

IUSTI-NORTH AMERICA

Message from the Regional Director

We look forward to seeing many IUSTI members at the upcoming CDC STD meeting in Atlanta this month. The meeting information is highlighted in this newsletter. Recently released data from the CDC makes us more keenly aware of our challenges. Synopsis data recently released from the CDC (CID 2010; 50:i-ii. Sex Infections Still Growing in U.S. Says CDC) indicates:

- Overall, CDC estimates 19 million STDs occur each year in the US, almost half among 15-24 year-olds
 - 1.2 million cases of CT
 - Nearly 337,000 cases of GC
 - Half of CT / GC in adolescent girls 15-19 years old (409,531)
 - 13,500 cases of syphilis
 - 18% increase; 36% increase in women; 63% increase in MSM
- All STDs have significant health inequity issues with rates often 10-20 times higher in African Americans.
 - African Americans are 12-13% of the population, yet account for >50% of all HIV cases, 71% of GC cases, and almost half of chlamydia and syphilis cases.

What about the boys? An important article "Repeated Chlamydia trachomatis Genital Infections in Adolescent Women," recently published in Journal of Infectious Diseases (JID, 2010; 201:42-51) indicated very high rates of chlamydia re-infection in girls in Indiana. Lead author, Dr. Byron Batteiger, a professor at Indiana University's School of Medicine says, "If our goal is to reduce the prevalence of chlamydia in our young people, we're going to have to pay attention to finding and treating their partners." From 1999 to 2009, Batteiger and colleagues followed nearly 400 urban teenage girls for an average of three years. Every three months, participants met with health care professionals and underwent chlamydia testing. Any infection was treated promptly. The girls also kept six-month diaries so they could discuss sexual activity, boyfriends, and condom use with providers. Sixty-one girls acquired chlamydia a second time, and 60 were reinfected three to nine times. According to Batteiger, 313 male sex partners of the participants were brought in for testing. Of these young men, roughly 26 percent were found to have chlamydia, "a very high level of infection in this pool," he said. The girls with chlamydia infections named a total of 1,387 male partners, so the boyfriends who were tested represented less than a quarter of potentially infected partners. We will need new tools and funds in the U.S. to screen males for chlamydia.

The 11th IUSTI Congress meeting in Cape Town, South Africa, November 9-12, 2009, which was sponsored by Africa Branch IUSTI, was a huge success and North America was ably represented. IUSTI North America offered a pre-conference training course to delegates attending the 2009 World IUSTI Congress. This workshop enabled attendees to learn how findings from recent research studies could enhance their clinical ability to care for patients with HIV and STIs. The training event was designed to meet educational needs for those delegates from resource-poor settings, but it was open to all delegates attending the IUSTI world meeting.

It is with deep sadness that we report the death of prominent, long-time STI researcher in the U.S., Dr. Walter E. Stamm. See page 6 for a memorial statement, excerpted from the Division of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Newsletter, written by Larry Corey. Walt will be sorely missed by his friends and fellow STI research associates.

Point-of-care tests for STDs are in development. Stay tuned! Visit <u>http://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/</u> <u>medicine/std</u> to see updates on the creation and testing of new POC technologies for STDs.

Charlotte Gaydos, DrPH Regional Director & Editor-in-Chief





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We welcome new members from North America. Please log onto <u>www.IUSTI.org</u> 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

By: Mary McFarlane, PhD and Amy Pulver, MA, MBA, MA



GYT: Get Yourself Tested is Back For STD Awareness Month

Based on initial successes of the **GYT : Get Yourself Tested** campaign during STD Awareness Month in 2009, Kaiser Family (KFF) Foundation, MTV Networks, CDC, and Planned Parenthood Federation of American (PPFA) are expanding the campaign in 2010 and beyond. GYT will continue its ongoing communication goal of encouraging participation by "getting yourself tested" for sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV, and encouraging others to do so. GYT is part of *It's Your [Sex] Life*, an ongoing public information partnership of MTV and KFF to help young people make responsible decisions about their sexual health. Through on-air, online, SMS and community promotions, in 2009 GYT generated "buzz" and linked young people to local STD testing centers. Other DSTDP partners participated and provided national, state and local support and outreach.

What's new with GYT in 2010?

- GYT is expanding its message to include **Get Yourself Talking**. This message encourages youth to talk about STD testing with partners, providers, peers and parents. The goal is to normalize conversations related to sexual health.
- GYT will be a year-round campaign, with regular updates and refreshed creative approaches to the promotion of STD testing.
- In addition to the general population of American youth, special emphasis will be placed on two subgroups: college students and American Indian and Alaskan Native youth.
- On-air programs have been expanded to include Public Service Announcements (PSAs) as well as "how-to" pieces and a special, themed episode of Dean's List, a popular program on MTV-U.
- Expanded partnerships and planning will allow greater reach and awareness of the campaign.
- Evaluation tools will be available for local partners to use in measuring the success of the campaign with respect to increases in testing for gonorrhea and chlamydial infection.
- Promotional kits will be available online as well as in print, allowing local partners to customize the campaign according to specific needs of the local population.
- Sweepstakes, contests, "viral content," and special promotions are being planned for the month of April (STD Awareness Month) and throughout the year.

In addition to and in support of GYT, CDC has enhanced its STD Awareness Month Website with updated tools and information. The zip code-based STD testing site locator, <u>www.findSTDtest.org</u>, has also been enhanced to include locator information for both HPV and Hepatitis B vaccinations. CDC encourages STD programs, testing centers, and others to visit www.findSTDtest.org to ensure that the most complete, relevant, and up-to-date information on all testing sites.

For additional information about participating in GYT in April 2010, visit the GYT website (<u>www.GYTNOW.org</u>) or contact Mary McFarlane in CDC's Division of STD Prevention (<u>MMcFarlane@cdc.gov</u>).

asha M American Social Health Association ashastd.org

Over the last several months, ASHA has been working toward integrating broader sexual health information and messaging into its websites, publications and newsletters. The intent of these efforts is to expand on ASHA's focus on sexually transmitted infections and reframe our focus from disease and treatment to health promotion and prevention. As part of these efforts, ASHA launched a new section of its main website (www.ashastd.org) dedicated to a range of sexual health issues on February 1. The site content was developed through feedback from ASHA staff, Board members, colleagues and website visitors, and is designed to provide an overview of several topic areas under the subject area sexual health. Major topic areas addressed include female and male sexual health, healthy relationships, risk and risk reduction, LGBT health topics, and communication (with partner, parents, and providers).

Also new on the ASHA website is the interactive presentation "Talking to Your Patients about HPV," a resource designed to aid healthcare providers. Conversations about HPV between healthcare providers and patients can be difficult and time consuming. The new multimedia presentation offers tools and talking points to facilitate effective, empathetic discussions with patients. The presentation offers both information and suggested conversational points to use when discussing both HPV vaccines and cervical cancer screening, and includes interactive guiz guestions throughout to reinforce learning. An additional section, HPV and Men, is currently under development and will be added in the near future. The presentation is available at www.ashastd.org, look for "ASHA offers a new resource for HCPs."

Provided by: Amy Shea and Lynn Barclay



Dear colleagues,

We are delighted to introduce the first issue of *Prevention Now!* - an e-newsletter developed to provide up-to-date information on the HIV Prevention Trials Network (HPTN).

Established by the Division of AIDS (DAIDS) of the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), the HPTN is a worldwide collaboration supported by NIAID, the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), and the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA). Our mission is to develop and test the safety and efficacy of non-vaccine HIV prevention interventions. A strong network of expert scientists and investigators from more than two dozen international sites engages a central leadership team to conceptualize and conduct these high priority clinical trials. Several of the studies deeply involve the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

We would like to share our news with colleagues both inside and outside of the network. We hope you enjoy learning more about the HPTN, and we welcome your comments both about the newsletter and about the HPTN itself. Please contact us at <u>news@hptn.org</u>.

Best regards,

Quil

Sten H. Vermund and Quarraisha Abdool Karim Co-Principal Investigators, HPTN Coordinating and Operations Center



After the exciting meeting our association had in London in June 2009, it is now my privilege, as the new President of ISSTDR and chair of our next conference, to invite you to join us in Quebec City, Canada, for the 19th Conference of the ISSTDR in July 2011. ISSTDR has always promoted the use of the evidence emerging from good research for the development of better care for patients as well as better prevention programs and public health policy. It is in this context that the central theme of ISSTDR 2011 will be: "From research to intervention: successes and challenges".

The members of our various committees will devote all their efforts over the next two years to make of ISSTDR 2011 an outstanding scientific meeting. The scientific programme will include keynote and plenary lectures, invited-speaker sessions on selected topics, parallel oral and poster sessions and scientific symposia. It will comprise five tracks: Epidemiology, Social and Behavioural Aspects of Prevention, Clinical Sciences, Basic Sciences, and Health Services and Policy. Finally, we will take care of organising a memorable social programme, which will be supported by the fantastic environment provided by Quebec City, the oldest city of North America, with a special mix of European and North American culture and the presence of numerous exciting events during the summer.

The organising committee hopes you will join us and I look forward to meeting you all in Quebec City in July 2011.

For more information visit: www.isstdrquebec2011.com

Michel Alary



The 19th Congress of International Society for STD Research will be held in Québec City, Canada, from July 10 to 13, 2011. Quebec City, a destination known for adventure and discovery, juts out over the banks of the St. Lawrence River, 250 kilometers east of Montréal. The only fortified city north of Mexico, Québec City celebrated its 400th anniversary in 2008, making it the oldest city in North America.

The Congress will take place in the Québec City Convention Centre located in the heart of the city across from the Parliament Building, where Québec's National Assembly has been sitting for over 120 years, and just a few steps from tourist attractions and over 100 restaurants specializing in French and international cuisine. The Centre has received international acclaim from the prestigious International Association of Congress Centres. The facilities are comfortable and modern, and the Centre boasts leading-edge equipment, spacious exhibit halls and impeccable service.

The Congress is being held during the Québec City Summer Festival. Over the past 40 years, the Québec City Summer Festival has put on hundreds of exciting and varied shows and concerts, making it Canada's biggest outdoor artistic event. With more than 300 shows in 11 days, the excitement that builds in the heart of Québec City is contagious. It's a must! Not to forget either, the Cirque du Soleil presenting a unique, memorable free show (Les Chemins invisibles), and The Image Mill, the Bunge grain silo "projection screen" over 600 meters wide and 30 meters tall - the equivalent of 25 IMAX screens, that transports you through four centuries of Québec City history.

Websi	tes Worth Checking Out!
Get Yourself Tested	http://gytnow.org
Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium	https://www.iknowmine.org/
I Want the Kit	http://www.iwantthekit.org/
Don't Think Know	https://www.dontthinkknow.org/index.html
Teen Health Talk	http://www.teenhealthtalk.org/
Black Men Stand Together	http://www.blackmenstandtogether.org/
MedicineNet.com http://v	ww.medicinenet.com/sexually_transmitted_diseases_stds_in_women/article.html



2010 National STD Prevention Conference



We are pleased to invite you to the 2010 National STD Prevention Conference, taking place at the Omni Hotel in Atlanta, Georgia, March 8-11, 2010. The conference will begin at 5 p.m. on Monday, March 8 and end at 12 noon on Thursday, March 11. STDs pose a serious threat to the health and well-being of millions of Americans every year. The biennial National STD Prevention Conference is the only major U.S. conference that focuses exclusively on advances in halting the spread of these serious diseases. At this event, community, academic, government and medical experts will present hundreds of studies on innovative strategies to reduce the public health and economic impact

Since the early years of the 20th century, STD prevention efforts have been a cornerstone of communicable disease control programs. While this longstanding focus has resulted in many public health successes, STDs continue to have substantial population impact. Today's economic crisis demands new considerations in approaching all aspects of public health, including STD prevention.

- It is more apparent than ever that the challenges of STD prevention cannot be separated from problems arising from our fragmented health care system with its rising costs and unequal access.
- On-going challenges in prevention of STDs, such as racial disparities in disease rates, call for public health programs to find new approaches that can reach disproportionately affected populations.
- It is essential to find ways to move beyond our longstanding societal reticence to openly discuss sexual health issues and to normalize conversations around STD prevention.

With these ongoing challenges, the imperative both to strengthen existing efforts and to find new approaches to lessen the burden of STDs on our society could not be greater. As our nation's leaders take bold steps to optimize the health of our citizens, so too must we play our part in creatively and effectively responding to STDs. This biennial conference provides a critical opportunity to listen, to learn, and to challenge ourselves to develop these much-needed responses.



ASTDA Announces the Recipients of the 2010 ASTDA Awards

The ASTDA announces the recipients of the 2010 ASTDA awards, which will be given during the 2010 CDC National STD Prevention Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, on March 8, 2010. **Dr. Hunter Handsfield**, Senior Research Leader at Battelle Centers for Public Health Research and Evaluation, and Clinical Professor of Medicine at the University of Washington Center for AIDS and STD, will receive the Thomas Parran Award, which recognizes long and distinguished contributions in the field of STD research and prevention. As part of his recognition, Dr. Handsfield will deliver the Parran Award lecture, entitled, "Stones Unturned: Missed Opportunities in STD/HIV Prevention." **Dr. Herroll Chesson**, in the Division of STD Prevention at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, will receive the ASTDA Achievement Award, presented to a member at mid-career to acknowledge an outstanding body of research in STD. Finally, **Dr. Jared Baeten**, Assistant Professor in the Department of Global Health at the University of Washington, and Medical Director of the Partners in Prevention Study, will receive the Young Investigator Award, which recognizes outstanding investigators in the field who are no more than five years beyond fellowship training.

We heartily congratulate these worthy recipients and hope you can join us for the celebration!

Information provided by Jeanne Marrazzo, MD, MPH

STDPreventionOnline.org Three Reasons to Visit STDPO Every Day

STDPO aims to be a clearing house for information relevant to those who work in STI/HIV prevention. Three daily features provide a quick overview of relevant developments in the field: STD News (by NPIN) on the home page and the STDPO Afternoon Report and STD Daily Update that are both found in the What's New section.

The National Chlamydia Coalition (NCC) convened in 2008 to address the continued high burden of chlamydia infection, especially among women age 24 and under. The coalition strives to reduce the rates of chlamydia and its harmful effects among sexually active adolescents and young adults. Members are working together to achieve the following goals:

national chlamydia coalition

- Improve and protect the health of adolescents and young adults by increasing rates of chlamydia screening.
- Increase awareness of the importance of recommended chlamydia screening through public education.
- Encourage health care providers to increase screening rates.
- Advocate for policy change to increase access and use of chlamydia screening and treatment services.
- Encourage research to enhance the prevention of chlamydia and its medical and social consequences.

On December 3-4, 2009, the National Chlamydia Coalition held its annual meeting in Washington, DC. Approximately 60 members and guests attended. Speaker topics included health reform, social marketing, and a panel on communicating about STDs and sexual health. Presentations can be viewed on the NCC website at <u>www.prevent.org/NCC</u>, under the *For NCC Members* tab. Each of the three committees also met to discuss objectives and projects for the next year. On the second day of the meeting, roundtable discussions were held to generate conversation and information-sharing on important topics. The meeting was a success and we look forward to continuing the coalition's work in the next year.



Dr. Walter E. Stamm

1945 — 2009

A Memorial Statement by Larry Corey. Excerpted from Division of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Newsletter, January 2010

Walter E. Stamm, Professor of Medicine and former Head of the Division of Allergy and Infectious Disease at the University of Washington, Past President of the Infectious Disease Society of America and recipient of the Society's Squibb Award and the ASM Sanofi-Aventis Award passed away at about 8 am on December 14, 2009 at the age of 64. Walt made major contributions to the fields of urinary tract, sexually transmitted and nosocomial infections; not only through the research studies he led, and the physician scientists he mentored, but the role he played in developing new standards of care and therapies that revolutionized these fields.

Walt was born on February 4, 1945 in Philadelphia PA and was raised in Portland OR. He did his undergraduate training at Stanford University where he graduated with Great Distinction, graduated Cum Laude from Harvard Medical School, and then he did his Internal Medicine Residency Training in Seattle at the University of Washington. His infectious diseases career started at the Center for Disease Control where he worked as an EIS Officer in the Hospital Infections Branch in 1973. He was then appointed Branch Chief where he made his mark in defining the important role vascular access devices played in hospital acquired infections. In 1976, he returned to the University of Washington in Seattle to work with Dr. Marvin Turck and King Holmes and began his illustrious career on urinary tract and chlamydial infections. His work in these areas established the diagnosis, treatment and public health control measures still used today in these areas.

Walt was a prolific writer. He authored over 350 research articles, 92 reviews, over 105 book chapters, including the sections of UTI and *C. trachomatis* infections in Harrison's and Mandel, and authored 11 books. He was an Associate Editor of the Journal of Infectious Diseases from 1988—2003 and on the editorial boards of numerous journals. Walt mentored numerous students and fellows to be academic leaders. He was a major spokesperson for our field for over 2 decades. He served as a Councilor and member of the Board of Directors of the IDSA starting in the early 1990's and was President of the IDSA from 2005—2006. He was the Chair of numerous guideline committees.

Walt was unique; a builder, yet a consensus maker, a passionate advocate for academia and data based research and clinical care, a superb physician and a gentle, yet firm, mentor. We have lost an icon in our field and deeply mourn the loss of his vibrant presence at our meetings and forums.

^{12th} ISHC

The **Twelfth International Symposium on Human Chlamydial Infections** will be held at the Hotel Jagdhof on Lake Fuschl in Hof bei Salzburg, Austria, 20 - 25 June 2010.

This Symposium will offer a high quality scientific meeting covering all aspects in the field of chlamydia research. This Symposium provides an excellent opportunity for specialists and trainees in sexual health, HIV medicine, public health, microbiology, epidemiology and behavioural science to share their ideas and experiences. Participants will be able to discuss the latest advances and progress in the field from the varied viewpoints of clinical practice and research in chlamydial biology, laboratory detection, public health epidemiology, and sexual behaviour. Participation in the Symposium is dependent on the acceptance of a submitted abstract that will be evaluated by the Scientific Review Committee. The scientific programme will feature many internationally respected speakers and will ensure a state-of-art, evidence-based and cuttingedge Symposium.

We look forward to an exceptional meeting of the highest scientific quality and hope to see you in Austria in 2010.



projection laws Prof. Angelika Star

Chair

http://www.chlamydia-symposia.org



We are happy to invite you to Georgia to take part in the **25th IUSTI Europe Conference** to be held in Tbilisi, September 23-25, 2010 at the Sheraton Metechi Palace Hotel.

The strong impact all over the world, the variety of clinical pictures, and the different medical disciplines involved, make STI a topic of global interest. In order to meet the needs of all participants, STI-related problems, including HIV/AIDS, will be considered under several approaches, from basic science to social issues.

Our conference will continue the tradition of previous IUSTI-Europe Meetings—provide the most updated information in the field of STI and HIV and give the participants an opportunity of meeting experts from all over the world. The structure of the meeting is similar to the previous ones. Poster sessions have also been planned.

We sincerely hope that you will enjoy the scientific part of the meeting, as well as the unique historical environment of Tbilisi. Your presence here will be appreciated by the organizing committee, and also by all medical professionals of Georgia. It is our great pleasure to welcome you to Tbilisi in September 2010.

Prof. George Galdava Dr. Joseph Kobakhidze

www.iusti2010-tbilisi.ge

16th IUSTI Asia-Pacific Conference

Bali, Indonesia

4-6 May, 2010



IUSTI (Asia Pacific), the largest branch of the International Union against Sexually Transmitted Infections, is entirely voluntary, and was founded in 1975. The parent organization, also voluntary, was founded in 1923 as the International Union against the Venereal Diseases and Treponematoses (IUVDT), and admitted into official relations with the World Health Organization in 1948. It remains on the roster of the United Nations Economic and Social Council. IUSTI-AP holds biennial Congresses in the Region. Recently, they are usually held alongside national meetings of similar professional societies, in this case dermatology, and include optional satellite sessions for trainees in HIV/STI, run by an International panel of experts. Anticipated attendance at this conference - mostly doctors - is around 500.

It's a lovely venue, and a varied program; to find information on both, please visit the Conference website at <u>http://</u> <u>www.iusti-pit2010bali.com/</u>

Dr Brian P Mulhall Branch Chair, IUSTI Asia-Pacific



The **26th International Papillomavirus Conference and Workshops** will be held July 3 to 8, 2010, at the Palais des congrès de Montréal. In keeping with the theme *Sharing Knowledge for Global Health*, the goal of this year's event is to promote multidisciplinary interaction among scientists around the world.

The program will provide an overview of key progress made in basic and applied research at the national and international levels, such as emerging sectors and new technical developments in screening and diagnosis for HPV and related diseases.

July 3 and 4 will be devoted to two pre-conference activities, namely, the traditional Clinical Workshop and, for the first time, the Public Health Workshop. These workshops will allow for excellent networking opportunities among professionals from around the world.

For more details on the 26th International Papillomavirus Conference, visit the official website at <u>www.hpv2010.org</u>. Registration is now open: space is limited, act fast!

Upcoming Events:

IUSTI-Asia Pacific Conference May 5-6, 2010 Bali, Indonesia

110th ASM General Meeting May 23-27, 2010 San Diego, CA

12th ISHCI June 20-25, 2010 Hof bei Salzburg, Austria

26th International HPV Conference & Workshop July 2-8, 2010 Montreal, Canada

50th Annual ICAAC Meeting September 12-15, 2010 Boston, MA

25th IUSTI Europe Congress September 23-25, 2010 Tbilisi, Georgia

Recent Publications:

Satterwhite CL, et al. Chlamydia Prevalence Among Women and Men Entering the national Job Training Program: United States, 2003-2007. Sex Transm Dis 2010; 37: 63-67.

In a relatively stable, high-risk population of young women and men, adjusted chlamydia prevalence declined from 2003 to 2007. Test technology plays a critical role in interpreting rates and should be considered whenever chlamydia rates are examined.

Klebanoff MA, et al. Personal Hygienic Behaviors and Bacterial Vaginosis. Sex Transm Dis 2010; 37: 94-99. *Douching, but not other feminine hygiene behaviors, is significantly associated with BV, providing additional evidence that douching may be causally associated with BV and is not simply a response to BV symptoms.*

Jameson DR, et al. The Association Between Lack of Circumcision and HIV, HSV-2, and Other Sexually Transmitted Infections Among Men Who Have Sex With Men. Sex Transm Dis 2010; 37: 147-152.

A study of men who have sex with men in Seattle, WA found that circumcision status was not associated with risk of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections regardless of anal sexual role.

Freeman AH, et al. Prevalence and Correlates of *Trichomonas vaginalis* Among Incarcerated Persons Assessed Using a Highly Sensitive Molecular Assay. Sex Transm Dis 2010; 37: 165-168. (Note)

Herchline TE, et al. Resistance Trends in *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* in Southwestern Ohio. Sex Transm Dis 2010; 37: 121-122. Testing of Neisseria gonorrhoeae isolates from Southwestern Ohio show low rates of ciprofloxacin resistance since 1996. Azithromycin is another potential treatment; tetracycline is not acceptable for empiric therapy.

Simpkins EP, et. HIV Trends in Adolescents: Tracing Our Steps in Preparation for Our Future. Sex Transm Dis 2010; 37: 129. (Letter to the Editor)

Gindi RM, et al. Sexually Transmitted Infection Prevalence and Behavioral Risk Factors Among Latino and Non-Latino Patients Attending the Baltimore City STD Clinics. Sex Transm Dis 2010; 37: 191-196.

Latino patients at the STD clinics in Baltimore, MD reported fewer behavioral risks than non-Latinos. Acculturation is explored as a factor.

News from CDC's National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention

John M. Douglas, Jr., MD accepted the newly created position of Chief Medical Officer at the National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention (NCHHSTP) and will be leaving the position of Division Director of DSTDP effective March 22. This new position will focus on a variety of priorities, including coordinating cross-center efforts related to the Sexual Health initiative as well as optimizing alignment of Center programs with new developments emerging under possible Health Care Reform. In a letter dated February 5, 2010, Dr. Douglas wrote "It has been an extraordinary honor to have served as DSTDP Division Director for almost 7 years. I have never worked with such a stellar group of committed and talented colleagues and my dream of working in public health 'mecca' when I moved here from Denver in 2003 has been exceeded beyond my wildest dreams... Of course, now more that ever, much remains to be done in our field, and I am delighted that my new role in NCHHSTP will allow me to continue to work with many of you on some of our most exciting, and I hope impactful, areas of development."

Kevin Fenton, MD PhD, FFPH, Director of NCHHSTP has announced that **Cathleen M. Walsh, DrPH, MSPH**, accepted the position of Acting Director for the Division of STD Prevention (DSTDP), as of March 22, 2010. Dr. Walsh brings almost 20 years of experience in public health working internationally and on the state level, and almost 10 years with CDC's Division of STD Prevention focusing on epidemiology and surveillance and health policy and cost-effectiveness analysis. As a member of DSTDP, she held the position of infertility prevention coordinator, where she directed the implementation of routine screening and treatment for *C*. *trachomatis* in public health clinics throughout the country. As a member of DSTDP, Dr. Walsh also served as a senior health scientist, where she worked to evaluate STD prevention activities and programs, and technical assistance and training; and as acting branch chief of the Health Services Research and Evaluation Branch. Dr. Walsh also coordinated the agency-wide health Protection Goals effort, and was most recently in the Office of the Associate Director for Policy (proposed), Office of the Director, CDC, where she served as a senior policy advisor.

