

**REPORT FROM THE LATIN-AMERICA REGIONAL DIRECTOR
TO IUSTI EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, Vienna 2013**

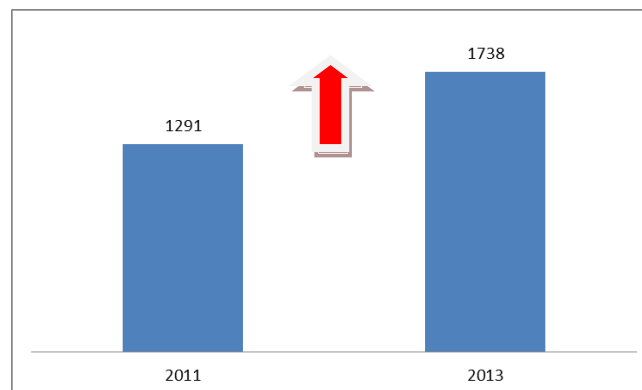
STI Editors Choice article translated into Spanish, available through website for members

IUSTI-LA/ALACITS is working with Sexually Transmitted Infections to translate key research articles from the journal into Spanish. The articles are available at the ALACITS website when login in (www.alacits.org). We posted the first article in August 2012: *“The serious threat of multi drug resistant and untreatable gonorrhoea: the pressing need for global action to control the spread of antimicrobial resistance, and mitigate the impact on sexual and reproductive health”*. Since then four more articles have been posted: *Facilitating chlamydia testing among young people: a randomised controlled trial in cyberspace; Condom effectiveness against non-viral sexually transmitted infections: a prospective study using electronic daily diaries; Increasing chlamydia test of re-infection rates using SMS reminders and incentives*. With every new translation, members receive an email with the link, informing them a new article has been posted.

Membership from Latin America

The numbers of members continue rising, due to opportunities for the free electronic registration system through the ALACITS website and the promotion of the Association through meetings. Now we have registered 1738, from 17 different countries. When invited them all to join the IUSTI as full members, but we have received reports about difficulties with the PayPal system for some of the LA countries, like Uruguay. This is an important issue to discuss, since our next objective is to promote payed memberships.

Number of members in Latin America for 2011 and 2013



A Brand New Bulletin for IUSTI-LA/ALACITS

In January 2012 we launched the New Bulletin for IUSTI-LA/ALACITS. Designed by Dr. Fredy Tinajeros, its objective is to share with the members of the region different activities, including courses, congresses and research related to STIs in the region. It is released 3 times a year (January, July and December) and is written in Spanish and posted in our website (www.alacits.org)



Celebration of the Latin American and Caribbean Day for the Elimination of Congenital Syphilis: October 20th 2012

Promoted by the members of ALACITS-IUSTI, several countries in Latin America have started celebrating the third Saturday of October, the day for the elimination of Congenital Syphilis. Free testing and counseling is offered through health centers and in open spaces.

One of the main objectives of having a Latin American and Caribbean Day for the Elimination of Congenital Syphilis, is to attract the attention of policy makers, health professionals and the general public about the magnitude of the problem of syphilis and congenital syphilis and the actions needed, like assurance that all pregnant women get screened for syphilis at the first antenatal visit, and that all those found to be positive and partners get treatment.

STD Congress in Brazil: August 2013

The Brazilian STD Society, the Brazilian AIDS society and the Regional Bahia STD society together are organizing the ***IX Congress of the Brazilian STD Society and the V Brazilian AIDS Congress***. The Congress will be located in the beautiful city of Salvador and is planned for the 18th to 21st of August 2013. Mariangela Freitas, professor of the Universidad Federal de Pelotas, as the President of the Congress extends to all members of IUSTI an invitation to participate in this event.

Walking for the HPV vaccine in Copacabana

A group of physicians, health professionals and university students guided by Dr. Mauro Passos, a member of ALACITS, went marching through the Copacabana Beach, in Rio for the Implementation of the HPV vaccine in Brazil. This event happened in May, and was part of several activities of advocacy for actions against HPV related diseases. According to Dr. Passos from the Universidade Federal Fluminense, 4 thousand women died from lesions associated to HPV and at least a thousand men had penile cancer. The burden of disease associated to genital warts is also quite substantial, at least 2 million cases per year. To

control this infection, Brazilian specialists are arguing with the government the need for the introduction of the quadrivalent HPV vaccine through the public system.



Situation of HPV vaccination in the Latin American Region

In Latin America every 15 minutes a woman dies from cervical cancer. This is a fact. It is estimated that at least there are 90,000 cases of cervical cancer per year and although most of the countries in the region have cervical cancer control programs based on screening with PAP, the number of cases are still increasing. Most of the cases are associated with human papilloma virus (HPV) 16 and 18. Genital warts, also associated with HPV, are quite common in the region although we lack data on real prevalence. Several countries in the world have implemented HPV vaccination, with impressive results with reduction of prevalence of cases of warts, as an early indication of effectiveness. But in Latin America the introduction of the vaccine has been a slow process. The good news is that in the past month of June, two countries, Brazil and Peru, through their ministries of health have announced the introduction of the quadrivalent vaccine against HPV (types 16,18,6 and 11) for girls 10-11 years old starting in 2014.

Participation of members of ALACIS to Vienna Congress 2013

The IUSTI meeting in Vienna was publicized within the members of ALACITS and IUSTI-LA, promoting their participation at the meeting. Topics relevant to the region have been accepted for abstracts: Congenital syphilis in Honduras; Prevalence of HIV and syphilis and social behavior characteristics of native populations in three geographical areas of Paraguay – 2011; Rapid syphilis test implementation in Peru, Laboratory Diagnosis of Neurosyphilis in patients co-infected with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and HIV-negative patients in Montevideo-Uruguay, Prevalence of chlamydial infections in pregnant women in Peru, Estimating the size of the female sex worker population in Asuncion, Paraguay by mapping and multiplier estimates; among others.

Other Short news from the Latin American Region

Uruguay and Peru: *New Clinical Guidelines for the Diagnosis, monitoring and treatment for syphilis in pregnant women and congenital syphilis and Prevention of Vertical Transmission of HIV and syphilis.*



In Bolivia: The Ministry of Health has been promoting preventive activities with massive campaigns for prevention of STI/HIV through media and at traditional festivities.

Journal of the Brazilian Society of STDs: Official Journal for ALACITS (go to [www. http://www.dst.uff.br/](http://www.dst.uff.br/))

Congress/Courses on STI

VII Conference of the Uruguayan Society against Sexually Transmitted Infections (SUCITS). Update on Infection, Herpes Simplex (HSV 1 - HVS 2). May 28, 2012. Professional Tower. Montevideo. Uruguay.

IV Conference of the Department of Dermatology at the Interior. 10 -11 June 2012. Maldonado-Uruguay

X Update Course in Rural Medicine. III Course of Rural Nursing. 14-16 October 2012. STIs in General Practice. Solis. Maldonado-Uruguay

Uruguayan Congress of Clinical Pathology: Syphilis in Uruguay. Contributions from the Laboratory to prevent, diagnose and treat. 28 November to 1 December 2012. IMM. Montevideo, Uruguay.

V Conference of the Department of Dermatology at the Interior. 21-22 June, 2013. Lavalleja-Uruguay

Virtual Course on Gynecological infections and STIs. Argentina <http://www.asaigo.org.ar/>

XIII PERUVIAN CONGRESS on Infectious and Tropical Diseases: Sexually Transmitted Diseases Chapter. June 27-29, 2013

IX Congress of the Brazilian STD Society and the V Brazilian AIDS Congress. Salvador, Bahia 18th-21st August 2013