



Virtual STI & HIV 2021 World Congress



July 14 - 17, 2021

 **FINAL REPORT**

Organized by:

This bi-annual meeting dedicated to STI in its broadest sense will be organized by the International Society for STD Research (ISSTD) in collaboration with the International Union against STI World (IUSTI World), just like earlier editions.



Hosted by:



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Introduction & Summary by the Congress President

Author: Prof. Dr. Henry de Vries

On behalf of all those involved in the organization of the recently held conference, it is with joy that I present you this report. We can look back on a very successful meeting with lots of inspiration, interaction and food for thought that we can use to improve our research endeavors, our service delivery and sexual health policies for the years ahead. In the light of the COVID-19 pandemic, we had to work under straining conditions. Yet, it is under hardship that innovation flourishes and new “out of the box” ideas emerge. We truly hope that the conference has brought you just that!

The Foreplay

It was 4 years ago with the winning of the bid in Rio de Janeiro to organize the 2021 meeting that we decided we wanted to focus the conference on the role of cities in STI epidemics. We chose sexual diversity & the city as the theme of the meeting, to stage cities not only as focus areas of the STI&HIV epidemics but also as places where solutions can emerge. The second goal we to introduce community engagement into the conference. In many HIV&AIDS conferences where communities are part of the meeting. This has grown from the early days of the AIDS epidemic when activist groups such as Act Up & Gay Men’s Health Crisis demanded access to the science and wanted a say in the development of treatment.

Early on, we started to collaborate with the International AIDS Society to try and bring our delegates together and learn from one another. Since our meeting was planned the week before the International AIDS Society meeting in Berlin, we envisioned to hire a train compartment to bring over delegates from Amsterdam to Berlin on an STI&HIV night express. Yet, starting early 2020 all our plans had to be revised with the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic and all consequential travel restrictions imposed.

The year before the start of the meeting was a tense year. Could we continue and plan an in-person meeting? In the summer things looked bright with very low numbers of COVID-19 cases and a lift of the lock down measures, at least in The Netherlands. Yet, dark clouds re-emerged in the fall and all hope that an in-person meeting would be possible in 2021 evaporated. By October we decided to focus fully on the organization of a virtual meeting and try to take advantage of its possibilities, but to also face the down sides of an online meeting with creative solutions.

The Format

Due to its size, previous STI&HIV meetings had 4 to 5 parallel session tracks to create space for all presentations. As a result, delegates couldn’t see all the content they would like to. Therefore, we decided to pre-record all scientific content well in advance and make it accessible to the delegates 2 weeks in advance of the opening day of the meeting

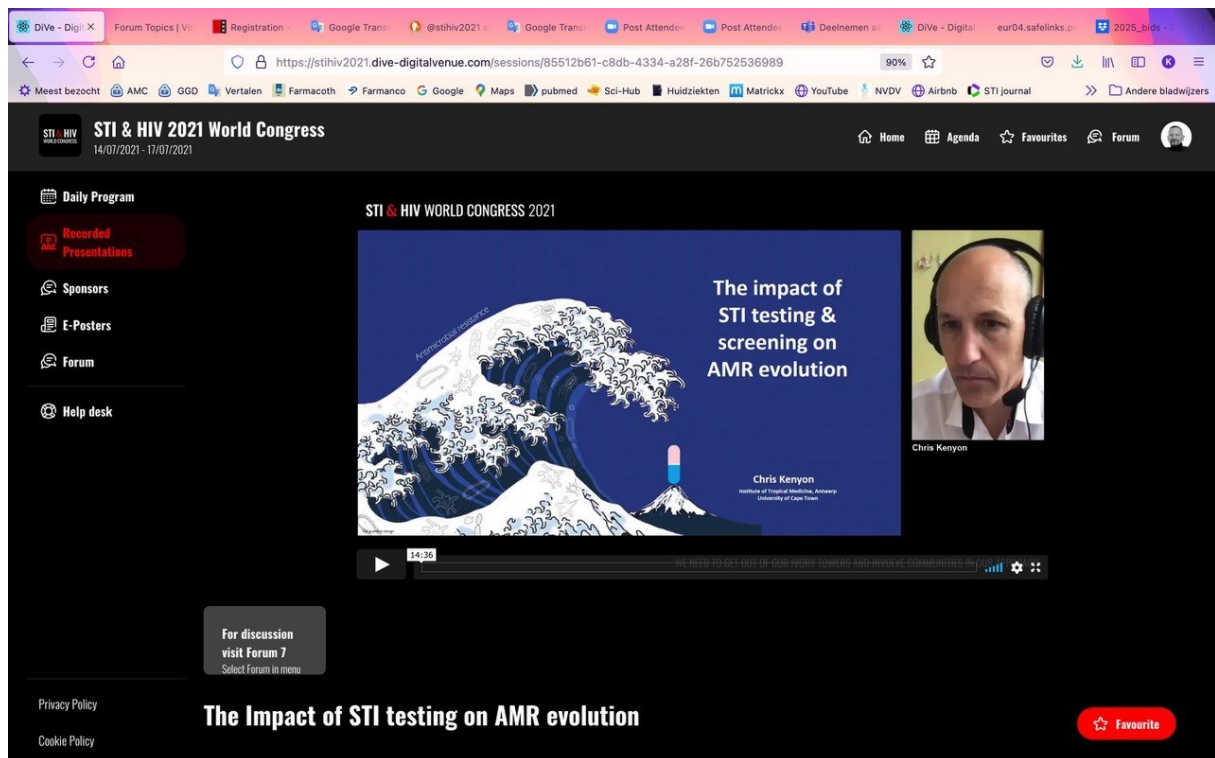


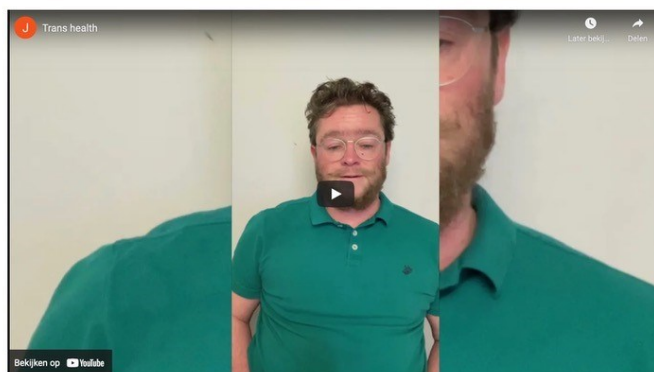
Figure 1 Screenshot of a prerecorded presentation

This gave delegates the opportunity to delve into all presentations & posters whenever and wherever at their own convenience. Moreover, all recordings will remain accessible via the conference platform until October!

To engage communities, early on in the preparation of the conference we established a Community Engagement Committee and sought Ambassadors as local community representatives. Together with the International Scientific Committee they helped to create the program. Several community representatives gave plenaries like Shruta Rawat on the importance of community engagement, and Bakita Kashada and participatory practices in research. We encouraged community members working in the field of STI & HIV to submit practice-based abstracts to share their work. Via social media campaigns we invited community representatives to register free of charge and join the conference. We made short video clips comprising of interviews with community members & scientists on a variety of topics like your first STI experience, Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP), sex work, and the future of STI care. You can still see these clips [here](#) via the conference website



CHALLENGES IN TRANSGENDER CARE?



Transgender persons are stigmatized and discriminated across the globe.

They have special health needs that are often hard to come by. Transgender health is an under explored topic. More research is necessary to



Figure 2 Community engagement clip on transgender health).

To engage the delegates, we created live talk shows during the conference. According to a central theme we selected 6 presenters and 3 experts, including a community representative, to discuss topics such as the impact of COVID-19 on STI care, PrEP, transgender health, gonorrhea & syphilis



Figure 3 Talk show on HIV testing and care to diverse communities).

Each presenter gave a 3-minute recap on their work, followed by a reply from the experts, and a 30-minute Q&A with the live audience. The concept worked really well & has the potential to be incorporated in future editions of the STI&HIV World Conference.

The Figures

In total just over 1000 delegates registered including 95 community representatives. We had delegates from 64 countries. We prerecorded 18 plenary presentations, 55 invited presenters for 11 symposia, 120 presentations for 20 abstract driven sessions 20, and 300 ePosters.

The live part of the conference comprised of 8 talk shows. We had 2 debates around anti-microbial stewardship in STI management. One debate was on the abandonment of dual therapy in favor of monotherapy for the treatment of uncomplicated gonorrhea. A majority of the live audience voted to abandon treatment with ceftriaxone plus azithromycin since there is no compelling evidence that it impedes the emergence of ceftriaxone resistance, yet there is evidence that it induces azithromycin resistance in many pathogens. The other debate was on the abandonment of chlamydia screening for asymptomatic persons. A majority voted against this proposition.

Together with the International AIDS Society we organized 2 joint ISSTD/IAS sessions during the STI&HIV conference and a joint session the week after during the IAS meeting from Berlin. We had 7 Satellite Workshops on the last day of the conference, including the launch of the new WHO guideline for the syndromic management of symptomatic STI infections. There was a BASHH symposium and a highly successful IUSTI Europe Advanced Course which attracted over 750 delegates. The ASTDA held their traditional Awards Luncheon during which Kees Rietmeijer received his lifetime achievement award.

We had 67 scholarship recipients for which we organized 2 dedicated scholarship webinars on writing a scientific paper with contributions from Bill Miller, chief editor of STD journal, and on obtaining research grants with the help of Carolyn Deal from NIH

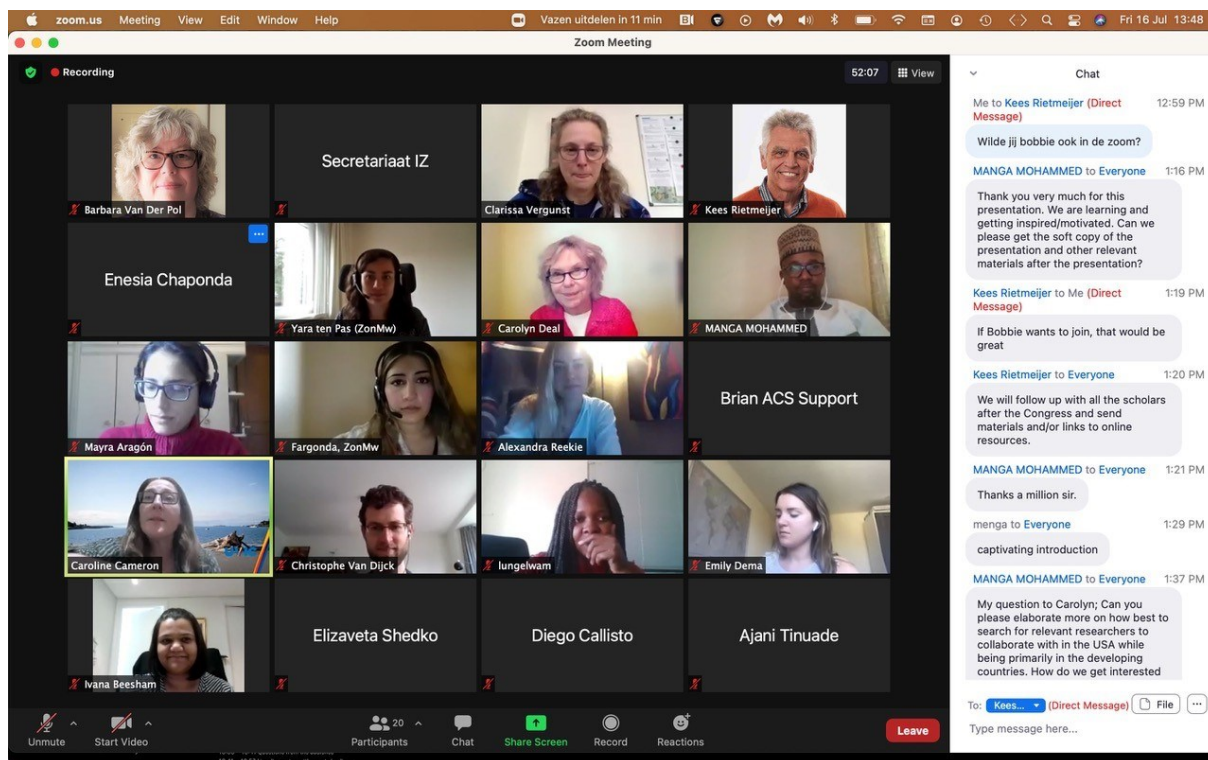


Figure 4 Scholar webinar on how to successfully obtain a research grant

To accommodate all scholars in the various time zones, each webinar was repeated 3 times.

The Future

So, what can we learn from this meeting for the future? I would like to highlight 4 main topics: Antimicrobial resistance (AMR), PrEP, Person Centered Healthcare & sex positive provider attitude, and the impact of COVID-19 on STI services.

With the emergence of antimicrobial resistance, we are like bunnies looking into the headlights of a fast-approaching car. There is growing concern, especially where it involves gonorrhea resistance for ceftriaxone, our last empirical first line option. Not only was this addressed in the above-mentioned debates, but also in the WHO launch of the new symptomatic STI management guideline. We see a shift from syndromic towards presumptive STI management. The use of rapid diagnostics (where available) should lead to a more rational use of antibiotics, instead of having to rely on symptoms only. The call for user friendly, affordable and reliable rapid tests is urgent, especially for gonorrhea, trichomoniasis and chlamydia.

The introduction of PrEP has had a big impact on STI service delivery. Apart from the strong effect on HIV prevention, PrEP offers the opportunity for long term person centered STI & sexual health care delivery with emphasis on syndemic components including substance use & mental health. Many persons indicated for PrEP suffer from discrimination, stigma and violence; topics that should be addressed holistically. There were a lot of studies presented on the implementation of PrEP including the first 3 of the 5 stages of the PrEP care continuum: awareness, acceptability and uptake. Yet, to make PrEP truly sustainable, more research is required into the last 2 steps: adherence & retention. Also, most PrEP research focused on cis-gender men who have sex with men & too little on other groups such as cis-gender women and trans-gender persons.

Overall, the advocacy from the community representatives to normalize STI was strong. Having an STI can be part of a happy sex life and a sex positive attitude should be part of a healthcare providers' perspective. This implies the need for person centered non-judgmental sexual health services & research focused on the needs & wishes of key populations. This was especially felt for trans-gender sexual health care

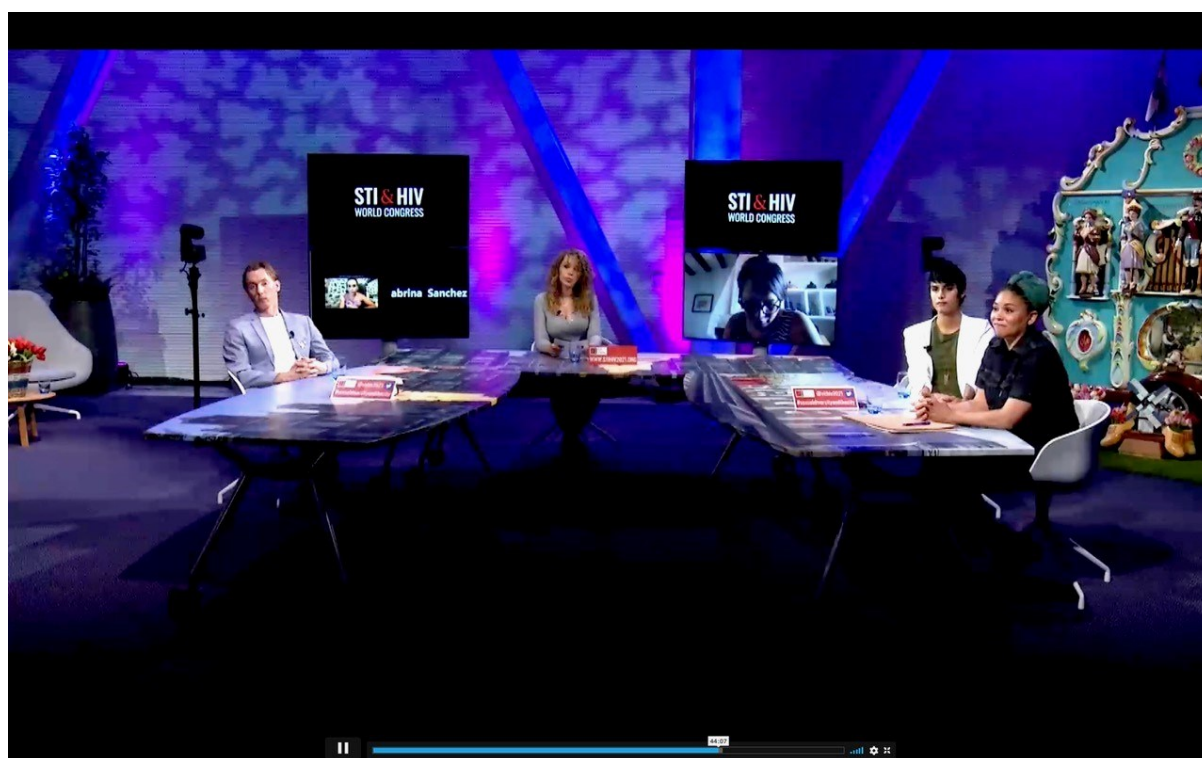


Figure 5 Talk show on trans gender health

Depathologizing transgenderism, training and more awareness of healthcare providers is required to fully support trans gender persons. In particular this also applies to key populations of color who are far more likely to face violence, inequity in access to healthcare, be it trans-gender persons, men who have sex with men, or sex workers.

The most popular talk show was on COVID-19 and its impact on service delivery. Moreover, we dedicated 3 recorded sessions to this topic. COVID-19 has brought us a lot of misery, like disrupted services & compromised access to care. COVID-19 further increased the socio-legal impact and criminalization of marginalized populations with a negative impact on health seeking behavior and access to care. Yet, the upside of the pandemic is that it revolutionized healthcare provision. As far as e-health online consultations and home-based testing it brought is many years ahead in a few months' time. This potentially might also open opportunities towards care provision of so called "hard-to-reach" populations. Yet, digital illiteracy is a big hurdle, that could deepen the gap between those online & offline. Finally, there were good studies on the behavioral impact of COVID-19 on an individual level: loneliness, homebased gender violence & mental health issues. Again, this is a call for person centered care, where these side effects are probably best addressed.

The future is unpredictable. It sounds like an open door, but this is what the COVID-19 pandemic has again taught us. We don't know how things will evolve and what lockdown measures will be required in the coming period. When will we be able to meet again in-person? Will this include us all, or only those who have the tremendous luxury to get vaccinated, which is absolutely not the case in every region of the world. Let's hope we can have an in-person STI&HIV World meeting in 2 years' time in Chicago



Figure 6 Studio setting with ISSTD President Bobbie van der Poll and past ISSTD President Henry de Vries

One thing is for sure, it will never be like the ones before the pandemic. We have learned so much in the past 2 years that should be implemented and improve the way we organize our conferences.

Congress Organization

Congress Presidents

Henry De Vries

Henry de Vries (1967) is dermatologist-venereologist with expertise in skin infections, especially sexually transmitted infections and tropical skin diseases. In 2010 he was appointed Professor of skin infections at the University of Amsterdam. He is currently employed at the Public Health Service Amsterdam STI outpatient clinic. In cooperation with the public health laboratory and research department, he leads a research group including 15 PhD students. He also works at the Department of Dermatology at the Amsterdam University Medical Centres, where every Monday he supervises the outpatient clinic for infectious diseases of the skin especially tropical skin diseases such as leishmaniasis and leprosy. He is lead author for the IUSTI European guidelines on lymphogranuloma venereum and STI related proctitis.



Janet Wilson



Dr Janet Wilson has been a specialist in Sexual Health and HIV at Leeds, UK, since 1991. She has been on the World Executive Committee of the International Union against Sexually Transmitted Infections (IUSTI) since 2007 and became President of IUSTI in July 2019. She is a Past-President of the British Association for Sexual Health and HIV (BASHH) and was a member of the group producing the 2019 BASHH National Standards for the Management of STIs. She is also co-author of several IUSTI and BASHH guidelines. Her main areas of research are the clinical application and cost-effectiveness of diagnostic tests for chlamydia, gonorrhoea and Mycoplasma genitalium, and managing recurrent vaginal infections and infections in pregnancy.

Local Organizing Committee

Henry De Vries

- Full professor with the assignment skin infections in particular leprosy University of Amsterdam;
- Advisor to the Netherlands Center for Infectious diseases control on the curative STI programme;
- Consultant Dermatologist and Medical supervisor STI outpatient clinic, Health service Amsterdam;
- Consultant Dermatologist and fellow department of Dermatology, Academic Medical Centre, University of Amsterdam;
- National representative the Netherlands for the International Union against Sexually transmitted Infections (IUSTI) Europe;
- Board member of the International Society for STD Research (ISSTD);
- Member of the board of Governors Aids Foundation and Soa Aids Nederland.

Febe Deug

- CMC, director Programs, Lobby and Grants Aidsfonds – Soa Aids Nederland
- Member H-TEAM, an alliance focused on getting Amsterdam to zero new HIV infections

Maria Oud

- Project coordinator International Affairs;
- Infectious Diseases/Staff, Public Health Service Amsterdam (Netherlands);
- Secretary of the Foundation World STI & HIV Congress 2021;
- Coordinator of the MCH Handbook Conference 2021, Amsterdam (Netherlands);
- Former secretary of the Amsterdam Planning Group for the International AIDS 2018 conference;

- Former coordinator of the ISSTD 2005 conference, Amsterdam (Netherlands).

Martin Van Oostrom

- MSc, secretary to the board Aidsfonds and Soa Aids Nederland, Amsterdam (Netherlands);
- Chair to the board of governors of chair AIDS and STI in general practice, Academic Medical Centre, Amsterdam (Netherlands);
- Secretary-treasurer, ISSTD Conference Support Foundation, Amsterdam (Netherlands);
- Chair a.i. to the Netherlands' Platform on STI and Sexual Health.

Local Scientific Committee

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Medical molecular microbiologist, PhD
Senior researcher molecular epidemiology in STI
Department of Infectious Diseases
Amsterdam Health Service, Public Health Laboratory,
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UDI DAVIDOVICH

Research & Prevention of Infectious Diseases
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Amsterdam Public Health Service &
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Director Programs, Lobby and grants national of
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Member H-TEAM, Netherlands

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National representative the Netherlands for the
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Member of the board of Governors Aids Foundation
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Coordinator of the Dutch Chlamydia trachomatis
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2009 and since 1 Jan 2014 together with Prof.dr.
Christian Hoebe (UM, Maastricht). RIVM European
CDC (ECDC) Dutch representative for Chlamydia
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Helder

International Scientific Committee

Christopher Fairley

Christopher Fairley is Director of the Melbourne Sexual Health Centre and Professor of Public Health at Monash University. He holds three specialist medical fellowships from the College of Physicians (Infectious Diseases), Faculty of Public Health and Chapter of Sexual Health Medicine. He is an editor of the Journal 'Sexual Health'. His principle research interests are the public health control of sexually transmitted diseases and the effectiveness of clinical services. He has been on the scientific organising committee for many international meetings and given plenaries, debates and symposia. He is president elect for the Chapter of Sexual Health Medicine, In 2018 he was awarded an AO, the FRACP Eric Susman prize and elected to the Fellow of the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences in recognition for his work.



Lisa Manhart



Lisa Manhart, PhD is a Professor of Epidemiology at the University of Washington (UW) and Associate Dean for Research at the UW School of Public Health. Her principle research interests include the clinical epidemiology of *Mycoplasma genitalium*, the etiology of male urethritis, and the sociobehavioral epidemiology of sexually transmitted infections. In 2017 she was received the Achievement Award from the American Sexually Transmitted Diseases Association, and in 2018 she received the Peter Hannan Award for outstanding research in clinical Mycoplasma. She also serves on the editorial board for Sexually Transmitted Disease and for Clinical Infectious Diseases. In addition to her research, she is actively involved in teaching and mentoring at the University of Washington.

Track Chairs

Helen Fifer

Dr Helen Fifer is a Consultant Microbiologist in Public Health England, where she is the clinical lead for GRASP and the *Mycoplasma genitalium* Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance Program. She is the lead author of the 2019 UK Gonorrhea management guideline as well as the editor for the 2018 UK *Mycoplasma genitalium* management guideline.

Patricia J Garcia

Dr. Patty J. García, is a Professor at the School of Public Health at Cayetano Heredia University (UPCH) in Lima-Peru and member of the US National Academy of Medicine. She is the former Minister of Health of Peru, former Dean of the School of Public Health at UPCH, and former Chief of the Peruvian National Institute of Health (INS). She is recognized as a leader in Global Health. She is affiliate Professor of the Department of Global Health, at University of Washington and of the School of Public Health at Tulane University. She is actively involved in research and training in Global health, Reproductive health, STI/HIV,

HPV and medical informatics. Dr. Garcia is also a member of the United States National Academy of Medicine, the first Peruvian professional with such a distinction.

Jeffrey Klausner

Jeffrey D. Klausner, MD, MPH, is a Professor of Preventive Medicine at the Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California. Dr. Klausner currently directs a clinical research lab and serves as the Principal Investigator on several NIH-funded clinical research studies on STI testing and prevention globally. Dr. Klausner earned his Medical Degree from Cornell University Medical College and his Master's in Public Health with a focus on International Health and Epidemiology at the Harvard School of Public Health. Dr. Klausner's research interests are in applied epidemiology and the prevention and control of infectious diseases of public health importance like HIV, STDs, SARS-CoV-2, TB, and cryptococcus.

Mirjam Kretzschmar

Mirjam Kretzschmar is a professor for Dynamics of Infectious Diseases at the University Medical Center of Utrecht University, in Utrecht, The Netherlands. She uses mathematical modelling to understand the dynamics of infectious diseases in populations. Her research interest is in dynamic networks and how they shape the epidemiology of STI and HIV. She has published on modelling impact of interventions for HIV, chlamydia, and more recently for COVID-19.

Jonathan Ross

Jonathan Ross is Professor of Sexual Health and HIV in Birmingham, UK. His research interests relate to gonorrhea, *Mycoplasma genitalium*, pelvic inflammatory disease, bacterial vaginosis and the delivery of sexual health services. He is a National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) journal library editor and treasurer of the International Union against Sexually Transmitted Infections. He is an associate editor of the journal *Sexually Transmitted Infections*, a member of the editorial board for the European Sexually Transmitted Diseases Guidelines, and on the NIHR Funding Committee for commissioned research calls. Professor Ross is the author of UK and European Guidelines on Pelvic Inflammatory Disease, and he has written a number of chapters on pelvic infection for medical textbooks. He is a member of the Editorial Board of the Cochrane Collaboration Sexually Transmitted Diseases Collaborative Review Group, and the *International Journal of STD and AIDS* journal.

Joe Tucker

Joe Tucker, MD, PhD, AM is an infectious diseases physician interested in syphilis, crowdsourcing, open innovation, China, and public engagement in research. He has a special interest in mentorship and has academic appointments at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Sponsorship Committee

Ronald Berends, Strategic Policy Officer Aidsfonds – STI AIDS Netherlands, Chair Nationaal Congres Soa*Hiv*Seks

Udi Davidovich, Department of Research at the Public Health Service of Amsterdam in association with the University of Amsterdam, department of Social Psychology.

Febe Deug, Director Programs, Lobby and grants national of Aidsfonds – Soa Aids Nederland; and member of the H-team: an alliance focused on getting Amsterdam to zero new HIV infections.

Pepijn Klerkx, Managing director, Congress Care

Servaas Morre, Head of the Laboratory of Immunogenetics VUmc, Amsterdam, Director of the Institute of Public Health Genomics (University of Maastricht)

Martin Van Oostrom, Company secretary to Aidsfonds – Soa Aids Nederland, Amsterdam. Chair a.i. to the Netherlands' Platform on STI and Sexual Health, chair to the board of governors of chair AIDS and STI in general practice of UMC Amsterdam and secretary-treasurer of ISSTD Conference Support Foundation.

Barbara (Bobbie) Van Der Pol, Professor of Medicine and Public Health at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Congress Secretariat



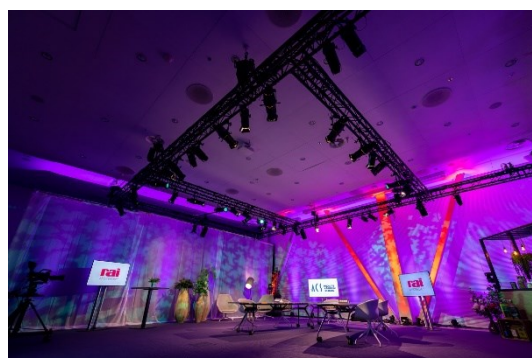
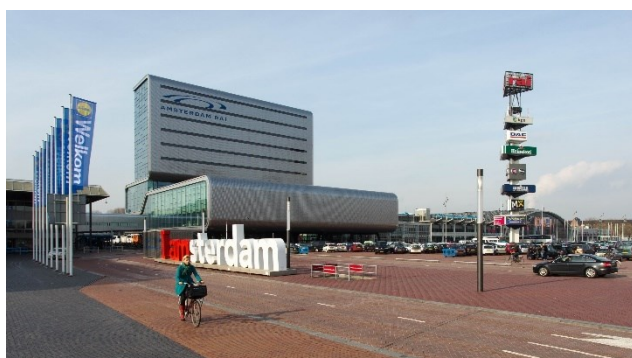
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Congress Venue & Studio

The STI & HIV Word Congress 2021 was being broadcasted live from the RAI Congress Centre, Amsterdam. In cooperation with ACS Audio visual solutions, a professional TV-studio was being set up.

The RAI Amsterdam is a multi-functional congress and exhibition centre, located in Amsterdam. Initially, this venue was selected to host the physical edition of the STI&HIV World Congress 2021. Eventually, the venue – together with ACS – has been used for and transformed into a studio location. Some of the faculty and board has been able to join live.



Registration

Registration types

In EUR (€)	Early (until 5 April)	Regular (from 6 April until 24 May)	Late (from 25 May)
General	345	395	445
IAS member	295	345	395
IUSTI full member	295	345	395
Postgraduates / students*	170	195	220
Low and lower-middle income countries**	50	75	100

*If you opt for the student rate, you will need to upload a student card. Postgraduates have to provide a written certification by the head of department.

**This rate is applied to individuals (no group registrations) from low and lower-middle income countries according to the World Bank listing available at [the website of the World Bank](#).

Registration statistics

By registration type

	early	regular	late	total
General	214	77	51	342
IAS member	40	11	12	63
IUSTI full member	73	26	26	125
Postgraduates / students	87	22	11	120
Low and lower-middle income countries	16	15	11	42
IUSTI EU Course		194		194
Scholarships		66		66
Community registrations		48		48
Complimentary (faculty, exhibitors, etc.)		142		142
Total				1.142

Top 10 countries by registration numbers

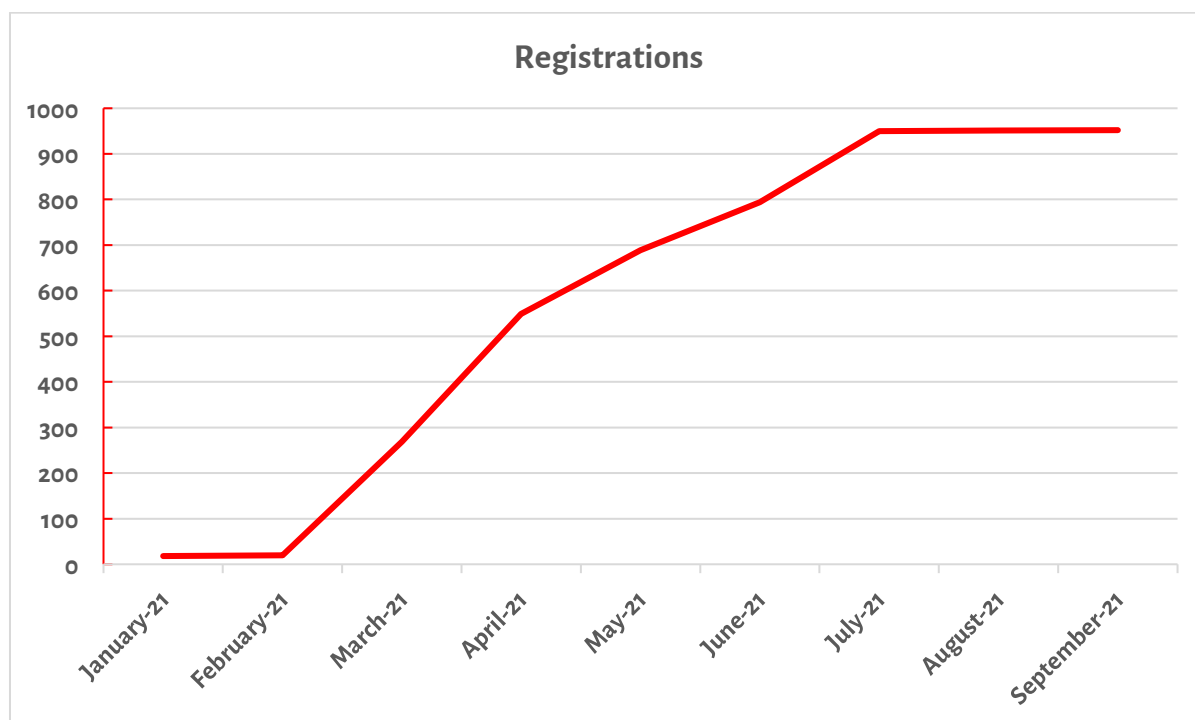
Country	Number	Country	Number
United States	276	China	20
the Netherlands	125	South Africa	14
United Kingdom	110	India	14
Canada	63	Ireland	12
Australia	56	Switzerland	12

Registration numbers, all countries

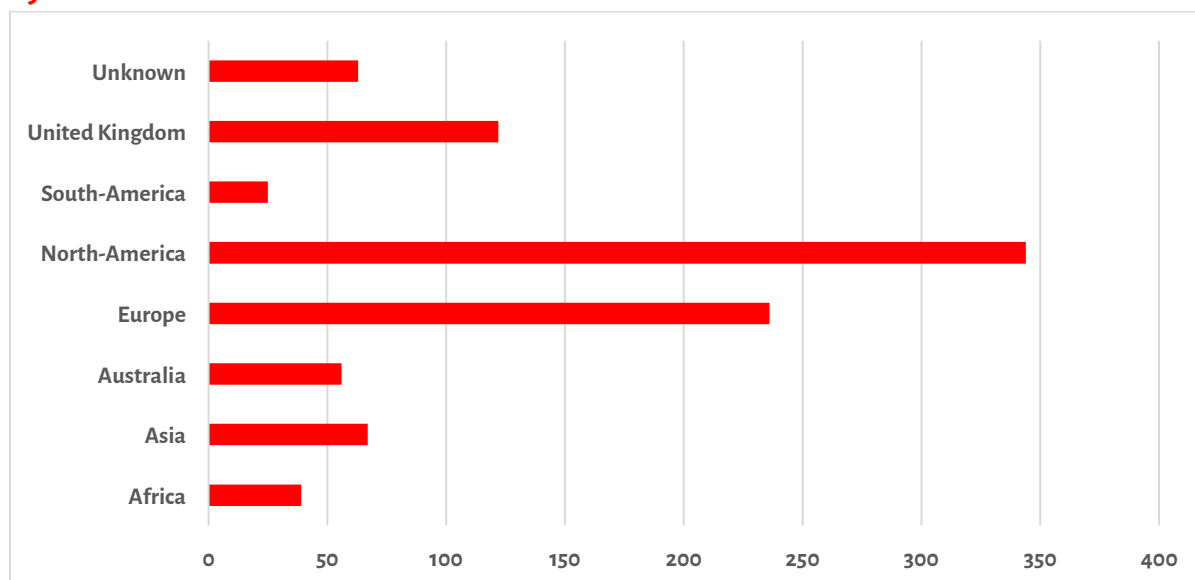
Country	Number	Country	Number	Country	Number
Argentina	1	Ghana	1	Peru	6
Australia	56	Greece	4	Portugal	3
Austria	7	Hungary	1	Qatar	5
Bangladesh	2	Iceland	2	Romania	2
Belgium	11	India	14	Russia	4
Benin	2	Indonesia	3	Senegal	1
Botswana	2	Ireland	12	Singapore	4
Brazil	11	Israel	2	Slovenia	2
Bulgaria	1	Italy	11	South Africa	14
Cameroon	2	Japan	2	Spain	4
Canada	63	Kenya	4	Sri Lanka	1
Chile	3	Latvia	1	Suriname	2
China	20	Lebanon	1	Sweden	6
Colombia	4	Lithuania	1	Switzerland	12
Croatia	2	Macedonia	1	Tanzania, United Republic of	1
Czech Republic	1	Malawi	1	Thailand	3
Denmark	3	Malaysia	1	the Netherlands	125
El Salvador	1	Malta	1	Uganda	4
Estonia	3	Mozambique	1	Ukraine	9
Ethiopia	1	New Zealand	5	United Kingdom	110
Finland	2	Nigeria	4	United States	276
France	5	Norway	2	Unknown	63
Georgia	2	Pakistan	3	Zambia	1
Germany	7	Panama	2	Zimbabwe	2

By registration date

Development of registration numbers over the year. Contains scientific registrations only (ex. exhibitors, community registrations, etc.).



By continent



Scientific Program

Program at a glance

14 & 15 July 2021

Start/end	14 July 2021	Start/end	15 July 2021
09:00 - 12:30	IUSTI EU Course: State of the art in STI		
13:00 - 14:00	Talkshow 1 Antimicrobial resistance	13:00 - 14:00	Talkshow 3 Fast track cities, getting to zero HIV infections
14:00 - 14:20	Break	14:00 - 14:20	Break (20min)
14:20 - 15:50	Community engagement session Sex work	14:20 - 15:20	Talkshow 4 Health care for STIs, the future?
15:50 - 16:00	Break (10min)	15:20 - 15:40	Break (20min)
16:00 - 17:00	Opening	15:40 - 17:10	Sponsor dedicated session 2
17:00 - 18:00	Break		
18:00 - 19:00	Sponsor dedicated session 1	17:10 - 18:10	Break (60 min)
		18:10 - 19:40	ASTDA Luncheon Award
19:00 - 19:20	Break (20min)		
19:20 - 20:20	Talkshow 2 The Syphilis Epidemic	19:40 - 20:00	Break (20min)
		20:00 - 21:00	Talkshow 5 Access to HIV testing/care for diverse communities

16 & 17 July 2021

Start/end	16 July 2021	Start/end	17 July 2021
09:00 - 13:00	Netherlands Public Health Service Expert Meeting (in Dutch)		
13:00 - 14:00	Talkshow 6 Transgender health, needs and opportunities	13:00 - 14:30	4 concurrent Satellite Workshops
14:00 - 14:20	Break (20min)	14:30 - 14:50	Break (20min)
14:20 - 15:50	1: Sponsored Session 2: Sponsored Session 3: BASSH Symposium	14:50 - 16:20	4 concurrent Satellite Workshops
		16:20 - 16:40	Break (20min)
15:50 - 16:10	Break (20min)	16:40 - 18:10	Joint ISSTD/IAS session
16:10 - 17:10	Talkshow 7 Covid-19 impact on STI/ HIV services		
17:10 - 18:10	Break (60min)	18:10 - 19:10	Break (60min)
18:10 - 19:40	2 Debates on antimicrobial stewardship and bacterial STI	19:10 - 20:40	Joint ISSTD/IAS session
19:40 - 20:00	Break (20min)		
20:00 - 21:00	Talkshow 8 Optimal Prep access	20:40 - 21:00	Break (20min)
		21:00 - 21:45	Closing (45 minutes)

Abstracts

The following number of abstracts were accepted: 122 orals, 294 posters, 18 plenaries and 29 symposia, in total 463 abstracts.

Abstract supplement

To view abstract supplement – [click here](#). The abstracts of the STI & HIV World Congress 2021 are published in the journal “Sexual Transmitted Infections”, published by BMJ, London, United Kingdom.

Program

The (scientific) programme of the STI&HIV World Congress featured a vast majority of various types of sessions. An overview to be found below. In the sections below, URLs can be found. These URLs will link to more information on the speakers and their talks.

Plenary speakers

- PL01 Jane Anderson (Professional workforce required as HIV epidemic moves toward eliminating transmission)
- PL02 David Asch (Behavioral Economics examples for STI control)
- PL03 Lindley Barbee (Partner management in the time of AMR; how to prevent transmission whilst using antibiotics responsibly)
- PL04 Elizabeth Bukusi (Prioritizing non-HIV STI interventions in low resource settings)
- PL05 Eric Chow (STIs in the time of COVID)
- PL06 Joan Chow (In memoriam lecture for Julius Schachter)
- PL07 Roel Coutinho (emerging and re-emerging STI)
- PL08 Nicole Dukers (Dukers-Muijers) (Chlamydia control in women & men who have sex with men. Controversies and evidence on (extra-)genital testing & treatment)
- PL09 Claudia Estcourt (Digital sexual health)
- PL10 Yonatan Grad (The evolution of genomics in STIs – including GC, MG, and syphilis)
- PL11 Bakita Kasadha (Reflecting on community leadership in research)
- PL12 Ken (Kenneth) Mayer (The New Abnormal: STI and HIV Divergence and Convergence in a Changing Universe)
- PL13 Bill (William) Miller (Effectiveness of interventions without RCTs)
- PL14 Yogan Pillay (Implementation & monitoring national programs)
- PL15 Sanjay Ram (Development of Immunotherapeutic approaches against GC)
- PL16 Shruta Rawat (Strengthening communities' response, stake, and engagement in HIV/STI research)
- PL17 Justin Smith (Implementation Science – from theory to practice)
- PL18 Ilan Meyer (Minority stress and LGBT health)

➤ More information on speakers and talks, [click here](#).

Symposium speakers

An overview of the different organised sessions.

Symposium 1: genital microbiome and reproductive health

Symposium 2: antimicrobial resistance in stis: drivers & impact

Symposium 3: mycoplasma genitalium

Symposium 4: pelvic inflammatory disease

Symposium 5: youth in the global south and sexual health

Symposium 6: a holistic approach to transgender health

Symposium 7: new methods to enhance routine surveillance

Symposium 8: implementing home-based and internet-based sti screening and testing programs

Symposium 9: resistance-guided therapy

Symposium 10: hpv self-sampling

Symposium 11: covid & stis

➤ More information on speakers and talks, [click here](#)

Oral sessions

Session 1: basic science for bacterial stis

Session 2: vaginal microbiota

Session 3: bacterial vaginosis

Session 4: covid – epidemiology & health services impacts

Session 5: covid – behavioral impacts

Session 6: syphilis clinical

Session 7: syphilis epidemiology

Session 8: gonorrhoea epidemiology

Session 9: gonorrhoea epidemiology and antimicrobial resistance

Session 10: chlamydia epidemiology

Session 11: sti treatment

Session 12: hiv

Session 13: prep

Session 14: lgbtq populations – msm

Session 15: lgbtq populations – trans and bi

Session 16: female reproductive health for stis and hiv

Session 17: health care services

Session 18: sexual partnerships and partner therapy

Session 19: miscellaneous

Session 20: late breakers abstracts

➤ More information on speakers and talks, [click here](#)

IUSTI Europe Advanced Course 2021

“STIS: WHAT’S THE STATE OF THE ART?”

08:30	State of the Art: Tasks and Visions of IUSTI Europe	Airi Poder
08:50	Syphilis Diagnosis	Marco Cusini
09:10	Amplification Methods: still to improve?	Angelika Stary
09:30	HIV and PREP and what else?	Andy Winter
09:50	Recurrent bacterial vaginosis: Problems to solve	Janet Wilson
10:10	Scabies: an untreatable STI?	Claudia Heller-Vitouch
10:30	The relapsing genital Herpes	Raj Patel
10:50	Gonorrhoea treatment: is there a state of the art	David Lewis
11:10	The burning Urethra	Georg Stary
11:30	The itching Genitalia: Ladies first	Misko Skerlev
11:50	Penile Problems: Inflammation and/or infections?”	Misha Gomborg
12:10	The chronic Patient	Derek Freedman

Soa expertmeeting (in Dutch language)

Ochtendvoorzitter: Birgit van Benthem		
8.45-9.00	Digitale inloop	
9.00- 9.15	Opening	Janneke Heijne
9.15-10.15	Sessie 1. Bacteriële soa	
Bacteriële soa surveillance 2020		Maartje Visser
Anale chlamydia bij vrouwen: nieuwste inzichten uit FemCure		Nicole Dukers-Muijters
Hoe infectieus is syfilis? De resultaten van de Trepoli studie		Silvia Nieuwenburg
10.15-10.30	Pauze	
10.30-11.30	Sessie 2. Virale soa	
Virale soa surveillance in 2020		Eline Op de Coul
Voorspellers van therapietrouw binnen AMPREP		Mark van den Elshout
Wie test op HIV? Hiv diagnostiek door huisartsen en CSG in 5 regio's		Denise Twisk
11.30-11.45	Pauze	
11.45-12.45	Sessie 3. Gedrag en interventies	
Partnerbehandelbeleid chlamydia en gonorrroe		Francine van den Heuvel
Zelfstandig werkende sekswerkers		Karlijn Kampman
Seksueel gedrag in Nederland ten tijde van COVID-19		Daphne van Wees
12.45-13.00	Afsluiting	

Joint ISSTD/IAS sessions

From elimination to ensuring: A paradigm shift for meeting the sexual and reproductive health and rights needs of women living with HIV

16:40:00	Ying Ling Woo	A revolutionary approach to cervical cancer screening that improves accessibility of testing and follow-up for women everywhere
16:47:00	Ted Trimble	Opening and closing remarks
16:51:00	Lisa Huang	An integrated approach to HIV and the elimination of cervical cancer
16:58:00	Adeeba Kamarulzaman	Opening and closing remarks
17:02:00	Longret Kwardem	Power of positive language: the evolution to ensuring sexual and reproductive health and rights for women living with HIV (eSRHR)
17:09:00	Mona Loutfy	Women centred HIV care
17:12:30	Breklyn Bertozzi	Women centred HIV care
17:16:00	Vikrant Sahasrabudde	Latest science from the US-Latin American-Caribbean HIV/HPV-Cancer Prevention Clinical Trials Network (ULACNet)
17:23:00	Leigh Ann van der Merwe	Inclusive considerations about women and diversity
17:30:00		Closing of symposium

Presentations

17:30:00	Nicholas T. Funderburg	Immunosenescence and HIV: Mutual interactions?
17:40:00	Lene Ryom	Co-morbidities in people living with HIV: Host- or HIV-associated?
17:50:00	Richard Harding	Co-morbidity and HIV: What matters to patients?
18:00:00	Sharon Hillier	What is next in the pipeline for IVR products?
18:10:00		Closing

Making more of the prevention tools already available: Scaling up U=U

19:10:00	Bruce Richman	Opening
19:15:00	Brent Allen	U=U in Australia. Getting Heard Outside the Echo Chamber
19:20:00	Franco Luciano Bova	U=U in Argentina
19:25:00	Erika Castellanos	U=U for Transgender people
19:30:00	Kenneth Ngunjiri	U=U in Kenya
19:35:00	Beatriz Grinsztejn	U=U in Brazil
19:40:00	All	Panel discussion and closing remarks
13:55:00		Closing of symposium

Presentations

19:55:00	Pedro Cahn	ART: bridge or barrier to achieve the 90-90-90 goals
20:10:00	Linos Vandekerckhove	Cellular sources of rebound virus
20:20:00	Beatrice Hahn	Viral determinants of rebound after ATI
20:30:00	Xu Yu	Viral reservoirs: Lessons learnt from elite controllers
20:40:00		Closing

Satellite Workshops

13:00 – 14:00	Towards zero new HIV infections: prospects of HIV elimination and an HIV cure	STI Policy- Perspectives from around the World	Launching the New WHO Management of STIs in Symptomatic STIs (Syndromic and Etiologic Management): Current Evidence and Recommendations	Evolution of STI & HIV Behavioural Surveillance in Response to COVID-19 Around the Globe
14:00 – 15:00	Towards zero new HIV infections: prospects of HIV elimination and an HIV cure	STI Policy- Perspectives from around the World	Launching the New WHO Management of STIs in Symptomatic STIs (Syndromic and Etiologic Management): Current Evidence and Recommendations	Evolution of STI & HIV Behavioural Surveillance in Response to COVID-19 Around the Globe
15:20 – 16:20	Towards zero new HIV infections: prospects of HIV elimination and an HIV cure	Rapid PrEP Programs at Sexual Health Centers: A Tale of Three Cities	Trauma and Resilience Informed Research Principles and Practice-improving STI and HIV research uptake and participant experience among disadvantaged individuals and populations	BMJ – Appraising the evidence to guide clinical practice: Tips & tricks from the experts

The ASTDA Awards Luncheon

The mission of ASTDA is to foster scientific knowledge, develop leadership, and champion practice in the field of sexually transmitted infections and one of our main objectives is to recognize outstanding contributions in STI control and prevention. The ASTDA Awards Luncheon is our opportunity to recognize individuals at various stages of their career who have made notable contributions to the STI field.

AGENDA

- Brief introduction of ASTDA (2 minutes) [Khalil Ghanem]
- Best STD Paper Award by a Young Investigator (10 minutes) [Bill Miller]
- The ASTDA Young Investigator Award is presented to a person engaged in outstanding work in the field of sexually transmitted infections who is no more than seven years from completion of training. This year's winner is Dr. Anna Cope from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (5 minutes) [introduction by Khalil Ghanem followed by Dr. Cope's brief statement]
- The ASTDA Achievement Award is presented to a person at mid-career to acknowledge an outstanding body of work in sexually transmitted infections or to an individual for a single major achievement in the field. The winner of this award is Dr. Bill Miller from Ohio State University [5 minutes] [introduction by Khalil Ghanem followed by Dr. Miller's brief statement]
- The ASTDA Distinguished Career Award is presented to a person with a long and extraordinary career in the field of sexually transmitted infections. The winner of this year's award is Dr. Cornelius (Kees) Rietmeijer (35 minutes) [introduction by Dr. Khalil Ghanem followed by a short tribute video followed by Dr. Rietmeijer's presentation]

Sponsored sessions

A group of the sponsors, organised scientific sessions during the congress.

- More information on speakers and talks, [click here](#)

HOLOGIC SYMPOSIUMS

New Solutions for Old Problems: Diagnostics for Management of STIs in the High-Risk Patient

Challenges and Innovations in Sexual Health Services During a Pandemic: Home Collection, Decentralized Testing and Future Directions

ROCHE SYMPOSIUM

Implications of the pandemic on sexual health

SPEEDX SYMPOSIUM

Gonorrhoea & Resistance Guided Therapy (RGT) – What is it? Why is it needed? & How can it be implemented?

BASHH symposium

Understanding sex and sexual health in the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond: Findings from Natsal

Presenters – Pam Sonnenberg, Catherine Mercer, Nigel Field, Kirstin Mitchell

Chairs – Claire Dewsnap & John McSorley

14:20 Welcome and introduction to Natsal

14:25 Findings and implications from Natsal-COVID

15:05 Audience questions on Natsal-COVID findings

15:20 Methodological challenges of researching sexual health in a pandemic

15:40 Audience questions on Natsal-COVID methodology and Natsal-4

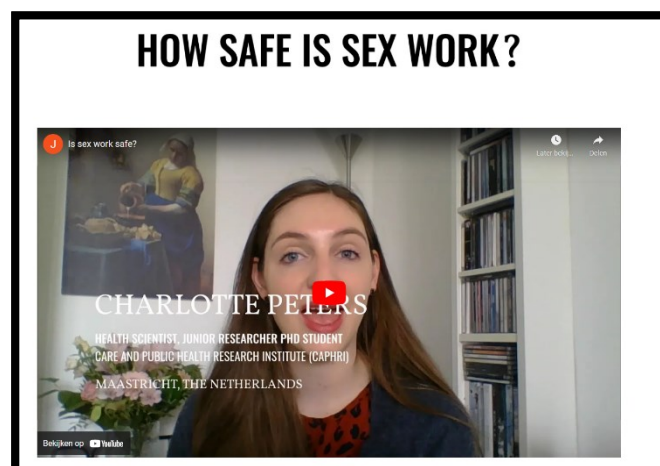
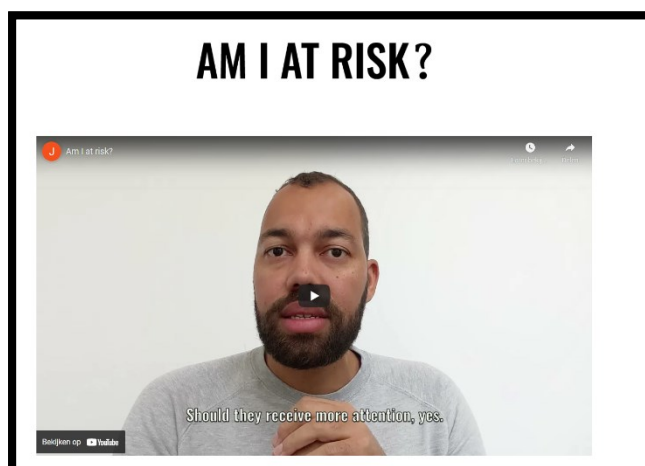
Britain's National Surveys of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles (Natsal) have been undertaken decennially since 1990 and provide a key data source underpinning sexual and reproductive health (SRH) policy. The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted many aspects of sexual lifestyles, triggering an urgent need for population-level data on sexual behaviour, relationships, and service use at a time when gold-standard in-person, household-based surveys with probability sampling were not feasible. We designed the Natsal-COVID study to understand the impact of COVID-19 on the nation's SRH.

The Natsal-COVID study team worked with Ipsos MORI to run two web-panel surveys. Wave 1 was conducted in July 2020 and surveyed ~6,500 people aged 18-59 years across Britain to capture data on the four months following the first national lockdown in March 2020. Wave 2 was conducted during March/April 2021 and surveyed ~6,500 participants aged 18-59 years with the aim to capture data on the longer-term impacts of the pandemic. We used quota-based sampling and weighting with the aim of obtaining a quasi-representative sample of the British general population.

This symposium will begin by giving headline findings from the Natsal-COVID study, including on sexual behaviours and lifestyles, relationships and sexual function, fear of intimate partner violence, risk groups, service use and unmet need. The second half will take a methodological perspective on using a web-panel design to provide actionable public health data during the pandemic and will discuss the challenges and opportunities for Natsal-4, which is due in the field in 2022.

Community content

Before, during and after the STI&HIV World Congress 2021, community engagement was one of the main points of focus of the scientific committee. Some screenshots of the video materials produced, can be found below. All different contributions [can be found here](#).



Scholarship Program

Summary and Comments

Summary

The Scholarship Committee of the 2021 STI & HIV World Congress comprising the 24th Meeting of the International Society for STD Research. (ISSTD) and the 23d World Congress of the International Union Against Sexually Transmitted Infections (IUSTI), awarded 64 scholarships. Scholarship applications were required to include an abstract, a personal statement, and a letter of support from a supervisor or mentor. Applications missing one or more components were rejected (n=3). All abstracts were reviewed by both the Scientific and Scholarship Committees.

Scholarship benefits included complementary registration to the virtual conference and a nominal monetary award to facilitate quality Internet access. The overall cost of the scholarship program (approximately 15,000 euros) was offset by support from ISSTD, IUSTI, the American Sexually Transmitted Diseases Association (ASTDA), and a personal gift from Dr. Gail Bolan. (An R-13 NIH grant application, submitted in August 2020, received a very favorable review and score, but was denied funding at the last moment due to a trivial technicality.)

The virtual nature of the Congress prompted an innovative approach to the scholarship program that in the past had included in-person breakfast meetings and meet-the-professor sessions. Instead, on two days during the Congress (Thursday and Friday), 1.5 hour virtual sessions were organized in three regional time zones: Western (Americas), Central (Europe and Africa) and Eastern (Asia-Pacific). One session focused on publishing and the other on grant writing, featuring pre-recorded lectures and live discussion moderated by two regional co-chairs. In addition to the scholars, the sessions were attended by at least one of the Scholarship Committee co-chairs and one or more other Committee members. The sessions received technical assistance from the conference organizer. Overall, the sessions were well-received with an average of 20 scholars in attendance for each session. A video recording of each of the sessions is available online (see attachment).

While we did not conduct a formal evaluation survey among scholars, there were many positive spontaneous reactions. Overall, we deemed the program to be successful.

Comments

Necessity is the mother of invention: as a positive side effect of the Congress going fully virtual, we were able to award many more scholarships than usual, in large part by saving on travel, lodging and per diem expenses. Including registration costs and a small stipend to access Internet services, the scholarships averaged approximately \$265 – well below the > \$1000 we typically disburse for in-person attendance. Clearly, in-person attendance has greater impact as it allows a level of interaction with (senior) colleagues and an overall quality experience that simply cannot be matched in a virtual setting. Nonetheless, the overall attendance to the online program and the many spontaneous positive reactions indicated that virtual scholarship offerings can be successful and that, even when conferences will be held in-person again, consideration should be given to continuation of a virtual component of the scholarship program. Moreover, access to a virtual component will have a lower threshold as travel may be prohibitive regardless of scholarship funding (time away, visa requirements, etc.). Perhaps, a two-tiered program can be envisioned:

an in-person component for a small number of highest qualifying candidates and an online component for others. The program offerings for these components could overlap.

There was some disagreement within the Scholarship Committee on how the scholarships were awarded, especially to applicants from higher income countries, or from institutions that were deemed to have sufficient funding for staff to attend (virtual) conferences. However, we had not excluded applicants from higher income countries up front and “means testing” for such a large pool of applicants was impractical, if even possible. Thus, it was ultimately decided that the scholarship program should provide some funding for all, including the waiver of registration as well as the nominal stipend. While probably less of an issue for virtual attendance, “means testing” will continue to be important for higher cost in-person attendance.

Attachment

Scholarship Committee

Clarissa Vergunst (Co-Chair)
Kees Rietmeijer (Co-Chair)
Caroline Cameron
Febe Deug
Dennis Fortenberry
Derek Freedman
Francis Ndowa
Bobbie Van Der Pol

Speakers

Carolyn Deal (Grant Writing)
Yara ten Pas (Grant Writing)
Bill Miller (Publishing)

Scholarship Session Co-Chairs (Time Zones)

Patricia Garcia (Western)
Olusegun Soge (Western)
Clarissa Vergunst (Central)
Kees Rietmeijer (Central)
Eric Chow (Eastern)
Somesh Gupta (Eastern)

Video Recordings

Publishing:
<https://vimeo.com/598974828> (session starts at 3:28)
Grant writing: <https://vimeo.com/598997564> (session starts at 4:58)

Sponsorship & Exhibit Sales Revenue

Commercial Sponsoring & exhibition	In EUR (€)
Cepheid	6.000,00
Copan	3.500,00
EuroImmun	2.500,00
Hologic	65.000,00
Lupin Medical Affairs	3.500,00
Merck Sharp & Dohme	3.500,00
Roche Molecular Diagnostics	47.500,00
Seegene	22.500,00
SpeedX	15.000,00
Total sponsor income	163.000

Grants & Partners Revenue

Grants	In EUR (€)
Amsterdam & Partners	5.000,00
BASHH GPB 5.000	5.833,11
ESTDA community grants USD 5000	4.230,00
ESTDA support scholarships USD 5000	4.230,00
Gill Bolan support scholarships USD 5000	4.230,00
IUSTI USD 4000	3.477,00
National Institute for Public Health And the Environment (RIVM)	2.892,56
World Health Organization	4.750,00
Grant GGD Amsterdam	35.000,00
ISSTD Grants scholarships	20.000,00
Total	89.642,67

Viewing statistics STI & HIV 2021 World Congress

Live attendance

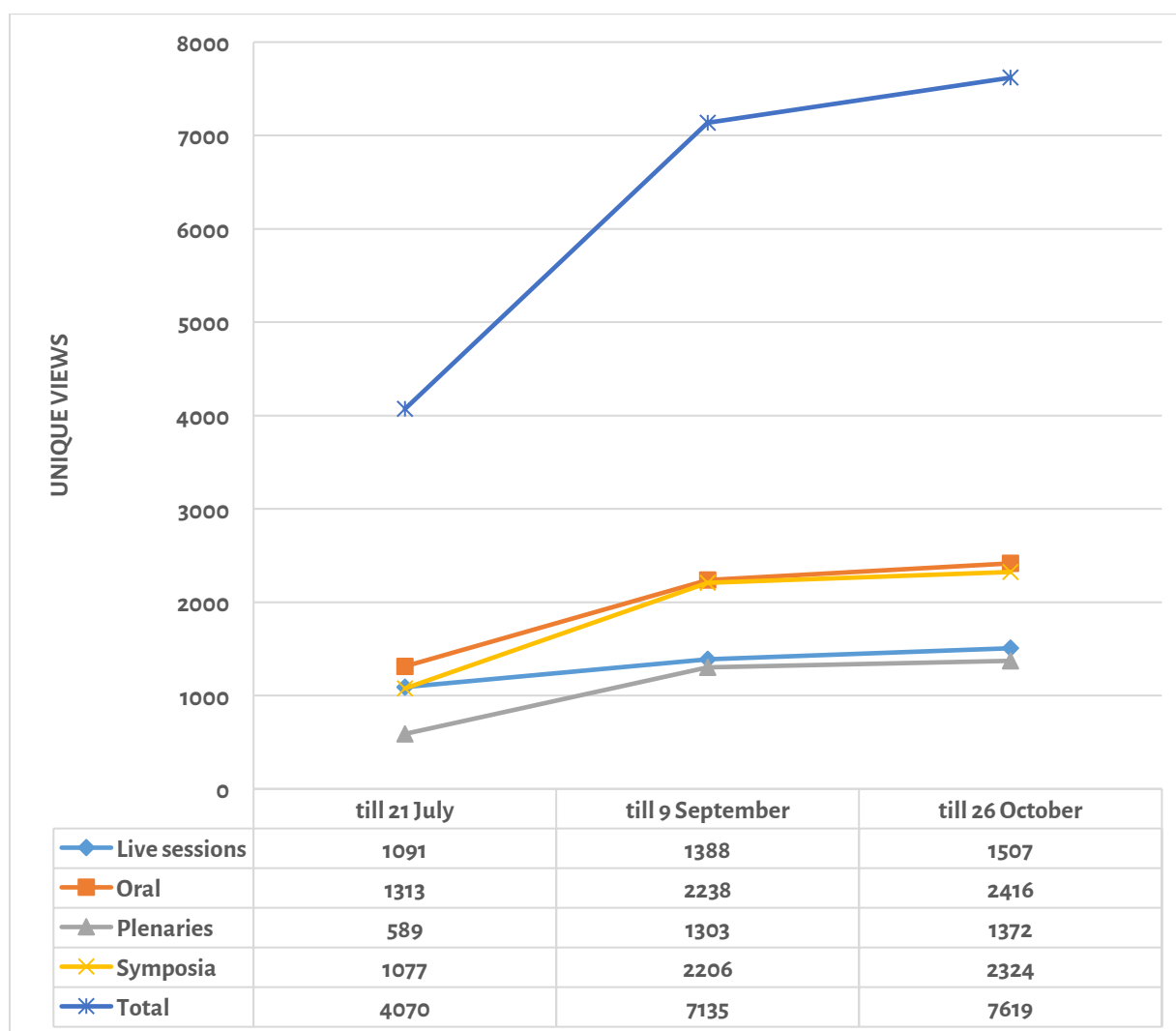
Per session

DATE	SESSION	Unique Viewers
July 14, 2021		
	IUSTI EU Course	233
	Talk show 1: Antimicrobial resistance	232
	Community engagement session: Sex work	223
	Opening	256
	Sponsor dedicated session 1 (Hologic)	165
	Talk show 2: The Syphilis Epidemic	226
July 15, 2021		
	Talk show 3: Fast track cities: getting to zero HIV infections	180
	Talk show 4: Health care for STIs	223
	Sponsor dedicated session 2 (Roche)	172
	ASTDA Luncheon session	117
	Talk show 5: Access to HIV testing/care for diverse communities	107
July 16, 2021		
	Soa Expert Meeting (Dutch)	162
	Talk show 6: Transgender health	122
	BASHH	119
	Sponsor Dedicated Session 3 (Hologic)	33
	Sponsor Dedicated Session 4 (SpeeDx)	53
	Talk show 7: Covid-19 impact on STI/HIV services	177
	Debate 1: Dual therapy for the treatment of uncomplicated gonorrhea...	150
	Debate 2: Routine chlamydia screening of asymptomatic patients should be abandoned	139
	Talk show 8: Optimal PrEP access	93
July 17, 2021		
	Towards zero new HIV infections: prospects of HIV elimination and an HIV cure	57
	STI Policy-Perspectives from around the World	53
	Launching the New WHO Management of STIs in Symptomatic STIs (Syndromic and Etiologic Management): Current Evidence and Recommendations	99
	Evolution of STI & HIV Behavioral Surveillance in Response to COVID-19 Around the Globe	19
	Rapid PrEP Programs at Sexual Health Centers: A Tale of Three Cities	16
	Trauma and Resilience Informed Research Principles and Practice-improving STI and HIV research uptake and participant experience among disadvantaged individuals and populations	27
	BMJ Workshop: Appraising the evidence to guide clinical practice: Tips & tricks from the experts.	25
	ISSTD/IAS Session 1	59
	ISSTD/IAS Session 2	57
	Closing ceremony	66

Pre-recorded & on demand

Development of the unique views

Development of the number of viewers of the congress material. Included in the numbers are viewers of the live sessions as well as viewers of the pre-recorded sessions. These sessions were available in the platform 2 weeks preceding the congress. Below, the graph shows the number of total unique viewers.



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On behalf of the organizing societies, we would like to thank our loyal sponsors and partners in supporting the organization of the STI & HIV 2021 World Congress.

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Silver Sponsor



Bronze Sponsor



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