



IUSTI-NORTH AMERICA

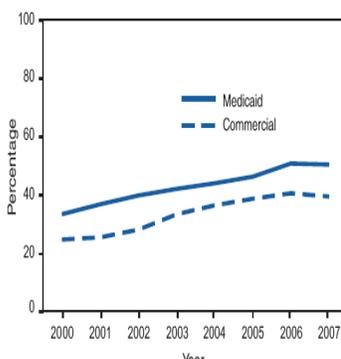
Message from the Regional Director

We look forward to seeing many IUSTI members at the upcoming ISSTD-BASHH meeting this June 28-July 1, 2009 in London, as well as at the 11th IUSTI World Congress with the African IUSTI Branch November 9-12, 2009 in Cape Town, South Africa. This is an exciting year for STIs and we hope that new research for preventing, diagnosing, and treating STIs, as well as new insights into their epidemiology, will assist public health officials in making wise decisions about the control of these infections which affect so many worldwide. New data on STIs available from the CDC STD Surveillance 2008 indicate that for 2007 there were 1,108,374 cases of chlamydia reported, the highest ever, and 356,524 cases of gonorrhea. Clearly we still have challenges ahead of us.

News from the CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (April 17, 2009) Chlamydia Screening Among Sexually Active Young Female Enrollees of Health Plans—United States, 2000-2007 (<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5814a2.htm>) Nationally, the annual screening rate for chlamydia increased from 25.3% in 2000 to 43.6% in 2006, and then decreased slightly to 41.6% in 2007. The regional rate of chlamydia screening in 2007 was highest in the Northeast (45.5%) and lowest in the South (37.3%). Increased screening by health-care providers is necessary to reduce the burden of chlamydia infection in the United States. New HEDIS reports indicate we are screening more women, who are recommended to be screened, but we need to do better.

The overall U.S. rate was 41.6% (25% increase since 2000), with regional differences (Midwest, 38.5%; Northeast, 45.5%; South, 37.3%; West, 45.0%). The lowest

screening state was Utah, 20.8%; and the highest screening state was Hawaii, 57.8%. **Barriers for Providers were identified** as 1. Lack of reimbursement for time required; 2. Lack of awareness that patients are sexually active; and 3. Lack of knowledge that screening can be performed without a pelvic exam. **Barriers to Patients were identified** as 1. Inability to pay copayment of test, 2. Lack of knowledge of the asymptomatic nature, high prevalence, and possible adverse long-term reproductive effects of chlamydia infection.



Percentage of sexually active female enrollees ages 16-25 years who were screened for *Chlamydia trachomatis* infection by health plan type and year—Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set, United States, 2000-2007.

Holmes STD Book. The new edition of the widely used reference book for STDs was published in the spring of this past year: *Sexually Transmitted Diseases, 4th Edition*, eds. KK Holmes, PF Sparling, WE Stamm, P Piot, JW Wasserheit, L Corey, MS Cohen and HD Watts, (McGraw-Hill, New York, 2008). This book has been heralded as bringing STDs and associated social and population-level issues up to date and has created an excellent resource for clini-

cians world-wide. It is highly recommended for all researchers, public health officials, and clinicians in the field of STDs.

A Sunrise Symposium, "Update on Sexually Transmitted Infections: CDC Laboratory Guidelines and Diagnostic Dilemmas for Syphilis, Chlamydia Mutants, and Resistance in Gonorrhea" was presented by members of the North American IUSTI at the American Society for Microbiology 109th General Meeting in Philadelphia on May 18, 2009. This symposium featured talks on "The New CDC Laboratory Guidelines for Chlamydia and Gonorrhea" by Dr. John Papp; "The Molecular Determination of Cephalosporin Resistance in Gonorrhea" by Dr. Mark Pandori; "How Are the New Treponemal Tests Being Used for the Diagnosis of Syphilis" by Dr. Anne Rompalo; and "Is the New Variant (Mutant) of Chlamydia Present in the U.S.?" by Dr. Charlotte Gaydos.

North America IUSTI was represented at the **European IUSTI** held in Milan, Italy, September 4-6, 2008. Active participants and presenters at the meeting included Drs. Sevgi Aral, Max Chernesky, John Douglas, Dennis Ferrero, Kevin Fenton, Charlotte Gaydos, Hunter Handsfield, Frank Judson, King Holmes, Kees Rietmeijer, Richard Sweet, Julius Schachter, and Thomas Quinn. It was a wonderful meeting and we thank Marco Cusini, Conference President, and Claudia Heller-Vitouch, Chair of the Scientific Committee.

Finally, at the 11th IUSTI Congress in Cape Town, the North America Regional Branch IUSTI will host a training workshop, **"Translating New Research Findings into HIV and STI Clinical Practice."** **Goals:**

IUSTI North America plans to offer a training course to interested delegates attending the 2009 World IUSTI Congress, which will enable attendees to learn how findings from recent research studies can enhance their clinical ability to care for patients with HIV and STIs. While this training event has been designed to meet educational needs for those delegates from resource-poor settings, it is open to all delegates attending the IUSTI world meeting.

This classroom experience will provide interactive lectures and discussions about how research can be applied to practical management of patients with STI infections and/or HIV/AIDS. The course will take place on Monday, November 9, 2009 from 08:00 to 13:00. Although this course is offered at no charge to those attending the 2009 IUSTI World Congress, delegates will need to pre-register for this course by ticking the appropriate box on the IUSTI-World 2009 Congress registration form. The registration form is available at http://www/iusti.co.za/G_Registration_form.asp



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We welcome new members from North America. Please log onto www.IUSTI.org and join our unique international colleagues who work in the STI field. Other Regions which play an integral part of Worldwide-IUSTI include: IUSTI-Europe, IUSTI-Latin America, IUSTI-Africa, and IUSTI-Asia Pacific. Associate membership is free and full membership is inexpensive. Membership is open to individuals with a professional interest in STIs. You can see that we have a lot of work to do in diagnosing, treating, and preventing STIs in North America.

News from CDC

Building on earlier strategic plans, the CDC's Division of STD Prevention (DSTDP) completed its five-year strategic plan in 2008. This plan is being used to guide DSTDP decision making, human and financial resource allocation, and programmatic direction. DSTDP is focusing on preventing STI-related infertility, reducing STI-related health disparities across and within communities and populations, and strengthening STD prevention capacity and infrastructure as priority goals for 2009. To address the goal of preventing infertility, DSTDP is continuing to focus on increasing chlamydia screening in the US among sexually active women 25 and younger. Collaboration with Partnership for Prevention (<http://www.prevent.org/>) continues to be central to chlamydia screening work, with three main activities:

- 1) Partnership for Prevention, with CDC and eight other founding organizations launched the National Chlamydia Coalition (NCC) (<http://www.prevent.org/ncc>) in June of 2008. Formed to increase public awareness of chlamydia screening and to identify and address provider and policy-level barriers to widespread adherence to screening guidance, NCC now has a membership of over 35 national organizations.
- 2) Partnership for Prevention and NCC developed *Why Screen for Chlamydia? An Implementation Guide for Healthcare Providers*. The guide was introduced in April 2009 during National STD Awareness Month, and is available on the NCC website (<http://www.prevent.org/templates/ncc-home/download/whyscreenforchlamydia.pdf>). The guide includes sections on providing confidential care to adolescents, taking a sexual history with adolescent and adult patients, and provides links to resources and tools that will be helpful for providers.
- 3) Partnership for Prevention is developing a White Paper examining the evidence supporting chlamydia screening and other recommended adolescent preventive health services, with publication expected in late 2009.

In the international arena, CDC continues to work closely with WHO and other international agencies and organizations on the WHO global health priority of eliminating congenital syphilis (<http://www.who.int/reproductive-health/stis/syphilis.html>) as a public health problem. In June 2008, WHO and DSTDP co-sponsored a *Consultation on an Investment Case for the Global Elimination of Congenital Syphilis* involving global partners from governments, NGOs, academic institutions, and foundations. CDC also continues to act as the reference laboratory for WHO's STD Diagnostics Initiative and as WHO Collaborating Center for Reference and Research in Syphilis Serology.

In addition to the elimination of congenital syphilis, DSTDP has ongoing international clinical, laboratory and programmatic research supporting a better understanding of the dynamics of STD control for HIV prevention, STD prevention interventions for populations at high risk for STD/HIV infections, roll out of STI vaccines in developing settings, and new surveillance and laboratory technologies in areas of emerging concern (e.g., highly resistant GC). In 2008, DSTDP collaborated with China, Colombia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Honduras, India, Panama, Madagascar, Mali, Mozambique, and South Africa.

Finally, DSTDP chairs CDC's Interagency Global Perinatal Integration Working Group, which works both within the agency and with other US government partners, such as USAID, to integrate maternal and child health services. Members of the working group, along with USAID, have drafted a guidance document for PEPFAR-supported countries encouraging and recommending strategies for integrating maternal and child health services in clinical and community settings.

A summary of these and other 2008 DSTDP activities, consultations, new tools, and new scientific and program developments can be found in DSTDP's annual Year End Dear Colleague Letter (<http://www.cdc.gov/std/general/dcl-1-29-2009.pdf>). The Annual Report (<http://www.cdc.gov/nchhstp/docs/NCHHSTP-Annual-Report-508c.pdf>) of the National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention (NCHHSTP) highlights some of the major achievements and challenges of 2008.

By: Leslie Whiting, MPH, ORISE Fellow, Division of STD Prevention, CDC.

Update from the American Social Health Association (ASHA)

In recent months, the American Social Health Association (ASHA) has been working on improving and expanding its web presence, with several major web launches planned for 2009. ASHA's website for teens, www.iwannaknow.org, was reviewed, revised and revamped, and launched with a fresh new look in February 2009. Covering topics from puberty to peer pressure to STI prevention, the new site offers teens and parents a reliable source of scientifically accurate information on STIs and sexual health issues. ASHA is at present revising its Spanish language site for an anticipated summer launch. Originally designed exclusively for teens,

the site www.quierosaber.org will be reworked to appeal to a broader audience and age range.

New features on ASHA's main website, www.ashastd.org, include the "Ask the Experts" feature, launched in early 2009. Website users are invited to e-mail questions for our panel of experts—including physicians, nurse practitioners, and other health professionals with experience—to answer. This new feature has already garnered a tremendous response from site users and we anticipate that it will continue to grow over time as a trusted resource.

ASHA's new "No Apologies" campaign, designed to encourage healthcare providers to more openly and more frequently talk with their patient's about sexual health, will also feature prominently on the main ASHA site. The campaign aims to foster discussions between patients and healthcare providers about testing, help patients learn about ways in which to protect their sexual health and increase testing and treatment rates.

*By: Lynn Barclay,
ASHA President & CEO.*



ASTDA

AMERICAN SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES ASSOCIATION

2009 ASTDA Awards

The American STD Association announces the recipients of the 2009 ASTDA Awards and invites you to celebrate their accomplishments at the 18th International Society for Sexually Transmitted Research (ISSTD) Meeting in London. The Award Ceremony and the Parran Award Lecture will be held in the Keats Room of the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Center on Wednesday, July 1 at 12:45 p.m.

Thomas Parran Award: Sharon Hillier, PhD
Professor, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

The Thomas Parran Award is presented annually to a member for long and distinguished contributions in the field of STD research and prevention. The Award will be presented by King Holmes, MD, PhD, University of Washington. Dr Hillier will deliver the Parran Award Lecture, entitled: "My Toils in the Secret Garden"

ASTDA Achievement Award: J. Dennis Fortenberry, MD, MS
Professor, Indiana University School of Medicine

The ASTDA Achievement Award is presented annually for a single recent major achievement in the field of STD research and prevention, or to a member at mid-career to acknowledge an outstanding body of research in sexually transmitted diseases. Presented by Edward W. Hook III, MD, University of Alabama at Birmingham

ASTDA Young Investigator Award: Khalil G. Ghanem, MD
Assistant Professor, Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health

The ASTDA Young Investigator Award is presented annually to an outstanding investigator in the field of STD who is no more than five years beyond fellowship training. Presented by Jonathan Zenilman, MD, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine.



18th ISSTD R

International Society for STD Research



in conjunction with BASHH
British Association for Sexual Health & HIV

It is my privilege to be the current President of ISSTD R and to invite you to join us in London at the end of June 2009 to participate in ISSTD R 2009. Over the last 30 years, ISSTD R has become the most important forum for presentation and discussion of recent findings in this field. The most successful aspect has been the interaction between healthcare scientists from a range of disciplines including clinicians, epidemiologist, microbiologists, and social scientists. ISSTD R has always encouraged young scientists in the field and this will be a particular focus for our meeting.

ISSTD R 2009 in London will be co-organised with BASHH (British Association of Sexual Health and HIV) and we will strive to provide a stimulating and memorable scientific and social environment. The Scientific Programme will include keynote and plenary lectures, parallel special sessions, all with invited speakers, oral papers, poster sessions and scientific symposia. There will be four themes: Biology & Detection, Treatment & Care, Transmission Dynamics and Population Interventions.

The organising committee hopes you will join us and I look forward to meeting you all in London.

For further information visit www.isstdrlondon2009.com



The Internet and STD Center of Excellence (ISCOE) is in the process of developing podcasts for both at-risk populations (initially to be posted on the Denver STD clinic website www.denverstdclinic.org) and STD program staff and researchers (posted on www.stdpreventiononline.org). • Podcasts on chlamydia and gonorrhoea have been posted on the DMHC website. • The ISSTD R podcasts were posted on STDPreventionOnline.org in November. • Through the current quarter, 31 podcasts were produced, including 5 in the series on sexual health. Many of these are now available on Apple's iTunes Music Store, keyword "STDPO." • A catalogue of all STDPOcasts is available on STDPO at <http://www.stdpreventiononline.org/index.php/resources/detail/800>

In the News:

When the Cellphone Teaches Sex Education The New York Times, May 3, 2009, By Jan Hoffman

"The Birds and Bees Text Line, which the Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Campaign of North Carolina, based in Durham, started Feb. 1, directing its [MySpace](http://www.myspace.com) ads and fliers at North Carolinians ages 14 to 19, is among the latest efforts by health educators to reach teenagers through technology — sex ed on their turf."

"A few universities and hospitals set up blunt Web sites for young people, like Columbia's [Go Ask Alice!](http://www.goaskalice.com) and Atlantic Health's [Teen-HealthFX.com](http://www.teenhealthfx.com), allowing them to post questions online. More recently, researchers have explored how to reach teenagers through social networking sites like MySpace and YouTube."

"Now, health experts say, intimate, private and crucial information can be delivered to teenagers on the device that holds millions captive: their cellphones. San Francisco allow young people to text a number, select from a menu of frequently asked questions and receive automated replies, with addresses of free clinics. Last month, California started HookUp 365247, a statewide text-messaging service. The texter can type a ZIP code and get a local clinic referral, as well as weekly health tips."

Sexually Transmitted Diseases Journal

Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD) is a premier journal for clinical, laboratory, immunologic, epidemiologic, sociologic, public health and historical topics pertaining to sexually transmitted diseases. All papers are peer reviewed, and within 6 weeks of acceptance, articles are posted on the journal's website (published ahead of print). Through Ovid (on-line access), the journal reaches 1739 institutions with medical

schools, teaching hospitals, medical libraries and hospitals with >300 beds in the US and has a 55% international market penetration. In addition, STD is available at not cost to institutions in countries with GNP per capita below \$1000 through Hinari (Health Inter- Network Access to Research Initiative). With an impact factor of 2.92, STD is ranked 17/50 among the Infectious Disease journals.

In mid 2009, STD is planning to introduce a new electronic/ interactive journal platform. The site will have: featured articles, editor's picks, browse by topics, announcements, podcasts, video content, blogs, etc. Subscribers will also be able to download articles into a reference manager. Currently, the journal website receives ~40,000 total visits per month and ~60,000 page views.

Yearly subscription rate to STD is \$380 (US) and \$410 (non US). A subscription to STD is included in the annual dues paid by Members of the American Sexually Transmitted Disease Association (ASTDA), currently \$100 (US) and \$110 (non US). The journal website is <http://www.stdjournal.com>

By: Jeanne Moncada, MT(ASCP).
University of California SF

European IUSTI held in Milan, Italy, September 4-6, 2008.





International Union Against Sexually Transmitted Infections

Dear Colleagues,

We are delighted to announce that from 9-12 November 2009, internationally renowned scientists, clinicians and young researchers will meet in Cape Town, South Africa. All have one passion—the study, management and prevention of sexually transmitted infections (STI).

This Congress will be an excellent opportunity for specialists and trainees in sexual health, HIV medicine, public health, microbiology, epidemiology and behavioural science from the northern and southern hemispheres to share skills and experience. Participants will be able to discuss the latest advances and progress in the STI field from the varied viewpoints of clinical practice, STI biology, laboratory detection, public health epidemiology, sexual behaviour and research into STI-HIV interactions. The scientific programme will contain many internationally respected speakers and will ensure a state-of-art, evidence-based and cutting-edge Congress.

The meeting will be both a World IUSTI and an IUSTI-Africa Regional Congress. It will also be a meeting of cultures in one of the most beautiful cities of the world, the 'Mother City' of South Africa. Delegates will be assured of a warm African welcome and when the day's educational activities are over, you will be able to look forward to relaxing to the sound of Cape Town Jazz.

We look forward to welcoming you to South Africa ... **Siyanamukela!**

DAVID LEWIS, Congress Chair, Regional Director IUSTI-Africa



News from the **Center for POC Technology for STDs** at Johns Hopkins University

The JHU Center for POCT for STDs experienced a productive year. Notable accomplishments included:

- Completion of the Self-Testing for Trichomonas project with Dr. Jill Huppert at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center where it was found that a self-performed test for trichomoniasis is as accurate but less acceptable to young women than clinician testing.
- Progress in the Self-Testing for HIV in the ED project with Dr. Richard Rothman where over 240 patients performed either an OraQuick or Trinity Uni-Gold HIV self-test with almost 100% concordance with health care workers' test results.
- Progress at University of Maryland Biotechnology Institute in Dr. Chris Geddes' laboratory on the development of a Microwave Accelerated Metal-Enhanced Fluorescent (MAMEF) test for *C. trachomatis*.
- Further enrollment of both men and women in the Internet recruited program indicating high acceptability of self-collection of genital samples for STD testing. Over 1,700 women and 500 men have been screened; a self-collected rectal kit became available in January.
- Successful solicitation and awarding of a grant to develop a point-of-care test for chlamydia.
- Production of a War Analysis Laboratory Exercise (WALEX) for the MAMEF platform for the other POC Network PIs and NIBIB.
- Successful assessment of "what clinicians want" in a POC test for STDs with focus groups held for clinicians and patients. The analyzed information is guiding the development of a nationwide electronic survey.
- Completion of a training session at ASM where scientists and developers of POC tests from industry were presented with focus group findings describing user needs and potential product specifications.



Regional Director:
Charlotte Gaydos, MS, MPH, DrPH

Branch Committee Chair:
Jeanne Marrazzo, MD, MPH

Vice President:
Bradley P. Stoner, MD, PhD

Secretary/Treasurer:
Richard Rothenberg, MD



Committee Members:
Sevgi O. Aral, PhD
Ralph J DiClemente, PhD
Dennis Fortenberry, MD
Anne Rompalo, MD, ScM
Jane Schwebke, MD
Jonathan Zenilman, MD
Lynn Barclay (Ex Officio)

Training Opportunity for Delegates Attending the 2009 IUSTI World Congress by IUSTI North America

“Translating New Research Findings into HIV and STI Clinical Practice”

Goals: IUSTI North America plans to offer a training course to interested delegates attending the 2009 World IUSTI Congress, which will enable attendees to learn how findings from recent research studies can enhance their clinical ability to care for patients with HIV and STIs. Whilst this training event has been designed to meet educational needs for those delegates from resource-poor settings, it is open to all delegates attending the IUSTI world meeting.

Learning Objectives: The participant will be able to:

1. Learn new HIV epidemiology and the relationship of HIV and STI interactions.
2. Explain the interactions of HSV and HIV epidemics.
3. Understand the practical role of behavioral interventions in the settings of a developing country.
4. Discover the nature of the association of syphilis in the HIV-infected patient.
5. Explain the role of new molecular diagnostics and point of care tests for HIV and STIs.
6. Discuss the role of bacterial vaginosis in women who are HIV infected.

Speakers:

Dr. Thomas C. Quinn	Johns Hopkins University
Dr. Peter Leone	University of North Carolina
Dr. Charlotte A. Gaydos	Johns Hopkins University
Dr. Sevgi Aral	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Dr. Anne Rompalo	Johns Hopkins University
Dr. Jeanne Marrazzo	University of Washington

Course organizer:

Dr. Charlotte A. Gaydos	Regional Director for IUSTI-North America
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This classroom experience will provide interactive lectures and discussions about how research can be applied to practical management of patients with STI infections and/or HIV/AIDS.

The course will take place on Monday, November 9, 2009 from 08:00 to 13:00. Although this course is offered at no charge to those attending the 2009 IUSTI World Congress, delegates will need to pre-register for this course by ticking the appropriate box on the IUSTI-World 2009 Congress registration form. The registration form is available at http://www.iusti.co.za/G_Registration_form.asp

Please note: There will be a limit on attendance of 150 people, and there will be a significant number of places reserved for delegates from resource poor settings.

Websites Worth Checking Out!



- The Utah Department of Health** <http://www.catchtheanswers.net/>
- MTV** <http://itsyoursexlife.com/>
- ASHA (for teens)** <http://www.iwannaknow.org/>
- STD Prevention Online** <http://www.stdpreventiononline.org/>
- I Want the Kit** <http://www.iwantthekit.org>
- Health.com** <http://www.health.com/health/condition-section/0,,20187897,00.html>

Recent Publications:

Dunn, E, et al. Rate and Predictors of Repeat *Chlamydia trachomatis* Infection Among Men. **STD**: 2008 Dec; 35(suppl.); S40-44.

Gaydos, C, et al. Laboratory Aspects of Screening Males for *Chlamydia trachomatis* in the New Millennium. **STD**: 2008 Dec; 35(suppl.); S44-50.

Gift, T, et al. The Program Cost and Cost-Effectiveness of Screening Men for Chlamydia to Prevent Pelvic Inflammatory Disease in Women. **STD**: 2008 Dec; 35(suppl.); S66-78

Kissinger, P, et al. *Trichomonas vaginalis* Treatment Reduces Vaginal HIV-1 Shedding. **STD**: 2009 Jan; 36(1); p.11-16.

Banda, CI, et al. Evaluation of the Rapid BioStar Optical Immunoassay for Detection of *Chlamydia trachomatis* in Adolescent Women. **JCM**: 2009 Jan; 47(1); p.215-216.

Warner, L, et al. Male Circumcision and Risk of HIV Infection among Heterosexual African American Men Attending Baltimore Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinics. **JID**: 2009 Jan; 199(1); p.59-65.

Romanowski, B, et al. Seroprevalence and Risk Factors for Herpes Simplex Virus Infection in a Population of HIV-Infected Patients in Canada. **STD**: 2009 Mar; 36(3); p.165-169.

Short, VL, et al. Clinical Presentation of *Mycoplasma genitalium* Infection versus *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* Infection among Women with Pelvic Inflammatory Disease. **CID**: 2009 Jan; 48(1); p.41-47.

Davis, CF, et al. Alternative Approaches to Partner Notification, Diagnosis, and Treatment: Perspectives of New York County Health Departments, 2007. **STD**: 2009 Mar; 36(3); p.185-190.

Tobian, A, et al. Male Circumcision for the Prevention of HSV-2 and HPV Infections and Syphilis. **NEJM**: 2009 Mar; 360(13); p.1298-1309.

- Upcoming Events:**
- 18th ISSTD Meeting
June 28-July 1, 2009 London, United Kingdom
 - 49th Annual ICAAC Meeting
September 12-15, 2009 San Francisco, CA
 - 11th IUSTI World Congress
November 9-12, 2009 Cape Town, South Africa
 - 2010 National STD Prevention Conference
March 8-11, 2010 Atlanta, GA
 - 19th ISSTD Meeting
July 10-13, 2011 Quebec City, Canada
 - 12th IUSTI World Congress
November 2-5, 2011 New Delhi, India

We're on the web!!
www.iusti.org

