



STI Global Update

Newsletter of the International Union against Sexually Transmitted Infections

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answers - something that doesn't always happen in face to face congresses.

I had the honour of speaking in the Opening Ceremony and then joining Sorin at the close of the first day - until sadly the internet connection at my end cut off!

President's Letter



Screenshot of the close of the first day with Professor Dr. George-Sorin Tiplica and Dr. Janet Wilson (before her internet connection cut off!)

However, that gave me the additional pleasure of being invited to join Sorin and Marti at the end of the second day where I was able to congratulate them on producing an extremely good congress.

34th IUSTI-Europe Congress 3-5th September 2020



Screenshot of the close of the second day with Dr. Marti Vall Mayans, Professor Dr. George-Sorin Tiplica and Dr. Janet Wilson

This meeting was, of course, planned to be in Bucharest, Romania, with Professor Dr George-Sorin Tiplica as the Congress President and Dr Marti Vall Mayans as the Chair of the Scientific Committee. Sadly, because of COVID-19 it was impossible to hold a face to face conference and the meeting was converted to a virtual one at relatively short notice. This is the first large virtual congress that I have 'attended' and, having been sceptical of the interactive experience and educational value I might get from a virtual congress I am pleased report that my doubts were completely unfounded. The balance of the pre-recorded talks with live question and answer sessions using the questions posted on-line by the delegates worked very well. As the talks were pre-recorded, the sessions ran absolutely to time so that there was always space for the questions and

Next meeting of the World Executive Committee to be held as virtual meeting on Monday 12th October 2020

Our World Executive Committee meetings are usually held at the IUSTI World Congresses. However, as the World IUSTI Congress which was due to be held in Bangkok in December 2020 has been postponed until December 2021, our 2020 World Executive Committee meeting will be virtual and held on Monday 12 October 2020. The business of the meeting will include the same issues as normal but the order will be adapted to fit in with the time zones of the people presenting specific topics.

My past year as President

I took over the IUSTI Presidency at the General

Assembly meeting held in Vancouver on 15th July 2019. The first seven months were very busy but of course the past eight months have been quite unexpected for all of us. When I became President, I told the World Executive Committee that I would:

1. **Support the regions by attending as many Regional meetings as possible**

I attended, and presented, at:

- IUSTI-Europe in Tallinn 5-7 September 2019
- LAC Regional meeting in Brazil 22-25 September 2019
- IUSTI Asia-Pacific in Shanghai 23-26 October 2019
- IUSTI-Europe (virtual) 3-5 September 2020

2. **Improve the profile of IUSTI and communications with WHO by attending and tabling a question at the World Health General Assembly**

The WHO General Assembly in May 2020 was a virtual meeting focussed on COVID-19 issues, so I was unable to attend in person or table a question. However, IUSTI was given the opportunity to submit a written statement which was published on the WHO website (see June Newsletter for the statement).

3. **Increasing the number of IUSTI members and the geographical spread of members**

The larger our organisation is, the greater our voice and impact with organisations such as WHO. At each of the regional meetings I have spoken at I have ended with a slide explaining how to join IUSTI. I have encouraged regions to promote IUSTI membership at their regional meetings by offering Associate Membership (which is free) to non IUSTI member delegates.

4. **Awareness ribbon for STIs and creating a World STI Day**

STIs are the 'poor relation' to HIV in the form of awareness and the amount of donor and government funding. There is no awareness ribbon badge for STIs but the World Executive Committee in October will be discussing the creation of an IUSTI awareness ribbon badge for STIs. In Brazil there is a national Syphilis Day the third Saturday of October each year. We will also discuss the possibility of introducing a 'World STI Day' and how to go about getting formal recognition of such a day.

5. **IUSTI should make its beliefs on sexual and reproductive rights clear and visible on the website**

Sadly many countries are now becoming less tolerant of LGBT+ rights, gender equality, and women's access to contraception and abortion even in countries where these are legal. I suggested, and the World Executive Committee agreed, that IUSTI should develop

a statement explaining our values and principles. Dr Dennis Fortenberry, from Indiana University School of Medicine who is an elected member of the World Executive Committee, has kindly produced this statement which we will be discussed at the World Executive Committee in October.

So, despite the difficult circumstances recently, I have managed to deliver on many of my promises and obviously I will continue to work on them throughout the next year.

Congratulations to Professor David Lewis



Professor David Lewis, a recent Past-President of IUSTI and Senior Counsellor, has been elected to join the International Society of Infectious Diseases (ISID) leadership as a 2020 Council Member for a six-year term.

The mission and structure of the International Society for Infectious Diseases (ISID) aligns well with that of IUSTI. It supports health professionals, non-government organisations, and governments around the world in their work to prevent, investigate, and manage infectious disease outbreaks when they occur. ISID has a particular focus in countries that have limited resources and which disproportionately bear the burden of infectious diseases. The ISID Council consists of up to sixty members each serving a six year term with one-third of Council membership being replaced every two years. Membership is distributed by WHO region to ensure that all regions of the world are represented in the Society's governing structure. However, ISID has over 90,000 members from over 155 countries around the world! Hopefully IUSTI can learn from ISID how to increase its geographical coverage and membership numbers.

IUSTI has a nominated link-person with the International League of Dermatology for those whose background is working in Dermatovenereology (Professor Angelika Stary). Although David's position is not an official link with ISID, having him on the Council will raise the importance of STIs in the international infectious diseases field.

Janet Wilson, IUSTI-World President

News

WHO Gonococcal Vaccine Preferred Product Characteristics Consultation

Development of one or more vaccines against *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* is an important goal for sexual and reproductive health and for the fight against antimicrobial resistance.

In consultation with global partners, WHO has developed draft preferred product characteristics (PPCs) for gonococcal vaccines. WHO PPC documents provide guidance on WHO's preferences for new vaccines in priority disease areas, including from the perspective of low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). Articulation of product attributes that meet the needs of LMICs, while also addressing concerns of high-income countries, can advance development of vaccines that are suitable for global use.

The draft WHO Gonococcal Vaccine PPC document has now been posted for public comment on the link provided below, and we kindly invite the public to review and comment on the draft document through **Monday, October 26, 2020**.

Direct link to draft gonococcal vaccine PPCs: https://www.who.int/immunization/research/ppc-tpp/Gonococcal_vaccine_PPCs_for-public-comment.pdf

Direct link to comment form: https://www.who.int/immunization/research/ppc-tpp/Gonococcal_Vaccine_PPCs_Comment_Form_29-Sept_2020.doc

Additional information about WHO vaccine PPCs are available here: https://www.who.int/immunization/research/ppc-tpp/preferred_product_characteristics/en/

Please share your comments using the *Gonococcal Vaccine PPCs Comment Form*, at the provided link above, to Nita Bellare (bellaren@who.int) with the Subject line: '*Gonococcal vaccine PPCs comments*'. All comments received through the October 26 deadline will be considered.

Regional Reports

Asia Pacific

E-ASTICON 2020 (Virtual conference) was the first national e-conference of the "INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF SEXUALLY

TRANSMITTED DISEASES & AIDS" (IASSTD & AIDS), held on 13-Sept-2020 (Sunday).

E-ASTICON 2020 was special in view of COVID 19 pandemic:

- complementary Registration for all
- number of registered delegates- 2223
- number of faculty from all over India- 47



Virtual Inaugural Ceremony of e-ASTICON

Dr. Kamal Faour, an IUSTI-AP EXCO member, and Vice-Chair West Asia Sub-region of IUSTI, passed away on January 13th 2020. He hosted the 15th IUSTI Asia Pacific Conference as a Joint Congress together with the Annual International Infectious Disease Congress in Dubai in February 2008. It was the first and the only IUSTI conference in the Middle East. More than 500 delegates participated in that meeting. The Dubai conference was highly successful and he organised it successfully in spite of financial constraints.

Dr. Four was born in Acre, Palestine. He was 72 years old, when he lost his battle to cancer after putting up a good fight. He had a kind and gentle soul, was a storyteller, a great friend to all and a passionate physician.



Dr. Kamal Four is survived by three sons and a daughter

He was a very friendly, open hearted person who attended many IUSTI world and regional meetings. I shared dinner table with him and his wife on several occasions. Once he invited me to come to Mukala, a coastal town in Yemen to speak in a WHO Middle East and North Africa meeting on STI and with the help of local hosts, he ensured the safety of faculty who he had invited to this troubled land, with personalized care.



Kamal Four with Somesh Gupta and colleagues from Bahrain during the international conference on STD/HIV in cooperation with WHO Regional Office (EMRO), 1 - 4 February 2010 in Mukalla, Yemen

I fondly remember a few moments during IUSTI Europe in Milan; walking back with him from the dinner venue, a restaurant, to our respective hotels late in the night. We walked for half an hour quietly but enjoyed each other's company in silence. I feel it as a personal loss and his departure has created a vacuum for IUSTI in Middle-East, which will be difficult to fill in the near future.

Somesh Gupta

Europe

The 34th IUSTI-Europe Congress: Taming the tide of STIs and HIV

"A different kind of Congress." That was in my mind since I start working on the application for organizing the Congress. Again, returning home, in Bucharest, from the splendid IUSTI-Europe Congress in Tallinn, I was thinking that the only chance for the Congress in Bucharest to be remembered was to be different. But I was not envisaging such difference! The COVID-19 pandemic was announced in March 2020 and, one after the other, the European countries entered in lockdown. The situation was closely monitored by the organizers and the IUSTI-Europe leadership. For some time, it was believed that the first week of September will offer a window of opportunity and an island of normality, making possible a face-to-face meeting.

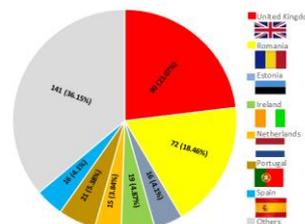


Unfortunately, the development of new cases, even in the hottest summer days, triggered the decision to organize a virtual congress. It was the difficult task of the Scientific Committee to organize in a short time an attractive one-track Program.

The Organizing Committee was under constant pressure to make the necessary changes and adaptations. The hotel rooms reservations were canceled, the venues preparations were annulled and the training for the special tailored social events was stopped. Hopefully, all members of the team were in good spirits and nobody was going suicidal even if the financial terms were darker and darker than darker. Most of the sponsors decided to drastically diminish their contributions, or to ask for total refund and many other traditional contributors of IUSTI-Europe events preferred arrangements for future scientific meetings. Having this in mind, the organizers are deeply thankful to the whole group of sponsors interested to maintain an active connection with the prescribing health professionals.

The Congress sessions were prepared by the experienced Chair of the International Scientific Committee – Dr. Marti Vall Mayans. In a perfectly coordinated effort, ALL invited speakers essentially contributed with excellent pre-recorded talks. The 34th IUSTI-Europe Congress was not only the first virtual meeting of our IUSTI branch but also the first one to harbor a joint symposia with the biggest European scientific association of dermatovenereologists – the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology (EADV). I hope that these excellent relations, advocated by two founding members of EADV: Dr. Derek Freedman and Dr. Michael Waugh - also involved in the development of IUSTI, will flourish during the next events organized by the Academy or by IUSTI-Europe.

As in the previous years, the IUSTI-Europe Congress received the support of WHO, ECDC and BASHH. Even in the COVID-19 pandemic extraordinary conditions, specialists from WHO and ECDC demonstrated, once again, the relevance of STIs and HIV infection. BASHH gracefully accepted to organize a special workshop and promoted our event across UK. The organizers are grateful to all European and Worldwide STI Associations who distributed our messages to their members. There were 390 participants from 44 countries attending the virtual 34th IUSTI-Europe Congress.



Participants at the 34th IUSTI-Europe Congress – country distribution

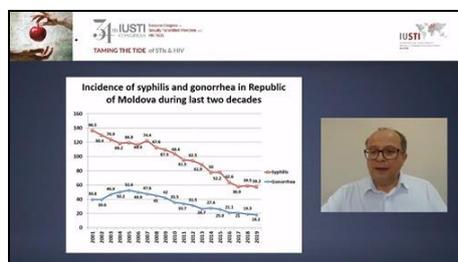
The virtual meeting gives an unbelievably detailed view of the participants' activities. In total, there were 2922 views during the Congress, with more than 320 individual participants watching for more than 60 min / day.

	Total connect	Peak viewers	Average time watch
Day 1	1522	229	60 min
Day 2	769	178	110 min
Day 3	631	135	100 min
All days	2922	324	

Viewers during the Congress

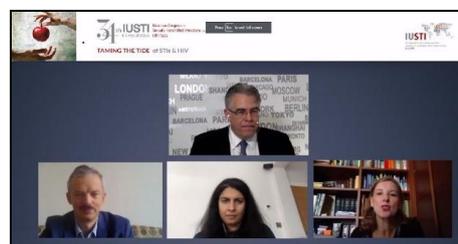
As a virtual meeting, the Congress did not end on the 5th of September but one month later. All presentations and discussions were available “on demand” for the Congress participants and for the 29 beneficiaries of the grants offered by the organizers for two physicians from each European country represented in the IUSTI-Europe region. In the end, the organizers demonstrated a proof of concept that international STI congresses in a virtual format can be financially viable.

The first day of the Congress started with the thematic workshops. Workshop 1 was dedicated to the actual epidemiological aspects of STIs in Europe. Joining a group of epidemiologists from Timisoara headed by Prof. Emilian Popovici, there was a report from Russia presented by Prof. Vladimir Kovalyuk and one from the Republic of Moldova presented by Prof. Mircea Betiu.



The session ended with Dr. Simon Barton, Ceri Evans and Marian Nicholson - director of the Herpes Viruses Association, discussing the support needed by the patient with genital herpes. The second workshop was dedicated to the traditional WHO and ECDC collaboration with IUSTI. Dr. Miljana Grbic - the head of the WHO Country Office Romania, explained the concept of the session. Dr. Otilia Mardh (ECDC) together with Dr. Nicole Seguy (WHO) and Prof. Alexandru Rafila (WHO) presented some of the results from the international campaigns against STIs and also the WHO perspective on STIs. Workshop 3 was dedicated to the advances in syphilis. The excellent clinical presentations delivered by Dr. Daniel Richardson, Prof. Pille Konno and Dr. Marco Cusini were followed by the talk of Prof. Lorenzo Giacani dedicated to the research of a syphilis vaccine. Workshop 4 committed to Prep

HIV was prepared in the background by Prof. Deniz Gokengin and Dr. Pep Coll. The speakers of this marvelous session were Dr. Teymor Noori, Dr. David Kakhaber and Dr. Pep Coll. The last workshop of the event was dedicated to the update of STIs guidelines, reflecting the activity of the IUSTI-Europe Guideline Editorial Board, coordinated by Dr. Keith Radcliffe. This traditional session, organized by Dr. Keith Radcliffe and Prof. Michel Janier, included not only the dedicated talks on gonorrhoea made by Prof. Magnus Unemo, lymphogranuloma venereum presented by Prof. Henry de Vries and the syphilis update done by Dr. Raj Patel but also aspects on the IUSTI-Europe guidelines implementation at national level with examples from Portugal presented by Dr. Carmen Lisboa and Lithuania given by Prof. Vesta Kucinskiene. This year, the close relations between IUSTI-Europe and the British Association for Sexual Health and HIV (BASHH) were straightened even more by a BASHH Symposia dedicated to the sexual health for transgender and gender diverse people. Under Dr. Kate Nambiar coordination, Dr. Ford Hickson, Dr. Aseel Hegazi and Dr. Mark Pakianathan discussed about the health inequalities in gender and sexual minorities. At the end of the day, the ceremonial opening session started with a presentation of the most notable events in the history of IUSTI-Europe gracefully presented by the IUSTI-Europe Regional Director Prof. Airi Poder. The introduction to the Romanian dermato-venereology was made by the Congress President – Prof. George Sorin Tiplica. Dr. Janet Wilson – the IUSTI World President has kept the promise to actively take part in all IUSTI events of her mandate. Her presentation on the IUSTI contribution to the worldwide STI care perfectly integrated to the talks of Prof. Christopher Fairley on the new strategies for taming the time of STIs and of Prof. Derek Freedman oriented to the future problems of STIs and HIV. The evening closed with the extraordinary presentation on the art perspectives for STIs delivered by Prof. Catalin Balescu – the Rector of the Bucharest National University of Arts.



The second day of the Congress started with a plenary session chaired by Dr. Claudia Heller Vitouch – IUSTI-Europe Chair. The interesting talks of this session were delivered by Prof. Pavel Chernyshov – on the HPV knowledge among Ukrainian students, by Dr. John White on the STI services in a post-COVID world, by Dr. Uta Hartgill

on resistance based guidance therapy and by Prof. Mikhail Gomberg – on bacterial vaginosis. The next session was dedicated to STI genomics / typing and was coordinated by Prof. Magnus Unemo. The actual stage of fundamental medical research in syphilis was presented by Dr. Mathew Beale. The intervention of Dr. Leonor Sanchez-Buso was focused on *N. gonorrhoea* and the one of Dr. Helena Seth-Smith was dedicated to her research on *Chlamydia trachomatis*. The next plenary session was chaired by Dr. Marti Vall-Mayans and included outstanding presentations given by Prof. Andrew Finlay on the impact of skin disease on the sexual life of patients, by Dr. Michael Waugh on the historical development of IUSTI, by Dr. Jacquie Sherrard on vaginal discharge and by Dr. Marti Vall Mayans on STIs and SARS-CoV2 infection. The first EADV-IUSTI Europe Symposium was open by Prof. Alexandros Stratigos – EADV president elect. Underlining the importance of the STIs and the necessity to further develop the knowledge in this field he invited the key-note speakers of this Symposia to share their remarkable experience in penile dermatoses – Prof. Christopher Bunker, in lichen sclerosus vulvae Dr. Michael Boffa, in genital ulcers – Prof. Electra Nicolaidou and in HPV genital infection – Prof. Mihael Skerlev. The day ended with a review of the day talks made by Dr. Janet Wilson, Dr. Marti Vall Mayans and Prof. George-Sorin Tiplica who also encouraged the participants to visit the whole Congress Platform which includes the Industry Expo and the Poster corner.



The last day of the Congress started early in the morning with the “Free Communications” session chaired by Dr. Valeska Padovese, Dr. Sinja Kristiansen and Dr. Claire Dewsnap. The presentations covered a wide range of themes from basic science, detailed epidemiology, clinical features and therapies. The following session was to share the updates on HPV with the major support offered by Prof. Jana Tresna Hercogová, Prof. Electra Nicolaidou, Dr. Alessandra Latini, Prof. Alexander Kreuter. Prof. Suzana Ljubojević Hadžavdić and Prof. Mihael Skerlev ended the session talking about the implementation of the HPV vaccine. The third session of the day gave much valuable information about “New vaccines and drugs in STI”. The speakers of this interesting session were Dr. Marti Vall Mayans, Prof. Angelika Stary, Dr. Maria Cazorla Ubals, Prof. Georg Stary,

Prof. George-Sorin Tiplica, Dr. Alexandra-Irina Butacu, Dr. Roger Paredes. Prof. Jo-Anne Dillon – the IUSTI World President Elect, ended the session with her talk on the antimicrobial resistance in *N. gonorrhoeae*. The fifth Plenary Session had an interesting new point of view in the actual HIV management presented by Prof. Cristiana Oprea and new findings about sexual transmission of COVID-19 and the impact of bacterial vaginosis in males held by Prof. Gilbert Donders. Dr. Cristina Livideanu exposed other diseases with genital involvement. Prof. Simin Aysel Florescu gave a most interesting talk on the sexual transmission of different zoonosis.



The classic “Debate” of the Congress, one of the most attended sessions, was dedicated to the *pro* or *contra* arguments of the motion: “Screening and treatment of bacterial STI is associated with AMR and should be reconsidered”. The great contribution of Dr. Rajul Patel, Prof. Chris Kenyon and Dr. Peter Greenhouse was doubled by their theatrical delivery. After the live vote of the participants the motion passed with 56% of the votes, and the most persuasive speaker was declared Prof. Chris Kenyon.

The last Plenary Session of the Congress brought together Prof. Nicolae Suciuc who analyzed HPV genital infection as a risk factor in the outcome of pregnancy with Dr. Valeska Padovese who presented her experience in the sexual health of migrants and refugees. Dr. Peter Greenhouse presented the effect of different legislative policies across European countries and Dr. Kees Rietmeijer delivered in front of the audience the consequences of a poor STI Public Health System. The session ended with a busy discussion chaired by Dr. John McSorley – President of BASHH and involving (live) all speakers of the session.

The Closing ceremony was presided by the esteemed Chair of IUSTI-Europe - Dr. Claudia Heller-Vitouch. The traditional IUSTI-Awards and IUSTI-Diplomas were announced following the directions of the Awards Committee. Dr. Jolinda de Korne-Elenbaas and Dr. HCA Zondag received the prizes offered by Prof. Henri de Vries – President of the STI and HIV 2021 World Congress. Keeping the positive aspects of the 34th IUSTI-Europe Congress that brought together with less efforts and much easier the attendees and the speakers, the IUSTI-Europe medical community is hoping that next year we will be able to meet in

Amsterdam for a face-to-face Congress. (Prof. Dr. George-Sorin Tiplica, 34th IUSTI-Europe Congress President)

Summary of the 34th IUSTI- Europe Congress on Sexually Transmitted Infections

There is always a great sense of occasion at an IUSTI – Europe Congress. Travel, new places, meeting friends and colleagues, dancing and, above all, ‘face to face’ networking and opportunities to speak with colleagues and presenters. The IUSTI – E officers and the Congress President, George Sorin Tiplica, held on to these aspirations to the very last minute to have a ‘face to face’ Congress in Bucharest. But it was impossible to stem the tide of the rising second wave of the Sars-CoV-2 pandemic in Europe.

The Scientific Programme was already well developed by Marti Vall-Mayans and Sorin. The iconic Parliament Palace was booked. What a challenge to change all this in six weeks to Virtual! George Sorin Tiplica rose to this challenge. He sourced a Virtual Congress platform provider, set up a technical team, and above all, had an indomitable spirit and determination to make the Congress succeed. There has never been a virtual IUSTI-E Congress before, and we waited with a degree of apprehension.

It proved to be a triumph. It allowed many presenters, who could not travel, to contribute to the Congress. The platform was robust, and allowed a sense of presence and engagement. The Chairs excelled with Questions and Answers. In the comfort of our homes, or the privacy of our offices, we could concentrate on the presentations, without the distractions of other people, and the attractions of museums, art galleries and tours. But we missed these distractions!

The lectures and symposia will continue to be available on the Congress website until the end of September, so we can revisit the Congress and the presentations.

The next IUSTI Europe Congress is planned for Tbilisi, Georgia, in September 2022. Hopefully, Sars-CoV-2 will have abated, and we will be free to travel. But we can also learn from the Bucharest experience and keep some of the advantages of a Virtual Congress. It allows us to reach a wider audience, especially those who have travel, time or work constraints. The presentations would be available to view over a longer time, and it would allow registrants to obtain continuing professional development points.

The way forward may be a Hybrid Congress, incorporating the advantages of both platforms- ‘face to face’ for those who can travel, and Virtual for those who cannot be present.

Airi Poder

North America

From the American STD Association (ASTDA)

ASTDA helped to sponsor the 2020 STD Prevention Conference and held our annual recognition awards ceremony on Tuesday, September 15, 2020 during the virtual conference. The award recipients for 2020 are:

- Gail Bolan, Distinguished Career Award
- Gina Ogilvie, Achievement Award
- Claire Bristow, Young Investigator Award

You can watch a video of the awards presentation event as well as a video tribute to awardee Gail Bolan on the [ASTDA website](#).



From the CDC Division of STD Prevention (DSTDP)

STD Prevention in the time of COVID-19: COVID-19 has upended so many aspects of our lives, and STD prevention is no exception, with our field shuffling resources and staff to accommodate the shifting needs of our pandemic response. CDC continues to [provide guidance](#) to STD programs so that they can provide exceptional clinical care, even when in-person contact is limited or they experience the effects of [test and lab supply shortages](#). Additionally, the STD field continues to share its expertise in contact tracing. In fact, to meet the needs of an immediate, short and efficient COVID-19 training, DSTDP/CDC, along with our National Network of Disease Intervention Training Centers and the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials in partnership with the National Coalition of STD Directors, [developed online knowledge-based and skills-based training programs](#) for contact tracers, case investigators, and their supervisors. These trainings will serve as a national resource to support a highly trained DIS workforce for local and state health departments to use in addressing emerging infectious disease threats such as COVID-19.



UPDATED! Toolkit for Technology-based Partner Services:

The [Toolkit for Technology-based STD and HIV Partner Services](#) is a general resource for health departments, community-based organizations, and others authorized to provide HIV/STD partner services to continue or improve their use of technology to trace and contact persons potentially exposed to HIV and other STDs in digital venues. The toolkit includes instructions for creating profiles and screen names, tips and techniques for contacting and interviewing clients while maintaining confidentiality, and numerous sample scripts for social networking sites, email, instant messaging, mobile devices, mobile applications, and texting.

CDC Scaling Up HIV Prevention in STD Clinics:

This summer, CDC [awarded funds to seven communities](#) to support their STD clinics to enhance HIV clinical preventative services. CDC will also leverage the infrastructure of the [National Network of Sexually Transmitted Diseases Clinical Prevention Training Centers \(NNPTC\)](#) to bolster training and technical assistance efforts. This work will help STD specialty clinics scale up quality HIV prevention services as part of the nation's ambitious federal initiative [Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America](#) (EHE), which aims to reduce new HIV infections by 90 percent by 2030. STD clinics play a vital role in EHE and provide a critical avenue to reach populations at high risk for HIV who are not engaged in HIV prevention programs or other healthcare services. STD clinics serve a high volume of racial/ethnic minorities, gay and bisexual men, and transgender people and have become a primary source of STD and HIV prevention services for people without regular access to care. CDC began this work in 2019 in [three jumpstart sites](#).

2020 Virtual STD Prevention Conference:

The first-ever virtual STD Prevention Conference has come and gone. Throughout the two-week conference, we tackled the biggest topics and trends in STD prevention – including the impact of COVID on our field; racism and its insidious impact on public health; and innovations in testing and treatment - and built connections with new colleagues. For more recollections of the conference, you can find *Dear Colleague Letters* on CDC's [website](#).



Although the live action is over, there is still plenty of content available on-demand on the [conference website](#) for those who are registered. [Continuing education credit](#) will be available for all plenary and mini-plenary sessions and the clinical case series. To receive CE for CMWC4311 – 2020 STD Prevention Conference, you must complete the activity and [evaluation](#).

From the National Coalition of STD Directors (NCS)



[STD Engage](#) December 1-4, 2020 has moved to a virtual platform. NCS's Annual Meeting is the U.S.'s only national meeting that brings together state and local STD prevention and sexual health professionals, and their community-based partners and allies. STD Engage is an opportunity to expand your professional skills and knowledge base in current and emerging STD science, research, policy and best practices.



[COVID-19 and the State of the STD Field Phase II](#)

NCS published a follow-up report highlighting the STD field's ongoing, longer term response to COVID-19 and what effect this response has had and will continue to have on the nation's STD programs and the work of DIS.

[Testing Beyond the Clinic Webinar Series](#) NCS hosted a series of webinars dedicated to non-clinic based self-collected STD and HIV testing.

From IUSTI-Canada

IUSTI Canada Webinar Series:

IUSTI Canada will be initiating a webinar series by hosting a webinar on "Charting a Career in Reproductive and Sexual Health: Lessons from a Black Canadian Female Scientist" on Oct 1, 2020. Dr. Ogilvie will discuss her research career in Canada, and shares her reflections and lessons

learned through her journey of building an academic career in the field of STIs, HIV and HPV as a Black female scientist. Dr Ogilvie is winner of the 2020 **ASTDA Achievement Award**, presented to a person at mid-career to acknowledge an outstanding body of work in sexually transmitted diseases or to an individual for a single major achievement in the field.

Dr. Gina Ogilvie, MD MSc FCFP DrPH is a professor at the University of British Columbia School of Population and Public Health and holds a Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Global Control of HPV-Related Disease and Cancer. Dr. Ogilvie has been influential in setting and directing health policy on reproductive health, sexually transmitted infections, HPV screening, and the HPV vaccine, both in Canada and globally. Her clinical and research focus is on sexually transmitted infections, human papillomavirus, HIV in women and care for marginalized populations. The webinar will not be recorded

A webinar about syphilis with Dr Ameeta Singh will take place later this autumn.

COVID-19 Survey:

USTI Canada, in partnership with the Canadian Public Health Association and the Canadian AIDS Treatment Information Exchange, will be holding a survey on the effects of COVID-19 lockdowns on STI and HIV in Canada. Survey measurements will be at the height of COVID-19 and will address the most severe/restrictive of public health measures taken in response to COVID-19 at local levels between March 2020 and June 2020, and again between July 2020 and September 2020. Responses will be evaluated in comparison with usual, average workload at the same time during previous years.

From the American Sexual Health Association (ASHA)



ASHA participated in public health observations over the summer and early fall including Men's Health Month (June); World Sexual Health Day (September 4th); and Gynecologic Cancer Awareness Month (September). Activities included dedicated pages on our websites offering resources for each observation and social media campaigns. #MensHealth #WSHD2020 #GCAM

We co-sponsored the [2020 Contraceptive Technology Conference](#) in September. The conference transitioned from a traditional meeting format to one that's virtual so our Zoom skills are now par excellence! Utilizing a variety of teaching approaches including case study discussions, panel debates, and concurrent workshops, this year's meeting presented up-to-date evidence and explored practical solutions to common clinical dilemmas on a range of topics including service delivery in a time of COVID, fibroid management, and reproductive justice in family planning care.

[Understanding Cervical Cancer Prevention](#) is an interactive patient education tool developed with our partners at UCLA and the University of California-Irvine. This tool was recently updated and is designed to remove much of the mystery from the screening process so patients feel comfortable to speak-up, have better interactions with their health care team, and have a more clear understanding of what screening tests involve and what they seek to detect. Available in English and Spanish, this [activity has two tracks](#): one to cover the basics of cervical cancer screening and another for those with screening test results that require follow-up (like an abnormal Pap test and/or positive HPV tests).

Brad Stoner

Conference Update

IUSTI Events:

IUSTI Asia-Pacific Congress
 Dates: 1-4 December 2021
 Location: Bangkok, Thailand
 Website: To be confirmed

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.
Prof. Jonathan Ross, Editor
jonathan.ross@uhb.nhs.uk

Further information on the activities of IUSTI available at www.iusti.org