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1st Latin American IUSTI/ALAC-ITS Congress

We are organizing the “*First Latin American IUSTI/ALAC-ITS Congress*” which will be held in Curitiba, Brazil from the 18th to 21st May, 2011. This will be a joint meeting of the VIII Brazilian Congress of the STD Society and the IV AIDS Brazilian Congress.

Curitiba is a 1.5 million city and the capital of the state of Paraná in southern Brazil. The city goes back to 1669, when the first European settlement was established. Rubber plantations brought wealth to the area until the decline in the 1920s. Today, the city is known for its imports of Brazil nuts, electronic and manufacturing equipment and petroleum refining.

The main theme of the meeting is “Impact of STIs in women”. Renowned World STI experts have confirmed their participation.

This meeting will attract a large number of health professionals from Brazil, but also from other Latin American Countries and will be a great opportunity to recruit more members into IUSTI.



Official Logo of the Meeting

Latin American Meeting to discuss introduction of Rapid syphilis test in the Region

Syphilis continues to be an important public health problem in several developing countries, and its consequences associated to pregnancy are severe: congenital syphilis and pregnancy adverse effects such as spontaneous abortions, stillbirths, low birth-weight, and preterm labor. Congenital syphilis prevention is possible through simple and cost-effective interventions involving a good syphilis screening coverage among pregnant women. Thus, rapid tests for syphilis (RTS) are a feasible alternative. For the past two years, funded through WHO, in Brazil and in Peru we have been running pilot projects on the implementation of rapid syphilis test to evaluate feasibility, performance of the test and impact on maternal and congenital syphilis as well as a cost effectiveness evaluation. Those projects are reaching the end and now the objective is to share experiences and lessons learned and work towards scaling up the intervention within the Latin American Region.

As part of these projects we will have a workshop in Lima, Peru on November 18th to 19th entitled “IMPLEMENTATION OF RAPID SYPHILIS TESTS IN LATIN AMERICA: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES”, to share experiences of implementation of RST in Latin America and to discuss possibilities and needs for the implementation of RST in Latin America. We will have participants from the academia, ministries of health and cooperation agencies and members of ALAC-IUSTI Latin America.