



# STI Global Update

## Newsletter of the International Union against Sexually Transmitted Infections

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Then in 2019, the 33rd Conference of IUSTI Europe Regional Meeting, September 5-7, 2019, Tallinn, Estonia  
[www.iusti2019.eu](http://www.iusti2019.eu)



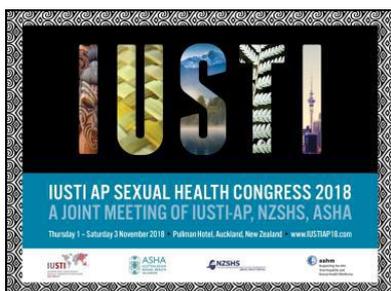
### President's Letter



Dear IUSTI Colleagues,  
 As we have recovered from the wonderful meeting in Dublin, summer vacations, and look towards fall, we are already looking forward to our next World IUSTI/ISSTD meeting. 23rd ISSTD/20th IUSTI World Congress, July 14-17, 2019, Vancouver, Canada. [www.STIHIV2019vancouver.com](http://www.STIHIV2019vancouver.com). Registration is open.



Before then however, we have the Asia Pacific Regional Meeting. November 1-3, 2018, Auckland, New Zealand, <http://iustiap18.com/>



**A few updates from the Global IUSTI EXEC Meeting in Dublin to cover include:** Sincere welcomes to new EXEC members were given: Dr Elizabeth Foley, Secretary General; Dr. Francis Ndowa, Regional Director Africa; new Executive Committee members Dr Maria Eugenia Escobar, Argentina; Dr Gloria Aguilar. Paraguay; Dr Ranmini Kularatne, South Africa; and Dr Sara Lowe of Zimbabwe. In addition, congratulations were given to Prof Christopher Fairley on receiving the award of officer (AO) in the general division of the order of Australia in the Queen's Birthday honours on 11th June 2018.  
 At the IUSTI Executive Committee meeting this year the name of "IUSTI Africa" was changed to "IUSTI Africa MENA" (Middle Eastern North Africa) in order to welcome the many countries in North Africa into World IUSTI and strengthen our relationship in this area of the Global Union.

**Collaboration between IUSTI and the WHO 2018-2020:** The WHO Executive Board admitted International Union against Sexually Transmitted Infections (IUSTI) into official relations with WHO. The official relations are governed by the Framework of Engagement with non-State actors, according to which the basis of official relations is a plan for collaboration between WHO and the non-State actor with agreed objectives and outlining activities for the coming three-year period structured in accordance with the General Programme of Work and Programme Budget and consistent with the Framework.

**Membership:** The paid memberships for IUSTI are up 77.7% since 2015. This rise in particular has been in members of the North American region whose numbers have increased to 226, a rise of

264.7%. This change has occurred as a result of a change in the ASTDA policy, meaning that all ASTDA members automatically become IUSTI members, the subscription cost being paid by ASTDA.

**IUSTI Website:** The IUSTI web site is now located onsite at Melbourne Sexual Health Centre, in Melbourne, Australia. IUSTI provides financial support to IT staff at MSHC for its maintenance. Kit Fairley provides overall supervision of the site and Mark Chung provides the technical expertise. Statistics show there have been 22,000 sessions (22,000 in previous year) with an average duration of 1:46 minutes. Of these there have been 14,000 unique users (14,000 previous year) and 77% of sessions have been accessed from a desktop device (78% previous year), 18% from a mobile (17% in the previous year), and 5% tablet (5% also in the previous year). The Top countries that visit are, US (10%), UK (8%), Australia (6%), Spain (5%), and Russia (4%). The Most common pages/areas are; Home page 20% (same as previous year), Events 16% (was 14%), EU guidelines 14% (was 20%) and STI guidelines (11%).

Lastly, at our closing ceremony in Dublin, World IUST Silver medals were presented to Angelica Espinosa Miranda from the last World meeting in Rio, Brazil and to Derek Freedman for the World meeting in Dublin. Our sincere gratitude goes to each of them for outstanding service to World IUSTI.

We sincerely say thanks to all IUSTI members for their dedication and hard work on behalf of IUSTI. We hope to see many of you at future World IUSTI meetings, as well as Regional IUSTI meetings.

Charlotte Gaydos, IUSTI-World President

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## STI & HIV 2019 World Congress



On behalf of the Organizing Committee, we are delighted to invite you to attend the STI & HIV 2019 World Congress, which represents the joint meeting of the 23<sup>rd</sup> International Society for Sexually Transmitted Diseases Research (ISSTD) biennial meeting & the 20<sup>th</sup> International Union Against Sexually Transmitted Infections (IUSTI) World Congress.

The STI & HIV 2019 World Congress will take place July 14-17, 2019 in the beautiful city of Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada at the Vancouver Convention Centre East Building. Vancouver is a safe, modern, multicultural city with a vibrant local arts and culture scene and abundant opportunities for outdoor adventures amongst a setting of incomparable natural beauty.

Under the theme of **'The Evolving Landscape of STI and HIV Elimination'**, this meeting will provide an excellent opportunity for the world's most prominent researchers and health care professionals to come together in the shared goal of improving global public health in the field of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV. The meeting will provide Congress attendees the opportunity to network with experts, present their research findings to an international audience, hear the latest scientific developments from world leaders in the STI/HIV field, and contribute to discussions that will shape future health policies and patient care around the world. More information on the meeting can be found on our website, <http://stihiv2019vancouver.com/>



### Important Dates

|                               |                  |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Abstract Submission           | <b>NOW OPEN</b>  |
| Registration & Housing        | <b>NOW OPEN</b>  |
| Abstract Submission Deadline  | January 25, 2019 |
| Scholarship Deadline          | January 25, 2019 |
| Early Registration Deadline   | April 5, 2019    |
| Regular Registration Deadline | May 24, 2019     |

### Join the Conversation

Follow us, stay connected and join the Conversation. We want to hear from you!  
 @ISSTDRIUSTI2019 #ISSTD2019  
 #IUSTIWorld2019

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## Regional Reports

### Europe

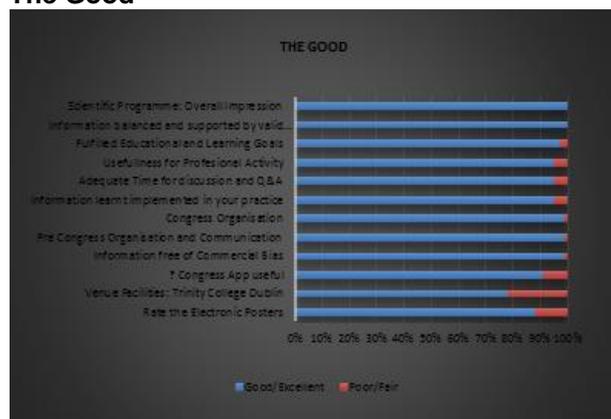
#### **1. Dublin 2018**

**'What the people thought'** *The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly*

Congress registrants were invited to participate in a Post Congress Survey. 323, approximately 50% of registrants, participated in the survey, and over 300 answered all questions.

Here are the results.

**The Good**



Included as good are all the responses where more than 70% scored good or excellent, and less than 25% scored poor, fair, or mediocre.

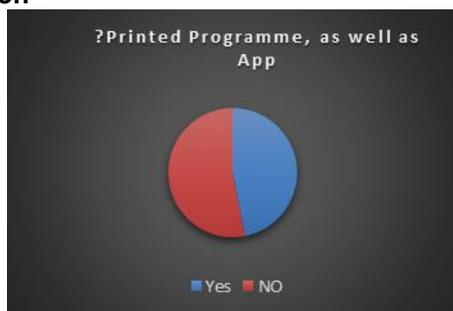
The results are very gratifying, and overall show a very high level of satisfaction with the IUSTI Dublin 2018 Congress. Innovations included the use of Electronic Posters and a Congress App. Their introduction was a learning curve. The deployment of the Electronic Posters and the organisation of the abstracts was not optimal, and one is almost surprised that the satisfaction rating for these is in excess of 70%. Similarly, the Congress facilities at a University venue were always going to be basic, but that was balanced by the unique character of the venue, and central location.

**The Bad**



University accommodation was never expected to be anything but basic. However, it provided economical accommodation at the Congress venue. More than 50% rated it as good or excellent

**Opinion**



Almost 50/50. For the organisers, the App allows a much greater amount of information to be available, as well as tools to help plan sessions, meet colleagues, and interact during sessions. The printed programme is expensive to produce, and bulky to carry. We attempted to find a middle road by just having brief abstracts in the printed programme, with the full abstract in the App. It is to be expected that as delegates become more used to the App, and use it more, the need for a printed programme will lessen.

**The Ugly**

**A selection of negative comments, from which we may learn to improve future congresses.**

*It was very frustrating to get up very early in the morning to listen to the syphilis case studies but then be excluded from listening because the organiser chose the tiniest room for this discussion.*

*Very sparse rooms and apartment furniture, unable to open windows and no fan, noisy*

*Wi-Fi did not work well. Bathroom was tiny.*

*Venue was very complicated and easy to get lost. Food bad.*

*Concurrent sessions on related topics (e.g. vaginal microbiome/urethritis/vaginitis). These would have been better timed back-to-back.*

*Probably the fact that one cannot attend all of the presentations, when they were at the same time :)*

*I did not like the way the posters were presented. I like the old-fashioned poster presentations where you can talk to the presenters. It was confusing as all posters were available to view, however you could not have a discussion with the presenter.*

*The short talks in front of the e-posters were not delivered as scheduled and the poster sessions not concomitant with the coffee breaks were not attended by the delegates.*

*Not particularly happy about the relegation of 'basic science' to a single session on the final day - shows how much the organisers value this type of work (i.e. not very much)*

**Delegates' direct suggestions to improve future congresses**

*No - mirror how 2018 conference was run.*

*Poster sessions need to be better organized.*

*Fewer parallel sessions, or choose topics that are very different for each session so that people with particular interests don't have to choose.*

*Have breakout areas where people can watch plenary on TV but chat or have coffee as well.*

*It's a waste of money to print the program. But if you are going to eliminate printed programs, you should have a videotutorial on Youtube on how to use the app.*

**And a tiny selection of the nice comments**

*I LOVED the opportunity to have breakfast with colleagues in the big hall - usually breakfast meetings are a rushed affair over case*

*presentations - this was an innovation that I would LOVE other conferences to adopt.*

*The scientific content and the fact that slides were able to be downloaded onto the app to read through again later. A great innovation.*

*The content and how abstracts by trainees and original research was mixed in sessions with more senior speakers*

*The plenary sessions were excellent. I also very much appreciated the incorporation of Irish culture into the opening ceremonies.*

*The 'down to earthiness', in contrast with the usual fancy hotel with a far too big meeting rooms.*

*Gonorrhoea, Azithromycin discussions. Minimise use of single dose azithromycin. Macrolide resistance in MG. More likely to recommend PrEP Staying sex positive despite all STI.*

*Very useful to include the best submitted papers for oral presentation at the end of invited speaker symposia.*

*Hats off to Derek Freedman and the support staff.*

*This congress will be difficult for future organizers to beat. It was a perfect 10 and worth every Euro spent. Congratulations to everyone who made it possible.*

The Congress organisers – the Chair Derek Friedman, the Co-Chair Charlotte Gaydos, and the Scientific Chairs Kees Rietmeijer and Henry de Vries – would like to thank everybody who came to the Congress for making it such a memorable, stimulating and uplifting event, and especially the presenters, without whom there would have been no Congress, and no learning.



## 2. News from the IUSTI-Europe Council

The Council of IUSTI-Europe would like to thank General Secretary Jackie Sherrard, who resigned from her post as of September 1, 2018, for her excellent contribution to the work of IUSTI-Europe in recent years.

Eija Hiltunen-Back has agreed to succeed Jackie to the post of the General Secretary of IUSTI-Europe and has been elected unanimously by the Council. Eija has been national representative of Finland for several years. Also, she was the President of the very successful 31st IUSTI-Europe conference in Helsinki last year. She has supported other IUSTI activities such as the organisation of the advanced STI summer course of IUSTI-Europe in Helsinki. We all know Eija as a renowned STI-expert and a highly efficient

professional who has excellent insight into IUSTI-Europe issues. We look forward to a fruitful and good co-operation. Eija can be contacted at [IUSTIEuropeSecretary@gmail.com](mailto:IUSTIEuropeSecretary@gmail.com)

## 3. Preparations for the 2019 IUSTI-Europe Congress in Tallinn

Preparations are in full swing for the upcoming IUSTI-Europe Conference, to be held in Tallinn, Estonia, on 5-7 September, 2019. Registration was opened on the conference website ([www.iusti2019.eu](http://www.iusti2019.eu) and [www.conference-expert.eu/en/iusti2019](http://www.conference-expert.eu/en/iusti2019)) on September 5, 2018, i.e., exactly one year before the beginning of the conference.

The Scientific Committee (chaired by Rajul Patel) is well into putting together the Scientific Programme. A number of engaging speakers, all renowned specialists in their respective fields, have already committed to giving plenaries. The keynote speech – "A Journal of the Plague Year" - at the Opening Ceremony will be made by Keith Radcliffe (UK). Laura Waters' (UK) tentative title is "HIV 2019", Anne Rompalo's (USA) – "Putting research into practice", John White's (UK) – "Integrating new tests and testing strategies into practice", Janet Wilson's (UK) – "Extragenital STI - is it important and should we be looking for it?", Marcus Chen's (Australia) - "Responding to the re-emergence of bacterial STIs", and Daniel Richardson's (Australia) – "Emerging enteric infections".

The symposia being planned include "Evolving issues in MSM", "What's new in the Guidelines?", "Syphilis reinfection: managing the new epidemic", "Real world consequences of bacterial resistance to STIs", "Update on STI trials in Europe", "Clinical conundrums and case reports", "Managing STIs in the digital world (advantages and disadvantages of online testing, and how to mitigate the latter)", and many others.

For the first time in the history of EADV congresses, at the Paris Congress on 12-15 September this year IUSTI-Europe had its own booth in the exhibition area, aimed at promoting IUSTI-Europe in general and particularly the upcoming IUSTI-Europe annual conference.

Apart from materials about the IUSTI-Europe 2019 conference and the IUSTI-Europe Advanced STI Course, to be held as a pre-meeting to the conference, all those interested were able to obtain free copies of IUSTI-Europe STI Treatment Pocket Guidelines.

A similar booth was set up at the 15<sup>th</sup> conference of the Baltic Association of Dermatologists and Venereologists and the 7<sup>th</sup> conference of the Euro-Asian Association of Dermatologists, held jointly in Riga on 4-6 October, 2018, and analogous booths will also be present at the congresses of the Georgian Association of Dermatologists and Venereologists and the Armenian Association of

Dermatologists-Venereologists on 19-21 October and 22-23 October, 2018, respectively.



IUSTI-Europe had exhibition booths both at the EADV Congress in Paris on 12 to 15, 2018, and at the BADV and EAAD Joint Congress in Riga on 4-6 October, 2018.

#### 4. Preparations for the upcoming IUSTI-Europe Advanced STI Course

Preparations are well under way for IUSTI-Europe Advanced Course 2019: "Those who know STIs know Medicine", the 4<sup>th</sup> in the series of annual IUSTI-Europe courses which have proved extremely successful and increasingly popular.

In 2019 this event will be held as a pre-meeting course of the IUSTI Europe Conference from September 4 to 5, 2019 at the Hotel Viru (Conference Hotel), Tallinn, Estonia.

The course is particularly aimed at young clinicians developing an interest in sexually transmitted infections, but all STI-interested colleagues from all IUSTI regions are invited. Well-known European experts will present an update on STIs as well as new diagnostic technologies, and discuss the most recent recommendations for treatment and prevention. The course includes an interactive case presentation with participants.

The fee – Euro 250 for the 2 day course – will cover all course materials, refreshments and lunch. A discount for delegates also attending the conference will be provided and will be applied at the time of registration. IUSTI-Europe will support attendance at the course with a limited number of scholarships for full IUSTI members who are healthcare professionals and younger than 36 years to help cover registration fees, travel and accommodation. The total amount of each scholarship will be €700. For more information: [www.conference-expert.eu/en/iusti2019](http://www.conference-expert.eu/en/iusti2019) , [www.iusti2019.eu](http://www.iusti2019.eu)

#### 5. Report on the European STI Guideline project

The Editor-in-Chief of the European STI guidelines project editorial board is IUSTI-Europe Officer Keith Radcliffe. Editorial board teleconferences are held every three months with an annual physical meeting taking place in conjunction with the annual IUSTI-Europe scientific congress. Since the last report a full meeting of the Editorial Board was held

in Trinity College, Dublin on 26 June and a teleconference took place on 18 September.

All the guidelines that are produced are freely available on the IUSTI-Europe website and are also published in a peer-reviewed journal, either the *International Journal of STD and AIDS (IJSA)* or in the *Journal of the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology (JEADV)*.

Marti Vall Mayans completed the work of producing a "pocket summary" of the major recommendations in all the guidelines. Copies have been distributed to at the IUSTI World/Europe meeting held in Dublin, at the EADV meeting held in Paris in September, and at a number of other scientific conferences in Europe. The Pocket Guidelines have been very well received by delegates and the plan is to update them each calendar year.

#### Published guidelines:

- 2017 European guideline for the screening, prevention and initial management of hepatitis B and C infections in sexual health settings. Brook G, Brockmeyer N, van de Laar T, Schellberg S, Winter AJ. *Int J STD AIDS* 2018; **29**(10): 949-967.
- 2018 European (IUSTI/WHO) /International Union against Sexually Transmitted Infections (IUSTI) World Health Organisation (WHO)/ guideline on the management of vaginal discharge. J Sherrard, J Wilson, G Donders, W Mendling, JS Jensen. *Int J STD AIDS* 2018 DOI: 10.1177/0956462418785451
- Should we be testing for urogenital *Mycoplasma hominis*, *Ureaplasma parvum* and *U. urealyticum* in men and women? A position statement from the European STI Guidelines Editorial Board. Horner P, Donders G, Cusini M, Gomberg M, Jensen JS, Unemo M. *J Eur Acad Dermatol Venereol* 2018 Jun 20. doi: 10.1111/jdv.15146. [Epub ahead of print]

Work continues on updating the following guidelines: LGV, gonorrhoea, genital warts, organisation of an STI consultation, HIV testing, partner management, proctitis and balanoposthitis. A new guideline on molluscum contagiosum is being developed.

Particularly acknowledged should be the role played by Jackie Sherrard in liaising with the IUSTI webmaster and also for leading on the production of patient information on each and every guideline as it is produced or updated. Some of the patient information has been translated into other languages including Russian, Polish and Romanian. Negotiations are ongoing with the

EADV with a view to producing more translation in various languages.

The Editorial Board were informed by the Editor of the *JEADV* that two of the 20 most downloaded papers in the journal over the past year were European STI guidelines.

## 6. News from countries

### Germany

#### *Meetings and conferences*

On 6-9 June, 2018, the 63<sup>rd</sup> German annual STI Congress – "STI on the track – prevention, recognition, treatment" – was held in Bochum, organised by the German STI-Society (DSTIG), bringing together a large number of scientists, clinicians, private practitioners, and self-help groups.

In the context of the congress, on June 7<sup>th</sup>, the German STI-Society organised the innovative symposium "Interdisciplinary Networking for the Millennials". This symposium, with approximately 60 participants, offered young academics specializing in medicine, social sciences, psychology and nursing a platform for debates on youth-specific topics in sexual health.

Also in Bochum, on 6 June 2018, the German STI-Society and the Leopoldina (the German National Academy of Sciences) organised its biennial "Leopoldina-Symposium". As in 2012, 2014 and 2016, the symposium, with approximately 60 participants, was again marked for its high quality of research presentations and intensive discussions.

Additionally, in the context of the STI-Congress 2018 there was a meeting of the members of the section "Sexual Health" of the German STI-Society. The members of the section frequently meet in different places of Germany, with the aim of talking about regional, national and international standards regarding sexual health and adapting those to the German situation. The next meeting is planned for February 2019.

#### *Curriculum "Sexual Health and STI"*

In 2018, the DSTIG continued the training program "Sexual Health and STI" in cooperation with the Federal Centre for Health Education and the Medical Association of Westphalia-Lippe. This curriculum is unique in Germany and is meant to be an interdisciplinary training unit for medical employees and people working in healthcare. The trainings in 2018 were held in Bochum on 17 March, 20/21 March, 8 September and 12/13 October. New training is planned for 2019.

#### *Guidelines*

The following guidelines are to be released in 2018: S2k Guideline on STI/STD – Education, diagnostics, therapy (2015) (published in German), consensus agreed; S2k Guideline on Gonorrhoea

in adults and adolescents (2014) (published in German), consensus agreed.

In September, work started on a new guideline, viz. "Mycoplasma/Ureaplasma". The publication is planned for 2019.

#### *Sexually transmitted infections and testing*

With the German STI-Society as co-organizer, the "Walk In Ruhr (WIR) - Centre for Sexual Health and Medicine" in Bochum has developed the test kit "Test it! The Home-Sampling-Kit" (in close cooperation with the Aidshilfe NRW), which is available since the beginning of September 2018. With this kit people have the ability to test themselves for STI (HIV, syphilis, chlamydia, gonorrhoea and mycoplasma).

In summer 2018, the federal Minister of Finance Jens Spahn, announced to offer HIV self-tests in pharmacies for sale, starting in autumn. The German STI-Society published a corresponding press release to stress the importance of this step. The tests have been available since 1 October, 2018.

### Hungary

The Hungarian STD Society (HSTDS) held a Regional Clinical and Scientific Meeting on Dermatology and Venereology, and postgraduate training course in the county city of Nyiregyhaza on 21 September, 2018, with 110 people attending. The meeting was chaired by Viktoria Varkonyi (President of HSTDS), and Katalin Egyud (member of presidency of HSTDS).

The upcoming Annual Meeting of the Hungarian STD Society in Budapest is scheduled for 25-27 October, 2018. The programme will cover all aspects of STI/STD. 180 people have already committed to attending. The Chair will be Viktoria Varkonyi.

### The United Kingdom

#### *Sexually transmitted infections and testing*

In the year 2017 there were worrying rises in key STI numbers. Early syphilis diagnoses rose 20% in one year to 7137 cases, the largest number since 1949. There were 44, 676 cases of gonorrhoea, a 22% rise. Chlamydia testing has fallen by 61% in community sexual and reproductive health services since 2015 reflecting the widespread reduction in these services. Concern continues at the cuts to local authority budgets that fund core sexual health services with spending estimated to have fallen by 10% in four years compared to rising demand.

#### *Guidelines: Mycoplasma genitalium*

The British Association for Sexual Health and HIV launched new guidelines on management of *M. genitalium*. This was accompanied by significant media engagement to highlight the public health importance of funding appropriate testing to protect

antibiotic effectiveness, as 70% of clinicians report their services cannot afford testing. The association also prepared a thorough briefing for service leads and laboratory heads to inform business case for testing.

#### *Remote and on-line care provision*

BASHH and the Faculty for Sexual and Reproductive Health have concluded consultation on standards of care for online and remote care provision following Care Quality inspections that raised concerns over appropriate prescribing and safeguarding in some providers. The guidelines advise on safety, effectiveness, kindness and respect, responsiveness and governance. It is recommended that persons are only tested for relevant STI pathogens. These guidelines may be of general interest globally as on-line care provision increases.

#### *HPV vaccination extended to adolescent boys in England, Wales and Scotland*

The UK Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation recommended in July 2018 that the adolescent HPV vaccination programme should be extended to boys. English, Welsh and Scottish governments confirmed they will implement the recommendation.

*Airi Pöder, Keith Radcliffe, Derek Freedman and Claudia Heller-Vitouch*

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### **North America**



The American Sexually Transmitted Diseases Association (ASTDA) representing the North American Region of IUSTI was an organizer and co-chair of the biennial [U.S. National STD Conference in Washington DC, August 27-30](#). Over 1,200 delegates attended plenary sessions, symposia and abstract-driven sessions addressing the public health emergency that the continued rise in reportable STDs in the U.S represent. In addition to the general program, ASTDA sponsored two special events, a pre-conference symposium for young investigators, and the annual ASTDA Awards Luncheon, both detailed below.

The ASTDA Career Development Symposium for Emerging Investigators and Program Leaders was hosted by the Executive Committee (EC) of the ASTDA on 27 August 2018. Nine junior investigators were selected for this one-day career

development workshop following a competitive application process. Selected applicants represented a variety of geographic locations and clinical, programmatic and research backgrounds. The day featured structured one-on-one meetings between each trainee and members of the ASTDA EC, as well as sessions on finding funding, different career paths (academic, government, industry), manuscript writing, and small group sessions on work-life balance, increasing visibility, and managing thorny issues in collaboration. ASTDA thanks its Executive Committee members Abigail Norris-Turner and Julie Dombrowski for organizing this symposium.



*Dr. Stephanie Taylor receives 2018 ASTDA Achievement Award from ASTDA President, Dr. Dennis Fortenberry*

The ASTDA Awards Luncheon celebrated the accomplishments of three of its members. Dr. Max Chernesky was the 2018 recipient of the ASTDA Distinguished Career Award (see below); Dr. Stephanie Taylor (pictured left) received the Achievement Award, and Dr. Alexis Roth was presented this year's Young Investigator Award. Congratulations to all!



*Dr. Bobbie Van Der Pol will be ASTDA President 2018-2020*

After the conference, ASTDA held its annual Executive Committee meeting, where Dr. Dennis Fortenberry transferred the presidency to Dr. Bobbie Van Der Pol. A full slate of 2018-2020 EC members and office holders is available [at this link](#). Dr. Charlotte Gaydos and Dr. Ned Hook ended their terms on the EC and we thank them for their commitment to the committee.

### **IUSTI Canada**

*23<sup>rd</sup> ISSTD & 20<sup>th</sup> IUSTI World Joint Meeting (STI & HIV 2019 World Congress)*



The official launch of IUSTI-Canada will be timed with the occurrence of the 20<sup>th</sup> IUSTI World meeting. This meeting will take place July 14-17, 2019 as a joint meeting with ISSTD at the Vancouver Convention Centre, East Building, in Vancouver, BC, Canada under the umbrella title of the STI & HIV 2019 World Congress. The scientific program is being finalized and registration and housing for the meeting is now open; please visit <https://stihiv2019vancouver.com/> for further details. At the 2019 Congress, IUSTI-Canada will host a Pre-Congress Symposium on the afternoon of Sunday July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

#### *M. genitalium*

*Mycoplasma genitalium* is an emerging sexually transmitted pathogen with limited treatment options. It can cause non-gonococcal urethritis in men. In women, it can cause cervicitis and pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), and has been associated with preterm birth, spontaneous abortion and infertility. Given the lack of routine diagnostic testing in Canada, the management of most infections will occur in the context of syndromic management of urethritis, cervicitis and PID. More information on *M genitalium* is available in the Canadian Guidelines on Sexually Transmitted Infections [at this link](#).

#### *Testing Innovation: Addressing Gaps and Inspiring Innovation in STBBI Testing in Canada - Public Health 2018 Pre-Conference Session Summary Report*

On May 28, 2018, during a pre-conference session held at Public Health 2018 in Montréal, Québec, professionals came together to discuss existing gaps and opportunities in testing for sexually transmitted and blood-borne infections (STBBI). During the session, several key themes emerged, including the need for innovative testing technologies as well as service delivery models, the role of industry, and the importance of focusing on linkage to care in addition to testing access. [More at this link](#).

#### **ASTDA Distinguished Career Award**

Wednesday August 29, 2018 at the US Centers for Disease Control Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Meeting held in Washington DC, the American STD Association presented its highest honour, The Distinguished Career Award to Max

Chernesky PhD, Professor Emeritus, Pediatrics, Pathology and Molecular Medicine at McMaster University, Hamilton Ontario, Canada.



*Dr. Barbara Van Der Pol, President of the ASTDA, presenting the Distinguished Career Award to Dr. Max Chernesky in Washington DC.*

Dr. Chernesky and his research team were recognized for their contributions to STD control through their major contributions to the development and improvement of laboratory diagnostics over the past 25 years. Since 1971 the Chernesky research laboratory has been located at the St. Joseph's Hospital Campus and has published 200 peer-reviewed papers, 38 book contributions, and 373 abstracts, predominately in the STD field.

Dr. Chernesky joined the McMaster faculty in 1970 and besides conducting a meaningful research program, has held many leadership roles in the university and hospitals. He established the Regional Virology and Chlamydiology Laboratories at St. Joseph's Hospital, and served as Director of Medical Microbiology and Head of Medical Microbiology Services in the Hamilton Regional Laboratory Medicine Program 1990-2000. He chaired the Research Committee at St. Joseph's Hospital in the 1980's and with Dr. Michael Newhouse conceived the Father Sean O'Sullivan Research Centre and served as its acting head in its formative years. He served as a Virology Laboratory teaching envoy to South and Central America for the Pan American Health Organization 1980-1985 and was the Chairman of The Scientific Advisory Group of the World Health Organization's STD Diagnostics Initiative 1994-2000. He was the cofounder of the Pan American Group for Rapid Diagnosis (now a society) and served as its President and founding Editor-in-Chief of the Journal for six years. He is an active member of the Expert Working Group, which writes the STD Diagnostic and Treatment guidelines for the Public Health Agency of Canada.

Dr. Chernesky was awarded the Diagnostic Virology Award from the Pan American Society for Clinical Virology in 1996 and the Canadian College of Microbiologists Distinguished Service Award in 2003. In July 2018 he was inducted into the "Living Legends" Group of the International Symposium on Human Chlamydial Infections held in the Netherlands.



**National Coalition  
of STD Directors**

STD Engage 2018 is heading to the Sunshine State! This annual meeting of the National Coalition of STD Directors is the only national meeting where state, local, and territorial STD programs, sexual health professionals, and their community-based partners and allies come together to address disease prevention and broader sexual health.



Focused on health equity, we are thrilled to announce the theme of this year's STD Engage 2018: *Communities in Unity: Meeting the Challenges Together*. This year's meeting will focus on social disparities and the disproportionate impact of STDs on MSM and the gay community, communities of color, women, young people, and other groups – all through the lens of STD program science.

Please note that registration closes on October 26 at the end of day. NCSD is unable to refund any registration fees after October 26.

The deadline to reserve a hotel room at the negotiated room rate is October 22. Rooms booked after that date will not be subject to the negotiated room rate.



## One-Two Punch: Knocking Out HIV and Syphilis Co-infection



Funded with a grant from the National Library of Medicine (NLM), the One-Two Punch: Knocking Out HIV and Syphilis Co-infection initiative is designed to educate North Carolinians, especially those in the Raleigh/Durham/Chapel Hill and

surrounding areas, about our state's higher risk for HIV and syphilis and the need to talk with health care professionals about testing for both infections. The campaign is suitable for all audiences and special care was taken to include populations that are too often overlooked, including men-who-have-sex-with-men and African-American women.

The posters and video are free to download and use on your websites and social media platforms. Each item has a link to NLM's AIDSsource site and clinic locator tool to find local free/low-cost care across North Carolina and the U.S.

Just [click here](#) or use the form below to fill in your organization's name and email address to get instant access to all campaign materials. #HealthisPower #NC!

Kees Rietmeijer

## Asia Pacific

### 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference of IAS STD AIDS

42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference of Indian Association for the Study of STD & AIDS (IAS STD AIDS) was held from 11-13 October 2018 at All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi. The two and a half day conference was attended by over 250 delegates. The faculty included many IUSTI and IUSTI-AP EXCO members including Angelika Stary (Austria), David Lewis (Australia), Magnus Unemo (Sweden), Catherine O'Connor (Australia), Sunil Sethi (India), and Kaushal Verma (India), Seema Sood (India), Manju Bala (India). The IUSTI-AP Regional Director, Somesh Gupta took over as President of IAS STD AIDS. The conference covered several areas of Sexual Health such as Epidemiology of STI in India, Emerging drug resistance, treatment guidelines, management of difficult-to-treat conditions, community approach, prophylaxis, tropical STIs, sexual abuse, legal and ethical aspects.



Picture of IAS STD AIDS and IUSTI EXCO members during 42<sup>nd</sup> National Conference of IAS STD AIDS

### India decriminalizes gay sex and adultery

In a landmark judgment, Supreme Court of India abolished Section 377- a colonial-era law under which a same-sex relationship was an "unnatural offence" punishable by a 10-year jail term. Deepak Mishra, the Chief Justice of India said in the judgment-"Any discrimination on the basis of

sexual orientation violates fundamental rights." This decision will help reducing social stigma and harassment of LGBT population.

In another landmark decision, Supreme Court also decriminalized adultery. Section 497 of constitution of India reads: "Whoever has sexual intercourse with a person who is and whom he knows or has reason to believe to be the wife of another man, without the consent or connivance of that man, such sexual intercourse not amounting to the offence of rape, is guilty of the offence of adultery." The supreme Court scrapped this law which had punishment in the form of imprisonment for five years, or fine, or both

### **IUSTI Asia Pacific Sexual Health Congress**

The conference is about to begin in few weeks, from 1-3 November, 2018 at Auckland, New Zealand. The latest scientific program is available on website <http://iustiap18.com/>.

The congress is likely to be attended by 500 delegates from the Region.

*Somesh Gupta*

### **Latin America and the Caribbean**



This Congress represents the joint meeting of the XII Brazilian STI Congress and the III IUSTI Latino American Congress - IUSTI Latin America in Foz do Iguaçu – Brazil, in September 22-25, 2019. The website is:

<https://www.dstaidsofz2019.com.br/home.asp>

The topic of the congress will be “*STI epidemics and Information Technologies*” and it will have four tracks: Epidemiology, monitoring and evaluation; Clinical Research and Biomedical Prevention; Laboratory technologies for analysis and diagnosis; and Public policies and society. Abstract deadline submission will be March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

Dr Charlotte Gaydos (USA), Dr Janet Wilson (UK) and Dr Magnus Unemo (Sweden) already confirmed their attendances.

Organization board:

SB-DST President: Mauro Romero Leal de Passos

IUSTI President: Charlotte Gaydos,

Congress President: Wilma Nancy Campos Arze

SB-DST – Paraná region president: Ali Bakri

IUSTI Latin-American director: Adele Schwartz Benzaken

Scientific committee chair: Angelica Espinosa Miranda

*Angelica Espinosa Miranda*

### **Africa and MENA**

#### **Change of name to IUSTI Africa-MENA Region**

Following the approval by the Executive Committee in Dublin to establish a new IUSTI Region known as IUSTI Africa-MENA Region, combining members living in countries in the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMRO) and the WHO Region for Africa (AFRO), the IUSTI website has been updated accordingly to reflect the change. On the registration options, people can now choose to join Africa-MENA Region. The countries included as being in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) for IUSTI were listed in the previous Global Newsletter.

#### **Membership**

The current full membership for Africa-MENA stands at 24, comprising Ghana (1), Kenya (2), Mali (1), Morocco (4), Nigeria (5), Qatar (6), South Africa (2), Zambia (1) and Zimbabwe (2).

Efforts are ongoing to build up the membership for the Africa-MENA region through direct contact with people working on STI-related matters as well as through e-mail contacts.

#### **Selected reports and activities from the region**

*22<sup>nd</sup> International AIDS Conference, Amsterdam, 23-27 July 2018*

At the 22<sup>nd</sup> International AIDS Conference in Amsterdam in July 2018, for the first time, there was a two-day pre-conference focusing exclusively on HIV and STIs called, “*STI 2018: Understanding and Addressing the HIV and STI Syndemics*.” This meeting was designed to review the contemporary epidemiology of HIV and STI in key populations, as well as in generalized HIV epidemic settings. The presentations touched on the situations in which HIV and STIs spread, concentrating on key populations, such as sex workers, men who have sex with men, and newer contexts, for example, internet-based sexual “cruising” sites, and the use of “designer drugs” to enhance sexual experiences (“chemsex”).

A number of IUSTI-MENA members attended this conference, including Dr Francis Ndowa and

Professor Remco Peters. Dr Ndowa delivered a talk on, “*The epidemiology of STIs in middle- and low-income countries*” which emphasized the following points:

- STIs are still a significant cause of morbidity requiring a public health approach to their prevention and control;
- Herpes simplex virus infections have become the predominant cause of genital ulcerative diseases;
- Gonococcal infections still predominate as causes of genital discharge diseases in sub-Saharan Africa;
- Magnitude of the problem of AMR in STIs is not systematically surveyed, if at all, by Low- and Middle-income countries which creates an unhealthy unknown in the control of the spread of antimicrobial resistance and effective management of STIs
- “Classic” STIs and HIV have an epidemiological synergy in need of joint planning and collaboration at all levels of health-care.

The point was made that since the situation is so complex for most resource-constrained countries to implement fully and successfully, prevention of STIs is the key, requiring the following commodities:

- Primary prevention interventions
- Condoms
- Vaccines
- Point-of-care Diagnostic Tests
- Effective treatments for STIs, including antiviral medications for HSV infections

*The 4th biennial Southern African HIV Clinicians Society Conference, Johannesburg, South Africa 24-27 October 2018*

The 4th biennial Southern African HIV Clinicians Society Conference takes place from the 24<sup>th</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup> of October 2018 in Midrand, Johannesburg, South Africa. The conference will provide the latest insights in clinical HIV management and control strategies. This year’s specific aim is to grow the next generation of HIV clinicians to be well-rounded clinicians. Most attendees reside in Southern Africa and work as HIV clinical experts, medical officers or nurses.

Adequate management of STIs provides an important component of STI control and HIV prevention worldwide. This topic is addressed in several case discussions throughout the conference and during a specific STI session on the 27<sup>th</sup> of October where two IUSTI Africa-MENA members will present their vision on STI care and raise awareness for this IUSTI branch. Prof Remco Peters will discuss strategies to achieve STI control in South Africa. In his presentation, he will highlight opportunities to strengthen

implementation of the current syndromic management guidelines, discuss diagnostic and therapeutic considerations for individuals failing syndromic management, and outline approaches to introduction of aetiological management of STIs in resource-constraint settings, including priority populations for roll-out, anticipated epidemiological effects, the health-care system and infrastructure factors that warrant attention. In the same session, Dr Ranmini Kularatne will present on management of STIs in HIV-infected patients. Her presentation will be case-based and include discussion about the relevance of antimicrobial resistance testing for acyclovir in herpes simplex virus infections.

### Reports

#### *Epidemiology of STI syndromes in Zimbabwe*

The Ministry of Health and Child Care of Zimbabwe monitors sexually transmitted infections (STIs) occurring throughout the country using the universal reporting of STI syndromes presenting at primary health-care facilities. The Ministry has just concluded data analysis of the syndromes reported to the Ministry from 1995 to 2016. Information was obtained on reported cases of male urethral discharge, female vaginal discharge, male and female genital ulcer disease and pelvic inflammatory disease in females, and ophthalmia neonatorum and antenatal syphilis screening. Data collected was examined for trends in STI reporting by province in the whole country.

Over the 21 years that this survey covers it was found that there was a significant reduction in the number of cases of all STIs reported. The analysis compared averages of the numbers of STI syndromes reported for the first 6 years (early period: 1995 to 2000) and the averages of reported syndromes for more recent years (late period: 2012 to 2016). Averages of reported STI syndromes for the entire country decreased over the study period; reported cases of ophthalmia neonatorum fell from 617 in the early period to 368 in the late period with the proportion of infants with ophthalmia neonatorum falling from 2.03% to 0.99%. Genital ulcer cases in males decreased from 15,517 to 2,234, genital ulcer cases in females decreased from 4,161 to 1,999, and reported cases of urethral discharge in males decreased from 17,739 to 5,078, while reports on vaginal discharge decreased from 11,895 to 7,703. Reported cases of pelvic inflammatory disease decreased from 4,242 to 2,835 cases. There was a dramatic increase in RPR testing rates in pregnant women from 56.9% to 90.8% over the period.

These preliminary data will be looked into further for detailed analysis and deductions for planning purposes and lessons on how to strengthen data collection in the country.

### *Update of STI Management Guidelines in Zimbabwe*

Dr Francis Ndowa was engaged as a consultant by the Zimbabwe Ministry of Health and Child Care to update the Zimbabwe national STI management guidelines. The updating of the guidelines was based on the latest scientific evidence, as of 2018, most recent studies conducted in Zimbabwe between 2014 and 2015 on aetiology of the STI syndromes in Zimbabwe and the gonococcal antimicrobial susceptibility patterns in the country.

Two areas of dilemma for the stakeholders were how to achieve adequate supplies of antiviral treatment for genital herpes in the current financial constraints since the aetiological studies identified herpes simplex virus type 2 as the commonest cause of genital ulcers in the country. The second issue was whether to remove the treatment of chancroid from the genital ulcer disease flowchart since no cases of *Haemophilus ducreyi* were detected in the aetiological study. It was recommended, and accepted by the stakeholders, that chancroid treatment will still be included in view of cases of chancroid having been detected in the neighbouring South Africa and the lack of adequate surveillance in Zimbabwe to detect any upsurge of cases of chancroid.

*Francis Ndowa*

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## **Conference Update**

### ***IUSTI Events:***

23rd ISSTD/20th IUSTI World Congress  
 Dates: July 14-17, 2019  
 Location: Vancouver, Canada  
 Website: [www.STIHIV2019vancouver.com](http://www.STIHIV2019vancouver.com)

33rd Conference of IUSTI-Europe on Sexually Transmitted Infections  
 Dates: September 5-7, 2019  
 Location: Tallinn, Estonia  
 Website: [www.iusti2019.eu](http://www.iusti2019.eu)

XII Brazilian STI Congress and the III IUSTI Latino American Congress - IUSTI Latin America  
 Dates: September 22-25, 2019  
 Location: Foz do Iguaçu – Brazil  
 Website: <https://www.dstaidsofz2019.com.br/home.asp>

21st IUSTI World Congress  
 Dates: November 2020  
 Location: Bangkok, Thailand  
 Website: TBA

### ***Other STI or Related Meetings/Congresses/Courses:***

27th International Workshop on HIV Drug Resistance And Treatment Strategies  
 Dates: October 22-23, 2018  
 Location: Johannesburg, South Africa  
 Website: <http://www.hivresistance2018.co.za/>

47th National Conference of Indian Association of Dermatologists, Venereologists & Leprologists and the first DERMACON  
 Dates: January 17-20, 2019  
 Location: Bangalore, India  
 Website: <http://www.dermaconinternational2019.com/index.php>

International Herpesvirus Workshop 2019  
 Dates: July 20-24, 2019  
 Location: Knoxville, Tennessee  
 Website: <http://www.herpesvirusworkshop.com/2019/>

17th European AIDS Conference  
 Dates: November 6-8, 2019  
 Location: Basel, Switzerland  
 Website: <https://eacs-conference2019.com/>

9th International Workshop on HIV Persistence during Therapy  
 Dates: December 10-13, 2019  
 Location: Miami, USA  
 Website: <http://www.hiv-persistence.com/>  
*Somesh Gupta*

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*STI Global Update* is published by the International Union against Sexually Transmitted Infections. Its aims are to provide an international perspective on the management and control of sexually acquired infections. Regular contributions from the regional directors of IUSTI and feedback from conferences is supplemented by short reviews of relevant topics and input from the Center for Disease Control (US), Health Protection Agency (UK), European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, and the World Health Organisation.

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Further information on the activities of IUSTI available at [www.iusti.org](http://www.iusti.org)