

# STI Global Update

## Newsletter of the International Union against Sexually Transmitted Infections

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### President's Letter



Preparations are well underway for the World STI and HIV Congress, scheduled to be held in Brisbane on 13-16 September 2015. The early bird registration closes on 6<sup>th</sup> July and late breaker abstracts can still be submitted up until 17<sup>th</sup> July. The Co-Chairs of the scientific committee scientific tracks (Nicola Low and Jeff Klausner), together with their scientific track chairs, have worked tirelessly to produce a strong scientific programme with an international focus. The Congress will open with a state-of-the-art lecture on STI vaccines and critically look at progress to date. The Congress's plenary speakers will include Kawango Agot (Kenya), Kerry Arabena (Australia), Yang Bin (China), Carlos Caceres (Peru), Virginia Barber (Australia), Mike Cohen (USA), Henri de Vries (The Netherlands), Khalil Ghanem (USA), Jane Hocking (Australia), Scott McClelland (USA), Jo-Ann Passmore (South Africa), Helen Rees (South Africa), Nick Thomson (UK), Raphael Valdivia (USA) and Ravi Verma (India). The draft Congress programme is available on the conference website (<https://www.eiseverywhere.com/ehome/91027/196170/?&>). Finally, IUSTI will be holding two Executive meetings and a General Assembly at the Congress. All IUSTI members are welcome and encouraged to participate in the General

Assembly, which will be held at 1.30pm on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September.

In terms of global policy development, the World Health Organization is developing three 2016-2021 Global Health Sector Strategies for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis and STIs for the period 2016 to 2021 inclusive

(<http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/ghs-strategies/en/>). These three strategies are being finalized for consideration by the 69th World Health Assembly in 2016. The strategies will have a similar outline and will consider (i) the context and rationale for a strategy in order to make a case for action, (ii) the vision, goals and proposed targets, (iii) outline five strategic directions, and (iv) discuss the elements required to underpin implementation of the strategy (leadership, partnership, accountability, and lastly, monitoring and evaluation). The five strategic directions will include (i) information focus and accountability, (ii) interventions for impact, (iii) delivery of quality and equity, (iv) sustainable financing, and (v) innovation for acceleration.

Given that the prevalence and incidence of STI/HIV continues to be high in many parts of the world, there is much work to be done in our individual countries to continue the fight against STI/HIV. I would like to thank our IUSTI regional teams for their continued efforts in this regard. IUSTI is proud of its regional achievements and you will be able to read about some of these in the contributions which follow.

I do hope that you will be able to attend this year's World STI and HIV Congress in order to celebrate both science and collegiality in one of Australia's most popular cities.

*David Lewis, IUSTI President*

### Chlamydia Testing in Europe

#### **Chlamydia Testing Training in Europe (CATTE): an educational intervention to establishing routine chlamydia testing in general practice for young adults**

Chlamydia is the most common sexually transmitted infection (STI) in Europe and rates continue to rise. Left untreated it can lead to sequelae including subfertility, neonatal eye infection or pneumonia, and it facilitates HIV

acquisition. Testing young people, who are at higher risk of chlamydia acquisition, and treating effectively, could reduce damage and onward transmission. Chlamydia testing and screening is highly variable across Europe, as is prevalence. The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)'s recently updated survey findings regarding chlamydia control activities in Europe indicate that despite improved control in many countries, there remains a large amount of heterogeneity in approaches: only 11 out of 28 respondent countries had their own strategy or plan for STI control, and only six of these documents explicitly included chlamydia control. Only England had an organised chlamydia screening programme.



CATTE (Chlamydia Testing Training in Europe) is a multifaceted educational intervention that aims to facilitate increased chlamydia testing of young people by general practice (GP) staff across Europe. CATTE takes a two-tiered cascade approach to training:

- (1) educational materials for trainers
- (2) education of GP staff learners by trainers.

The CATTE intervention is based on a previous randomised controlled trial (RCT) by Public Health England (PHE) in the south west of England that developed and evaluated the intervention approach, demonstrating that significant and substantial increases in chlamydia testing could be achieved and maintained when practices fully participated and used all of the resources (McNulty, *et al.* 2013).

Despite the RCT and other qualitative work showing that young people consider general practice to be a good environment for the delivery of chlamydia testing and they respond well to proactive offers of testing from GP staff, it also demonstrated that offering tests is still hampered by a lack of knowledge of the subject and barriers perceived by the practice staff. The RCT findings therefore presented opportunities to modify the intervention to overcome the remaining barriers, and to more effectively normalise chlamydia testing in general practice. In response, the Primary Care Unit of Public Health England worked in partnership with Nice University Hospital in France, the University of Tartu in Estonia, and Örebro

University in Sweden to secure an EU Leonardo da Vinci Transfer of Innovation fund from ECORYS. These countries were chosen as they had different primary health care provision and chlamydia control activities. England and Sweden had high levels of chlamydia testing and England has a national chlamydia screening programme (see [www.chlamydia-screening.nhs.uk](http://www.chlamydia-screening.nhs.uk)), whereas it was considered a new area for GPs in France and Estonia. The aims of the CATTE collaboration were to adapt the existing RCT resources to the range of healthcare systems provided by the four partner countries. Following an extensive needs assessment with GP staff, the resources were rolled-out as a complete educational intervention in these countries. The intervention was then thoroughly evaluated for its effectiveness at changing behaviour toward increasing chlamydia testing for young people in general practice. By doing so, the collaboration sought to understand barriers to and facilitators of normalising chlamydia testing in a range of EU countries. The ultimate aim was to develop resources that could be used across Europe to help tackle rising chlamydia infection rates by exploiting the opportunity for enhanced testing in general practice/primary care.



The CATTE resources comprise two sets of training materials (Train the Trainer [TtT] pack and GP staff materials) that provide background information on chlamydia infection and treatment, explain the rationale for testing in general practice, and demonstrate how the offer can be made quickly and easily in any GP consultation. The resources are all freely available on the STI training website, [www.STItraining.eu](http://www.STItraining.eu). All CATTE training is delivered in an interactive workshop presentation setting, supported by additional resources. The Train the Trainer pack includes useful information, advice and templates on how to recruit general practices to the programme, enabling all trainers to feel confident in taking the programme forward. The GP staff educational materials include a presentation and also provide supporting resources, including videos demonstrating how to offer chlamydia testing, patient invitation cards, posters and leaflets, to help normalise the topic of chlamydia testing in the general practice setting - see examples provided.

The resource adaptation stage involved firstly assessing the specific context for chlamydia testing in general practice in each partner country, exploring the value of the existing resources and identifying opportunities to overcome barriers to implementation. Theoretical models were drawn upon to develop this approach to ensure resource adaption would be as effective as possible. Interviews captured insight into the personal attitudes, subjective norms, and perceived behavioural controls around chlamydia testing (theory of planned behaviour, Ajzen, 2002), but also explored areas such as professional role/identity, knowledge, skills, and environmental context and resources (theoretical domains framework, Michie *et al.*, 2005). This ultimately informed the adaptation of the type and content of the resources, and how they were delivered - these pieces of work are currently being prepared for publication. The sexual health content of the resources developed by each partner varied between countries due to different national priorities and opportunities for integrated approaches. For example, in France, the resources covered sexual health and contraception, and in Sweden gonorrhoea testing was also offered. The table below shows the training and resource components used in each partner country, highlighting the different approaches taken.

access to all the resources and an implementation pack, plus contact details for the partners and CATTE Support Team.

CATTE country leads

- England: McNulty CAM, Public Health England, Primary Care Unit, Microbiology, Gloucestershire Royal Hospital, Gloucester, UK, [Clodna.mcnulty@phe.gov.uk](mailto:Clodna.mcnulty@phe.gov.uk)
- Estonia: Uusküla A, Department of Public Health, University of Tartu, Tartu, Estonia, [anneli.uuskula@ut.ee](mailto:anneli.uuskula@ut.ee)
- France: Touboul P, Nice University Hospital, Nice, France, [touboul.p@chu-nice.fr](mailto:touboul.p@chu-nice.fr)
- Sweden: Fredlund H, Clinical Microbiology, Örebro University Hospital, Örebro, Sweden, [Hans.fredlund@orebroll.se](mailto:Hans.fredlund@orebroll.se)

*Nina Ockendon and Clodna AM McNulty on behalf of the CATTE partners*

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## 2016 IUSTI World Congress



After 7 years, Africa will again have the pleasure to organize the IUSTI World Congress. Indeed, from 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> May 2016, Morocco will host the 17th IUSTI world Congress in Marrakech which is among the most coveted tourist destinations, and hence the perfect place to hold such event. Marrakech is located only a few hours flight from the major European capitals. It is a city that has retained a unique charm that visitors never tire to discover or rediscover. Its medina, its monuments, its gastronomy, its color and light ... all reflecting the good life.



The international scientific committee is gathering a panel of eminent scientists from the five

CATTE component	England	Estonia	France	Sweden
Age group	15-24	18-24	18-24	15-24
presentation to staff				
Posters				
Patient invitation cards				
Patient leaflet/				
Computer prompts				
Film modelling offer				
Further practice visit				
Telephone reminders				
Newsletter/ e mails				
Other training	contr'n, condoms, HIV	None	sexual health, contr'n	gonorrhoea

CATTE components used by each partner country

To find out more, go to the STI training website and home of CATTE, [www.STItraining.eu](http://www.STItraining.eu), for free

continents. It is in charge of developing a stimulating scientific program, under the theme of "Health impacts of new STI technologies and vaccines in Africa", which will be relevant for all participants throughout the world.

The challenge of this conference is to apply new approaches and technologies in the effective prevention, diagnosis and management of STIs and HIV.



The program will include the 2016 IUSTI Africa regional meeting that will enable African scientists to share their experiences and to create partnerships between African countries.

The venue will be the Palmeraie Conference Center, which is one of the best centers in the country.



Its facilities, designed to meet the needs of participants, provide a pleasant environment that can easily accommodate the 300 to 600 expected participants.



For more details visit the congress website:  
<http://iustimarrakesh2016.com>

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## Regional Reports

### North America



### **News from The National Coalition of STD Directors (NCSDD)**

The NCSDD is a partnership of public health professionals, including CDC, ASTDA, and State public health officials, and is dedicated to promoting sexual health through the prevention of STDs. NCSDD provides dynamic leadership that strengthens STD programs by advocating for effective policies, strategies, and sufficient resources and by increasing awareness of their medical and social impact.

New Blog on STD Prevention Gone Viral: Teen-Friendly Health Information Online: Our Biggest (Missed) Opportunity?

<http://www.ncsddc.org/blog>



### **News from the CDC**

2015 STD Treatment Guidelines Respond to Trends and Emerging Issues in STD Prevention  
 The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have released the 2015 STD Treatment Guidelines, updating their recommendations for treating persons who have or are at risk for sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). This update was written after a consultation in 2013 with a group of professionals knowledgeable in the field of STDs as well as the release of a document for peer review in 2014.

(New guidelines)

<http://www.cdc.gov/std/tg2015/default.htm>  
 (wall chart)

<http://www.cdc.gov/std/tg2015/2015-poster-press.pdf>

(pocket guide)

<http://www.cdc.gov/std/tg2015/2015-booklet-press.pdf>

## News from the American Sexual Health Association (ASHA)



In a Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) Viewpoint published online June 18, 2015, [Sexual Health in America: Improving Patient Care and Public Health](#), former Surgeon General David Satcher, MD, PhD, former ASHA Board Chair Edward W. Hook III, MD, and current ASHA Board member Eli Coleman, PhD, say we can move towards solutions by embracing a comprehensive *sexual health framework* that looks towards the promotion of health and wellness rather than a narrow fixation on diseases.

The sexual health framework includes:

- An emphasis on wellness
- Focus on positive, respectful relationships
- Acknowledgment of the impact of sexual health on overall health
- An integrated approach to prevention

The authors say the lynchpin of this approach is shifting the focus to wellness, a critical step in reducing shame associated with these conditions: "...[S]ince STIs and other adverse health outcomes are highly stigmatized conditions, use of a broader, sex-positive, health-focused framework has the potential to reduce the stigma, fear, and discrimination associated with these conditions."

On June 11, 2015 ASHA and HealthyWomen convened a joint meeting on Sexual Health and Chronic Conditions. The diverse group of stakeholders at this meeting heard presentations from experts and discussed ways to better meet the needs of those whose health issues may make sexual health and communication more complicated. The meeting afforded a unique opportunity to better define and understand the issues while finding ways our organizations can work collaboratively, outside our traditional silos, to end the silence and improve health.

ASHA recognizes each April as STI Awareness Month. Activities during the 2015 observation included resources included a podcast on STI testing featuring J. Dennis Fortenberry, MD, MS; and the launch of a series of videos with H. Hunter Handsfield, MD, and Kees Rietmeijer, MD, PhD, discussing essential facts about herpes.

## National Chlamydia Coalition



### *ACOG Recommends Expedited Partner Therapy for STIs*

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) recently [issued](#) an opinion paper supporting the use of expedited partner therapy (EPT) to prevent gonorrhea and chlamydia reinfection.



EPT enables the obstetrician-gynecologist (OB-GYN) or other provider to give prescriptions or medications to patients to take to their partners without first examining these partners; however, barriers often keep OB-GYNs from using EPT routinely. The opinion paper also recommends that patient counseling and written treatment instructions for the patient's partners should accompany EPT. This includes encouragement to undergo additional medical evaluation as soon as possible to discuss screening for HIV infection and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

### *HPV Vaccine Provider Education Course Now Available*

WithinReach, in partnership with Cardea and the Washington State Department of Health, has released a continuing education course, [You Are the Key to HPV Cancer Prevention](#). This free, hour-long HPV vaccine provider education course is designed for physicians, pharmacists, advanced practice clinicians, nurses, and other staff who work with children, adolescents and their parents in primary care settings. This course helps providers frame the HPV vaccine conversation, encourages providers to make a strong vaccination recommendation and offers responses for the most common questions asked by parents.

**News from the American Sexually Transmitted Diseases Association (ASTDA) ([www.astda.org](http://www.astda.org)) [Our North American IUSTI Organization ]**



In January 2015 William C. Miller, MD, PhD, MPH took the helm as the editor-in-chief of the ASTDA journal *Sexually Transmitted Diseases*. Dr. Miller, an Associate Professor of Medicine and Epidemiology at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, replaces long-time editor Julius Schachter, PhD who retired after 25 years of service with the journal. *Sexually Transmitted Diseases* publishes original, peer-reviewed articles on clinical, laboratory, immunologic, epidemiologic, sociologic, and historical topics pertaining to STDs and related fields.

In June the CDC released the 2015 edition of the treatment guidelines for sexually transmitted diseases. ASTDA President Kees Rietmeijer, MD, PhD, says "This is arguably one of the single most important documents that informs what we do in STD diagnosis, treatment, and prevention in the U.S. and we owe it to those who have put so much time and effort into the process, to take their work seriously." His advice to his colleagues regarding the first thing to do with the new guidelines? "Take time to read the text cover to cover and then – read it again!"

Along with the American Sexual Health Association (ASHA) and the National Coalition of STD Directors (NCSD), ASTDA coordinated a response to the Draft Research Plan for Cervical Cancer Screening issued by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force. The draft plan examines key questions around the benefits and potential harms of cervical cancer screening with asymptomatic women. The feedback provided by the three partner organizations focused on racial disparities in cervical cancer outcomes (including the need to more fully address how HPV genotype distribution may differ by race/ethnicity and the potential impact on various approaches to screening) along with an assessment of the impact of psychosocial morbidities associated with abnormal screening tests.

*STD Prevention Science Series*

ASTDA has partnered with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Division of STD Prevention (DSTD) to bring you the latest research and best practices for STD prevention with the STD Prevention Science Series. This quarterly series presents lectures on cutting edge issues by

scientists and program experts of world renown to all persons interested in the prevention of STI including HIV.

Archived presentations in the series are available at <http://www.astda.org/std-prevention-science-series/>.

**News from the National Coalition for Sexual Health**

The National Coalition for Sexual Health envisions a nation where people feel comfortable talking about sexual health and have access to the information and services needed to support healthy and respectful choices, without facing stigma or discrimination



[HIV Treatment Should Start at Diagnosis, US Health Officials Say - NY Times](#)

People with HIV should be put on antiretroviral drugs as soon as they learn they are infected. A new clinical trial showed that those who got treatment immediately were 53% less likely to die during the trial, or develop AIDS or a serious illness than those who waited.

[Renew the US Commitment to Sex Education - Washington Post](#)

In an editorial for the Washington Post, former Surgeons General Joycelyn Elders, David Satcher, and Richard Carmona said that the government should fund comprehensive sex ed, instead of pouring money into abstinence-only education.

[Americans Now Slightly More Relaxed About Casual Sex Than They Were in the '90s - NY Magazine](#)

Between the 1990s and now, Americans have become more accepting of casual sex, and report more sexual partners. However, opinions on extramarital sex have stayed relatively consistent

**Recently Published - Sexual Health In America**

Available at:

[http://jama.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleid=2338495&utm\\_campaign=articlePDF&utm\\_medium=articlePDFlink&utm\\_source=articlePDF&utm\\_content=jama.2015.6831](http://jama.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleid=2338495&utm_campaign=articlePDF&utm_medium=articlePDFlink&utm_source=articlePDF&utm_content=jama.2015.6831)

David Satcher, MD, PhD, The Satcher Health, Leadership Institute, Morehouse School of Medicine, Atlanta, Georgia.

Edward W Hook III, MD, Division of Infectious Diseases, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham.

Eli Coleman, PhD, Department of Family, Medicine and Community Health, University of Minnesota Medical School, Minneapolis

**Supplementary Online Content**

JAMA. doi:10.1001/jama.2015.6831.

**eFigure 1.** The Health Impact Pyramid and Examples of Public Health Approaches to Address Sexual Health.

**eFigure 2.** Sexual Health Across The Lifespan  
This supplementary material has been provided by the authors to give readers additional information about their work.

Charlotte Gaydos

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## **Europe**

Preparing for IUSTI-Europe Master Class and the IUSTI-Europe conference were the main objectives for our 2015 spring days.

### **European Master Class in Sexually Transmitted Infections**

The European Branch of the International Union against STIs (IUSTI-Europe, [www.iusti.org](http://www.iusti.org)) has established a new training format, the European Master Class in Sexually Transmitted Infections. The first course will take place as a joint meeting together with the Austrian Society of STIs and Dermatological Microbiology (ÖGSTD) in Vienna on June 29 to July 1, 2015.

Leading European STI experts will hold keynote lectures on the entire spectrum of STIs. The diagnosis of bacterial, viral and fungal infections will be covered as well as the clinical appearance of even rare diseases in the genital area and the most updated treatment guidelines. Epidemiology of the classical venereal diseases like Syphilis, Gonorrhoea and Lymphogranuloma venereum and their recurring importance in modern times will be discussed. The problem of *N. gonorrhoeae*'s rising antibiotic resistance and counter measures will be presented. Experiences with newly discovered microbes like *Mycoplasma genitalium* can be discussed with the experts as well as the treatment of difficult to treat infections like chronic vulvovaginal candidosis. New developments in the field of HPV-vaccination and HIV-prevention and therapy will complete the programme.

The main focus of the course will be the hands-on seminar. Participants will stain swabs by their own and examine them under the microscope. Moreover, it will also be possible to examine wet smears from specially provided specimens under the guidance of trainers to discover fungal infections and trichomoniasis.

The registration fee covers participation in the whole course, written courseware, lunch and coffee breaks. A small handling fee has to be paid for the congress evening in a typical Austrian winery. Congress language is English. The number of participants is limited, places are allocated on a first come first served basis.

IUSTI-Europe has provided five scholarships for young European scientists which cover the

registration fee, hotel accommodation and a small contribution to travel expenses. Moreover, the Austrian Society of STIs and Dermatological Microbiology (ÖGSTD) and the Austrian Society of Dermatology and Venereology (ÖGDV) have provided eight scholarships for Austrian young doctors, the Irish STD-Society (SSSTDI) is going to support four people attending the Master Class from Ireland.

– Claudia Heller Vitouch, Chair of IUSTI-Europe, Chair of the Austrian Society of STD and dermatological Microbiology

– Angelika Stary, Vice-Chair of the educational committee IUSTI-Europe

– Marco Cusini, Vice-Chair of the educational committee IUSTI-Europe

### **Preparations for the IUSTI-Europe conference**

#### **a. Sitges**

The European branch of the IUSTI is holding its annual conference this year in conjunction with the British Association for Sexual Health and HIV (BASHH) in Sitges (Spain), 24-26 September 2015. EADV and ESCMID are providing grant support to young scientists to attend the Conference.

The International Scientific Committee for the Congress is completing an exciting programme and is pleased to announce the Preliminary programme on the congress website: ([www.iusti2015.com](http://www.iusti2015.com)). With a special focus on men's sexual health, the programme is balanced so as to address sexual health issues to do with men and women.

Two plenary sessions as well as eight symposia have been organized on the following subjects:

- Male sexual dysfunction
- Resistance and typing of STI pathogens
- Update on HIV infection
- Emergent and resurgent STI
- Male ano-genital syndromes
- STI challenges beyond 2015
- The sexual health of specific groups
- HPV infection and vaccination

Three Institutional and one commercial sponsored symposia are being organized as follows:

- Impact of rapid point of care testing on patient management (Cepheid)
- Promoting the sexual health of MSM in a changing prevention landscape (ECDC)
- Other sexually transmissible infections (ESCMID)
- Advancing the prevention of STI through innovations in technology and delivery methods: opportunities and new horizons (WHO)

Also, papers have been selected for three oral session presentations and a poster exhibition as well as on any subject concerning sexual health, STI and HIV in Europe. Abstracts will be published on line in the International Journal of STD and AIDS.

In addition, a pre-congress symposium with the title *What more can be done in the prevention of HIV/STI among MSM in Barcelona?* will be held in Barcelona on 23 September 2015.

#### **b. Budapest**

While IUSTI-Europe is focused and excited about the coming Congress in Sitges, we must also plan ahead for Budapest in 2016, and Helsinki in 2018. Airi Poder, Claudia Heller-Vitouch, Derek Freedman and Marco Cusini were welcomed by Drs Varkonyi and Nagy, and Mr Papp of the Budapest Convention Bureau who presented an overview of the congress organisation and the congress budget.

The Budapest Hilton in the Buda capital pedestrianised precinct is the proposed congress venue. It has space for a single plenary/symposium session and 3-4 breakout rooms for workshops and associated meetings. Up to 500 delegates can be accommodated. The congress is to be held concurrently with the National Hungarian STD Congress.

Dr Nagy spoke about bringing together the experiences of past control of Syphilis in the pre-1990 era, together with the improved technology and political changes that have now occurred, with emphasis on personal physician/patient interaction.

There was full acceptance of the IUSTI-E format of one symposium/plenary session with concurrent workshops. The Board will meet on Wednesday 15th September, and Thursday 16th September, as well as the Guidelines Committee and the Scientific Committee.

There will be an Opening Reception on the terrace of the Hilton Hotel. The proposed Gala Dinner will take place on a Danube cruise on riverboat Europa with Gala dinner, Closing ceremony and Awards to take place on the boat.

#### **STI Guidelines**

This project continues upon its work of producing or revising new pan-European evidence-based guidelines together with patient information to support them.

Currently the following guidelines are being updated: epididymo-orchitis, non gonococcal urethritis (NGU), genital herpes, chlamydia. New guidelines are currently under development on: vulval conditions, genital mycoplasmas.

A new guideline on partner management has recently been completed – it is available on the website and has also been published in the *Journal of the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology* (2015 European guidelines for the management of partners of persons with sexually transmitted infections. Tiplica GS, Radcliffe K, Evans C, Gomberg M, Nandwani R, Rafilia A, Nedelcu L, Salavastru C. *JEADV* 2015; doi: 10.1111/JDV.13181 (Epub ahead of print).

The Polish association has translated the existing European guideline on gonorrhoea into Polish. All the guidelines and patient information together with information about the protocol for producing them, the other organisations supporting the work of IUSTI Europe, and the current composition of the Editorial Board, can all be found on the website at:

[www.iusti.org/regions/Europe/euroguidelines.htm](http://www.iusti.org/regions/Europe/euroguidelines.htm)

If anyone has any comments or suggestions on the work of the European STI Guidelines Project please email Keith Radcliffe at [k.radcliffe@virgin.net](mailto:k.radcliffe@virgin.net)

#### **STI-related activities in countries of the European Union**

##### *Hungary*

The Hungarian STI Society participated in the first ever HPV Symposium held in Hungary, The Society's president was a member of the organizing committee and also gave a lecture. Furthermore, The Society gave two invited lectures at the Interdisciplinary Forum of Private Practitioners, held April 17-19 in Budapest.

There was the Postgradual Vaccination Conference, held April 16-18 in Budapest. Hungary also held Postgradual Courses on Pediatric Dermatology, which featured lectures by the president and the treasurer.

In addition to an already great year, there was also the Centennial Conference of Dermatovenereological Department of Nyiregyhaza County Hospital and Hungary is organizing the Annual Conference of the Hungarian STI Society

##### *Sweden*

Sweden held a national conference, the Swedish STD Society, on February 6th, its theme was *STI, unusual locations of infections and complications*.

##### *Russia*

This year the IUSTI-Russia activity was concentrated on collaboration with gynecologists. There were special IUSTI-Russia sessions organized at each important gynecological meeting in Moscow and other cities of Russia: Sochi, Novosibirsk, Rostov-on-Don.

The annual IUSTI-Russia symposium was traditionally a part of the International Forum of Dermatovenereologists and Cosmetologists (IFDC2015), which took place in Moscow on March 18-20, 2015 ([www.ifdc.pro](http://www.ifdc.pro)) IUSTI-Russia was co-organizer of the whole congress.

The results of a previous year activity when IUSTI-Russia seminars were devoted to viral STI were so good, that there were requests to organize some other meetings in Russia. This time geography of meetings called *Congress on Herpesvirus Infection* included Sochi, Krasnodar, Kaliningrad, Rostov-on-Don, Saint-Petersburg. Gynecologists, paediatricians, immunologists, and

dermatovenereologists participated in the congresses.

#### *Germany*

Germany held its 4th Congress *HIV & Psyche* in Bochum in January, organized by the Competence Network for HIV/AIDS (Kompetenznetz HIV/AIDS) and was supported by the German STI-Society.

Upcoming conferences of 2015/2016 include the 2nd Symposium for Sexual Health: STI-Research and Research on Sex Work, which will be held in Cologne in November, which aims to connect the topics sex work, sexually transmitted infections (STI) and research on sexual health and the STI-Congress of 2016, held in Berlin in June, which is organized by the German STI-Society.

The multidisciplinary and inter-institutional "Walk in Ruhr (WIR) – Center for Sexual Health and Medicine" is about to open its doors in October 2015 in Bochum (Germany). During spring 2015 the preparations for its opening are further intensified. The center should improve the structure and quality of the supply regarding all aspects of a healthy sexuality.

#### *Estonia*

Estonia held its XVII IUSTI-Estonia conference together with the Estonian Association for Clinical Sexology.



The conference ended with a Venetian Carnival themed party.

#### *United Kingdom*

HIV Pre Exposure Prophylaxis: The promising results from PROUD showing effectiveness of HIV PrEP in a study setting are being considered by a national commissioning group in England and similarly in the other home nations. Until this detailed evidence review is complete and a possible service model developed PrEP is not available routinely.

Trends in STIs: On 23 June 2015 Public Health England published worrying data showing large rises in some key diagnosed STIs between 2013 and 2014 in England. Overall there was a 33% rise in syphilis and 19% rise in gonorrhoea, but among men who have sex with men the increase was even more dramatic: 46% for syphilis (n=3477) and

and 32% for gonorrhoea (n=18029). Diagnoses of chlamydia, herpes and genital warts were stable or slightly declining. There is evidence of rapid transmission of STIs in dense networks of HIV-positive MSM. A similar 35% rise in gonorrhoea episodes was reported in men in Scotland between 2013 and 2014, again thought to be due to transmission between MSM, with rectal infection accounting for 37% of all male gonorrhoea.

A fuller report is available at:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/437433/hpr2215\\_STI\\_N\\_CSP\\_v6.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/437433/hpr2215_STI_N_CSP_v6.pdf)

<http://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/documents/ewr/pdf2015/1524.pdf>

BASHH Annual Conference: The 2015 BASHH Annual Conference in Glasgow was a huge success with 600 delegates, 323 abstracts, 33 oral presentations and 254 scientific posters. It is hard to select highlights but the presentation of the PROUD data by Sheila McCormick and the memorial for Prof Martin Fisher will be remembered by many delegates. The Harrison Lecture was delivered by Dr Janet Wilson on the theme of Bacterial Vaginosis. Other conference sessions covered Trichomonas, HIV ageing and frailty, e-sexual health and sexual behaviour. The next BASHH Annual Conference will be 10-12 July 2016 in Oxford.

Guidelines: Since the last update BASHH UK has published new guidelines of interest, all available via the BASHH website [www.bashh.org/guidelines](http://www.bashh.org/guidelines) BASHH guidelines from 2015 will now use the GRADE approach to evidence rating and strength of recommendations.

- Chlamydia (June 2015): There is new advice in this guideline around repeat testing, single dose azithromycin, treatment of gonococcal co-infection, rectal chlamydia and neonatal chlamydia
- Summary of tests for STIs (April 2015)

*Airi Pöder*

## Conference Update

### *IUSTI Events:*

23rd Annual Principles of STD & HIV Research Course

location: Seattle, Washington

Dates 20-30 July 2015

<http://pshrcourse.org/>

World STI & HIV Congress 2015

Dates: September 13-16, 2015

Location: Brisbane, Australia

Website: <http://www.isstdr.org/future-meetings.php>

#### IUSTI Europe 2015

Dates: September 22-24, 2015

Location: Sitges (near Barcelona)

Website: <http://www.iusti.org/events/default.htm>

#### 2016 World IUSTI Congress

Dates: May 9-12, 2016

Location: Morocco

Website: <http://www.iusti.org/events/default.htm>

#### IUSTI Europe 2016

Dates: September 15-17, 2016

Location: Budapest, Hungary

Website: [iustimarrakesh2016.com](http://iustimarrakesh2016.com)

#### World STI & HIV Congress 2017

Dates: TBA

Location: Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Website: <http://www.isstdr.org/future-meetings.php>

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

#### 8th IAS Conference on HIV Pathogenesis, Treatment and Prevention

Dates: July 19-22, 2015

Location: Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

Website: <http://www.ias2015.org/>

#### U.S. Conference on AIDS

Dates: September 10-13, 2015

Location: Washington DC, USA

Website: [nmac.org/2015usca/](http://nmac.org/2015usca/)

#### Australasian HIV&AIDS Conference

Dates: September 16-18 2015

Location: Brisbane, Australia

Website: [www.hivaidsconference.com.au](http://www.hivaidsconference.com.au)

#### HPV 2015-- 30th International Papillomavirus Conference & Clinical and Public Health Workshops

Dates: September 17-21, 2015

Location: Lisbon, Portugal

Website: <http://www.hpv2015.org/>

#### ABC of Sexual Dysfunction

Date: October 15, 2015

Location: Manchester, UK

Website:

[http://www.bashh.org/BASHH/Education/BASHH\\_Training\\_Courses\\_and\\_Meetings/BASHH/Education/BASHH\\_Training\\_Courses\\_and\\_Meetings/Meetings/ABC\\_of\\_Sexual\\_Dysfunction.aspx](http://www.bashh.org/BASHH/Education/BASHH_Training_Courses_and_Meetings/BASHH/Education/BASHH_Training_Courses_and_Meetings/Meetings/ABC_of_Sexual_Dysfunction.aspx)

#### 24th EADV Congress

Dates: October 7-11, 2015

Location: Copenhagen, Denmark

Website: <http://www.eadv.org/nc/news/article/24th-eadv-congress//6/e0b4035c5e9ed551c9532520bf4a4035/>

#### 2015 National HIV Prevention Conference

Dates: December 6-9, 2015

Location: Atlanta, USA

Website: [www.cdc.gov/nhpc](http://www.cdc.gov/nhpc)

#### 21st International AIDS Conference

Dates: July 17-22, 2016

Location: Durban, South Africa

Website: <http://www.aids2016.org/>

#### *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)