle

- Ongoing professional development
- Seeking new information
- Honing skills
- Promoting research, studies, PRGLAC, etc.
 - Dealing with the results of the lack of research, COVID-19 vaccine



Supportive Environment

- Multidisciplinary society/expertise
 - Professionals, disciplines
- Team approach
 - Collaboration, ok to not know the answer
- Different styles



Our Roles

- Training the next generation
 - Lectures
 - Seminars
- Supporting the professional societies for the society and members
 - Committee work
 - Leadership
 - Funding (grantwriting, planned giving)



Thank You

- Teratogen Information Specialists
- Providers
- Researchers
- Leadership
- Sister societies

