

STI Global Update

Newsletter of the International Union against Sexually Transmitted Infections

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We held a very constructive World Executive Committee meeting on Saturday 3rd September 2022, our first face to face meeting for 3 years.

President's Letter



Our first face to face IUSTI World Congress since 2019 was held in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe!

It was such a pleasure to meet so many of you face to face at the 23rd World IUSTI Congress, on 4th-7th September 2022, at the Elephant Hills Resort, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. This was our first in-person World Congress since July 2019.

As we all arrived at the hotel, we were all given a very warm welcome by the marimba players.



Sunday 4th September started with the IUSTI-EUROPE STI Course in co-operation with World-IUSTI and the World Health Organisation. This was organised by Angelika Stary and Marco Cusini and entitled Diagnosis and Management of STIs: From best practice to practical availability. It included speakers from all five of the IUSTI regions and was very well attended.

The Opening Ceremony was in the late afternoon and started with amazing singing and dancing from Ubuntu Bomuntu who composed a bespoke song for the congress about STIs and Stigma to fit with the congress theme of 'Confronting Inequities in STI Prevention, Diagnostics and Care'. Francis Ndowa, the Congress President, and I gave welcome remarks and Meg Doherty, from the World Health Organisation, gave the Opening Keynote Address.



This was a wonderful start to the excellent scientific programme which was put together by Jo-Anne Dillon, the IUSTI President-Elect, and Dr Remco Peters, the IUSTI Assistant Secretary, as

the Co-Chairs of the Scientific Committee. The IUSTI Prestigious Lecture at this congress was 'Existing point-of-care tests and future developments for diagnosis and antimicrobial resistance testing' given by Dr Yuka Manabe from Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. She was presented with her certificate by the Chairs of her lecture, Remco Peters and Charlotte Gaydos.



At the Closing Ceremony the oral and poster presentation winners were awarded their certificates. The oral prize winner was Hiam Chemaitelly from the Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar, with the Epidemiology of sexually transmitted infections among female sex workers in the Middle East and North Africa: A systematic review and meta-analysis.



The oral prize runner up was Daniel McCartney, from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, with the High prevalence of asymptomatic gonorrhoea and chlamydia among transgender women in Brazil.



The poster prize winner was Fortunate Machingura, from the Centre for Sexual Health and

HIV/AIDS Research, Zimbabwe, with Prevalence and risk factors of STIs among female sex workers in Zimbabwe: A cross-sectional respondent-driven sample.



The poster prize runner up was Bradley Stoner, from Queen's University, Kingston, Canada, with Expanding access to STI services: The Kingston (Ontario) Quick-Test clinic. I then had the honour of presenting Francis with an IUSTI Silver Medal in recognition of the huge amount of work he had contributed to making this congress not only actually happen, but to become such a success.



Obviously the congress was held in a stunning part of the world and there were several wonderful attractions/distractions by the hotel. However despite this, all sessions of the congress had many delegates attending them, including the Closing Ceremony. This confirmed that we had all been longing for face to face learning and interactions with our global colleagues and friends. Everyone involved in the organisation of this congress stepped up to the mark to ensure it was a huge success. There are too many people for me to mention everyone individually, but my heartfelt thanks go to them all.

IUSTI Centenary Celebrations planned for 2023

IUSTI will be 100 years old in 2023, having been founded in 1923. Plans are well underway to celebrate this wonderful achievement throughout 2023. Jackie Sherrard, as Chair the Centenary Committee, has already collected most of the details of the past IUSTI Presidents and the past IUSTI World Congresses, including the minutes of the proceedings. As explained later in the Newsletter, she plans to archive all these documents on our website for future information.

This will be the first time in the history of IUSTI that such a complete archive has been created. Congratulations Jackie, this is a really fitting way to celebrate our Centenary!

Janet Wilson, IUSTI-World President

News

IUSTI Centenary Celebrations



2023 is the centenary of IUSTI and obviously warrants great celebrations. We are compiling an archive of key events and documents of the last 100 years and these will be available on the IUSTI website by the end of 2022.

This archive includes

- List of all the IUSTI Presidents, the years they were in Office, and a photo of most!
- Lists of where all the IUSTI Congresses were held, the year they were held and photos from more recent congresses
- General assembly bulletins / meeting proceedings
- Photo collages of people at IUSTI EXCOs, symposia, etc.

There will also be a video montage at the Chicago meeting. If anyone has any interesting / historical documents or pictures, please do share it with us so we can add to the collection. Please send any contributions to jackie.sherrard@doctors.org.uk

Sexually Transmitted Infections journal podcasts



Sexually Transmitted Infections is the world's longest running international journal on sexual health. The journal releases regular podcasts which aims to keep practitioners, trainees and researchers up to date in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of all STIs and HIV.

Latest episodes:

[Preventing anal cancer in people with HIV: learnings from the ANCHOR study](#) - In this podcast, we interview Professor Joel Palefsky about the ANCHOR study. STI's Editorial Fellow, Dr Ming Lee, speaks to Editor in Chief, Professor Anna Maria Geretti, and Professor Palefsky, chief investigator of the randomised controlled trial, about the study which investigated treatment of anal high-grade squamous intraepithelial lesions (HSIL) to prevent progression to anal cancer. The study was stopped early following an interim analysis showing a clear benefit in reducing the risk of progression to anal cancer by 57 %, and the findings were [recently published in the New England Journal of Medicine](#). Professor Palefsky also discusses how screening for anal cancer could be improved.

[HTLV2022: 20th International Conference on Human Retrovirology](#) - Join us for the HTLV2022 Conference review. Dr Fabiola Martin speaks to Joanna Curteis, Dr Carolina Rosadas and Prof Damian Purcell. Damian's research group investigates the HIV-1 and HTLV-1 human retroviruses that cause AIDS and leukaemia/inflammatory pathogenesis respectively at Doherty Institute, Melbourne. We also discuss the Global Call to Action towards the elimination of HTLV-1 and an important message from the World Health Organisation delivered by Dr Meg Doherty. Read the related [post](#) on the STI blog.

STI podcasts are free to access and available on all major podcast platforms including [Soundcloud](#), [Apple Podcasts](#), [Google Podcasts](#), [Stitcher](#) and [Spotify](#).

Wanted new members to the IUSTI STI Guidelines Editorial Board



- Are you interested in the evidence behind your clinical practice?
- Are you methodical in your approach to appraising and assimilating information?
- Are you looking to develop your clinical writing skills?

The European STI Guidelines Project Editorial Board produce STI guidelines and patient information leaflets on behalf of the following organisations: IUSTI Europe; the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology (EADV); the European Dermatology Forum (EDF); the European Society of Clinical Microbiology and

Infectious Diseases (ESCMID); International Society for Infectious Diseases in Obstetrics and Gynaecology (ISIDOG). The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and the European Office of the World Health Organisation (WHO-Europe) also contribute to their development.

For full details please visit <https://iusti.org/treatment-guidelines/>

We are looking for

1. Clinicians with experience of guideline development as full contributing board members
2. Guideline fellows, who are looking to develop skills in guideline writing and who will work alongside an experienced guideline editor. This would be an ideal opportunity for a resident or trainee with an interest in evidence-based medicine

We invite you to submit a maximum of 1 page outlining your experience in STI treatment and any experience in evidence appraisal and how you feel you could contribute to the board. Please send to jackiesherrard@doctors.org.uk by 31st December 2022.

STI & HIV 2023 World Congress – Abstracts **Due 15 January**



Does sexual health research get you excited? Are you leading or joining research studies focused on sexually transmitted infections? The STI & HIV 2023 World Congress is for you! The Joint Meeting of the ISSTD and IUSTI Congress cordially invites you to submit abstracts to the next meeting on 24-27 July 2023 in Chicago, United States. Abstracts will be due on 15 January. Exciting events about this congress include a celebration of IUSTI's Centenary, a global arts contest to display visual interpretations of people's experiences with STI, and a design-a-thon intended to bring fresh perspectives to developing STI solutions.

Many speakers at the cutting-edge of STI research and program will present on their pioneering work. For example, Dr. Teodora Wi from the World Health Organization will discuss global STI

priorities. Symposia on trust in science, health inequalities, sexual pleasure and rights, trial inclusivity, STIs among people who are incarcerated, antimicrobial resistance, vaginal health, public engagement and many other topics will all be featured. Congress Chair and ISSTD President Dr. Barbara Van Der Pol mentioned, "We are delighted to see old friends and meet new ones at this important scientific conference. We hope to see you in July in Chicago!"

More details about abstracts and scholarships will be released in the coming weeks.

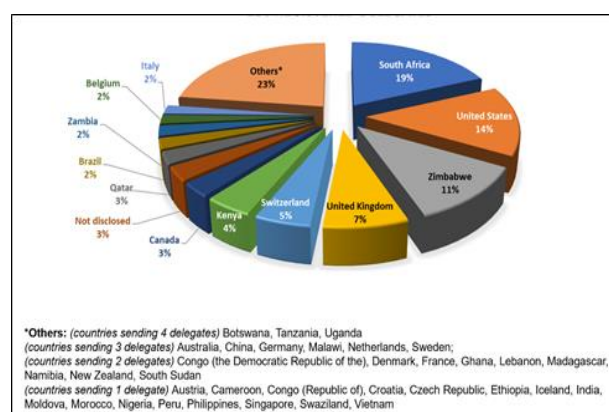
Regional Reports

Africa MENA

23rd IUSTI World Congress 2022

The IUSTI Africa-MENA Region successfully hosted the 23rd IUSTI World Congress from 4 to 7 September 2022 in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. The Conference venue was the Elephant Hills Hotel in Victoria Falls.

The Congress was attended by 280 delegates from 47 countries. There were 242 delegates who attended in person and 38 participated online. The majority of the delegates were from South Africa, followed by United States, Zimbabwe, United Kingdom, Switzerland and Kenya, in that order. The other delegates, in smaller numbers, were from Qatar, Brazil, Zambia, Belgium and Italy. The rest were as listed under others, with numbers varying from 1-4 from each of the countries (see pie chart).



Commendations go to the International Organising Committee (IOC) which took on the task courageously and pushed on with the planning. The IOC included Francis Ndowa, Janet Wilson and Jo-Anne Dillon and all the committee members of the IUSTI Africa-MENA region.

The IUSTI Africa-MENA Region Committee members extend their gratitude to The 23rd IUSTI 2022 International Organising Committee who assembled a dedicated and hard-working Scientific Committee which was chaired by Jo-Anne Dillon, and the Co-chairperson was Remco Peters. This Scientific Committee, in turn, invited an impressive group of experts and researchers to make up the Science Tracks as follows:

- Track 1. Basic and Laboratory Sciences, Tania Crucitti (Chairperson, Madagascar);
- Track 2. Prevention and Behavioural Sciences, Sinead Delany-Moretlwe (Chairperson, South Africa);
- Track 3. Epidemiology and Surveillance, Laith Abu-Raddad (Chairperson, Qatar);
- Track 4. Clinical and Implementation Science, Philip Mayaud (Chairperson, United Kingdom);
- Track 5. Community Engagement and Policy, Carmen Logie (Chairperson, Canada).

The Theme of the Congress was “*Confronting inequities in STI prevention, diagnostics and care*”, crafted to cover issues of lack of accessible diagnostics, lack of appropriate antimicrobials, lack of appropriately trained health-care providers and inequities to health care caused by socio-economic gulfs, stigma and marginalization of some groups within the population.

The speakers for the plenaries all attended the conference in person as had been planned and hoped for by the Scientific Committee.

Dr Meg Doherty from the World Health Organization in Geneva, Director of the Department of Global HIV, Hepatitis and Sexually Transmitted Infections Programmes (HHS) delivered the keynote lecture during the Opening Ceremony, advocating maintenance and expansion of global efforts to eliminate HIV, hepatitis and STIs by 2030 with a strong emphasis on service integration and strengthening primary health care within the framework of Universal health coverage (UHC).

Professor David Mabey from the London School of Hygiene delivered a talk during the Closing Ceremony to highlight vacillations around the use of the syndromic management of STIs, even with promising point-of care tests in the pipeline.

Fundraising

The Fundraising Committee reached out to several potential sponsors, but only managed to raise about 50% of target. However, there were big sponsors, such as Hologic and WHO who made up for the shortfall.

Scholarships

Scholarships for participation were awarded, ranging from partial, with registration only, to full scholarships, enabled by scholarship funds from WHO, American Sexually Transmitted Diseases Association, IUSTI-Canada, IUSTI World and FIND. In total 30 delegates from 13 countries (Australia, China, Democratic Republic of Congo, Guyana, India, Italy, Kenya, Madagascar, Morocco, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda) received scholarships, based on competitively selected abstracts.

Budget

The final budget for the conference is being prepared and will be presented in the report of the conference.

Virtual Platform

Delegates who attended in person and online were sent a link to download their attendance certificates with 20 Continuing Medical Education (CME) points and another link for access to a Virtual Platform with all the sessions to listen to in their own time. This will be available for 3 months from the end of the conference (2 more months to go). All the presentations made during the conference have also been made available to download as PDF from the Conference Website, <https://www.iusti2022zimbabwe.com/presentations/>. The Programme Book is available on the website on this link <https://www.iusti2022zimbabwe.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Programme-Book.pdf> for anyone to download.

Launched products

During the conference some products were launched with free access to them. The World Health Organization launched a new guidance for the integration of STI services for people who use HIV PrEP, available at:

<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240057425>.

The Melbourne Sexual Health Centre in Australia launched a Special Issue on sexual health collating the latest evidence-base focused on optimizing sexual health services in the 2020's, <https://www.publish.csiro.au/SH/SH22107>.

New elected IUSTI EXCO member for the Africa/MENA region

One of the IUSTI World Exco Office Bearers, Ranmini Kularatne, from the IUSTI Africa-MENA Region relocated to New Zealand. As such, she could no longer remain as an Africa-MENA Elected Member. A Finding Committee was set up to nominate a new candidate and Remco Peters was proposed to replace Ranmini Kularatne. Remco Peters accepted the nomination and the IUSTI Exco welcomed him and advised that his name will

be put forward to the General Assembly in 2023 for ratification.

Francis Ndowa

Europe



Dr. Claudia Heller-Vitouch – Regional Director of IUSTI-Europe

35th IUSTI-Europe meeting September 29 – October 1 2022 in Tbilisi

Dr. Josephe Kobakhidze, Congress President



Georgia got a chance to host a IUSTI-Europe conference once again after a successful meeting in 2010. And so it happened, in 2019 in Tallinn, Estonia, it was decided to hold the IUSTI-E Congress 2022 in Georgia.

Since 2019, as you know, a lot has happened. Considering the COVID-19 pandemic and the War in Ukraine in March 2022 it has been decided that the Congress will be carried out in a hybrid format. Online meetings/consultations with active participation of the International Scientific Committee members, IUSTI-E officers and Local Organizing Committee members were held every two weeks (as needed, even weekly), where the details of the Congress optimal management were discussed. We'd be happy to acknowledge that such meetings were one of the components of the 35th IUSTI-E success.

The Congress started with the IUSTI-E Board meeting on September 28 held in hybrid format.

Nine national representatives attended in-person. Here we'd to say that, to our great regret, our colleague, representing in the Board the neighbouring country Armenia, Professor Babayan passed away. Blessed memory to him.

IUSTI-E Advanced Course 2022 took place online on Sept. 29. About 80 persons, including speakers and trainees, took part in the Course. What can be considered as the undoubted success of this already well-proven and so useful educational program intended, but not only, for young doctors.

The main part of the Congress began with the Georgian in-person session, which brought together up to 200 participants.

The Opening Ceremony, which took place in the Tbilisi City Council in a hybrid format, was preceded by a brilliant lecture by the WHO Medical Officer Dr. Theodora Wi. The Ceremony was attended by the Deputy Minister of Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia Ilia Gudushauri.



A total of 453 doctors, residents and students, and nurses took part in the work of the three days of the Congress (205 registered international participants, 192 Georgians and 56 speakers). Of this number, 39 international participants and 192 Georgians that day or another took part in the Congress in-person. Such attendance greatly exceeds our expectations and speaks of the well-defined success of the IUSTI-E 2022.



It should be noted and gratitude expressed to BASHH and the EADV, for their active support via organising interesting sessions that attracted the attention of a large number of participants. The issues of syphilis, HPV and Monkeypox were also extremely in demand by the audience.



We would like to express our admiration for the Chair and Co-Chairs of the International Scientific Committee Prof. Arne Wikström, Prof. Magnus Unemo and Dr. Valeska Padovese, and, of course, for Derek Freedman, Chair for Scientific Policy IUSTI, who created an excellent Scientific Program. In the hybrid part of the Congress, all presentations were pre-recorded and broadcasted on a virtual platform. The audience had the opportunity to actively communicate with the speaker in an interactive mode; in one of the sessions, debates with voting were successfully held. All registered IUSTI-E 2022 Congress participants will have access to presentations for more than nine months after the end of the event.



We'd also like to say thank you very much to Dr. Claudia Heller-Vitouch, IUSTI-E Regional Director and Prof. George-Sorin Tiplica, IUSTI-E Chair for their continuous support and consideration. We'd also like to acknowledge the excellent work of the Congress PCO BTL GEO LLC, especially its technical team.

Since the hybrid format was the first experience for the Congress organizers, we must admit that there were certain technical problems in the beginning of the event, which we managed to overcome in a timely manner.

I would also like to mention that not only dermatologists and venereologists attended our Congress. There were a significant number of urologists and gynecologists, who expressed great interest in a future cooperation with IUSTI-E.

Our hosts Josephe Kobakhidze and Oleg Kvlivdze did a great job and can be stated as pioneers for this conference format. Both of them together with the scientific chair Arne Wikström have received the IUSTI-Europe medals of merit during the closing ceremony of the 35th IUSTI-Europe congress.

IUSTI-Europe is very grateful for the warm hospitality in Georgia and we look back to another

milestone in the history of IUSTI-Europe conferences.



The next IUSTI European conference will be the 36th IUSTI-Europe conference which will take place in Malta, October 26-28 2023.

Congress president Valeska Padovese and Chair of the scientific committee Henry de Vries look forward very much to welcoming you there for an exciting (and hopefully face to face) conference.

Prof. Karen Babayan, 30.10.1947 – 31.10.2021

It is with great sorrow that we have to inform about the passing of our dear colleague and long-standing IUSTI-Europe Council member Karen Babayan from Armenia.



In the fall of 2021, at the age of 74, Karen R. Babayan passed away. Doctor of Medical Sciences, MD, PhD Professor Babayan was the head of the Department of Dermatology and Venereology at Heratsi Yerevan State Medical Institute from 1998 until 2018.

Prof. Babayan was a leading dermatovenereologist in Armenia, and for many years he was a National Representative from Armenia at IUSTI.

Karen Babayan dedicated all his professional life to treatment of sexually transmitted infections and skin diseases. Over the decades he paid great attention to the problem of sexual education.

Karen's family, friends and colleagues will always remember him as a kind, sympathetic and highly professional person.

Karen was a very active member of the group and will be missed sadly.

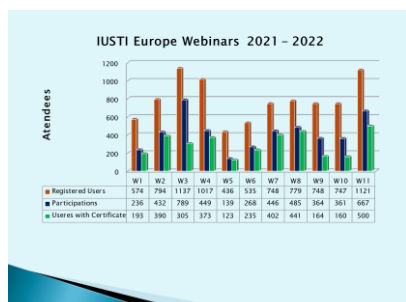
Our thoughts are with Karen's family.

IUSTI-Europe webinars Report

Derek Freedman, George-Sorin Tiplica

IUSTI-Europe webinars season 2021/22:

To date, eleven webinars have taken place. We have 2000 cumulative registrants over the series, from over 76 countries.



We would like to thank BASHH for the important support. The collaboration with Executive Business Support Ltd (ExeCBS) is excellent.

The recordings of the webinars are available on the IUSTI-Europe webpage: <https://www.iusti-europe.eu/web/index.php/webinars>

The series will be continued in fall 2022.

Topics suggestions will be greatly appreciated. Please e-mail these to Dr. Derek Freedman df@freedman.ie.

Report from the Education Committee of the IUSTI Europe Council

Angelika Stary and Marco Cusini, Officers for Education IUSTI-Europe

IUSTI World conference in Zimbabwe:

'Diagnosis and Management of STIs: from best practice to practical availability' in cooperation with IUSTI World and WHO at VICTORIA FALLS – ZIMBABWE, SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 4th

At the IUSTI world conference in Zimbabwe we were asked by the local organizer Francis Ndowa and by the World president Janet Wilson and Jo-Ann Dillon, as the scientific chair, to organize a preconference IUSTI Europe course as a joint meeting with WHO. We decided to focus the theme of the course on best practice in different social-health environments. We are happy and proud to say that the course was very well attended: we had about 120 participants, who took the chance to attend the onsite course free of charge. We would like to thank all chairs and speakers for their excellent talks and contributions during the course. Furthermore, we had full support from the local organizer and they were able to provide an abstract book with contributions from all speakers and a certificate of attendance. The course was very much appreciated by the participants and we had very interesting discussions.



The next IUSTI Europe Advanced Course was held at the **IUSTI Europe Conference 2022 in Tbilisi**: As you know the decision was to keep it virtual. The theme was "STIs: How to solve problems?" and the course took place September 29, 11 to 17.30 (GET).

Up to 80 participants followed online the interesting pre-recorded talks. The discussion was performed with the speakers virtually present via the Question and Answer function.

Plans for 2023:

We still have some hope to have a new edition of the Basic Course in Bertinoro in the first half of June 2023

We have already agreed to accept the proposal of IUSTI World to hold a IUSTI Course, organized by IUSTI Europe, at the ISSTD/IUSTI World conference in Chicago, on July 24, 2023

European STI Guidelines Project Editorial Board – report September 2022

Jackie Sherrard, Editor in Chief European STI Guidelines

This has been a year of significant change. In January Dr Keith Radcliffe stepped down as Editor-in-chief of the IUSTI-Europe guidelines group, a position he has held so successfully since its inception 20 years ago. The guidelines are one of IUSTI-Europe's core outputs and have had a significant impact on clinical practice in Europe. Data from the journals in which they are published shows that they are consistently among their most read and cited articles and the guideline page of the IUSTI website is one of the most visited sites. The group continues to produce patient information leaflets which have been translated into a number of European languages. <https://iusti.org/patient-information/>

Jackie Sherrard has taken on the role of editor-in-chief with the intention of continuing to ensure the guidelines remain a valuable resource. The

guidelines are all available on the IUSTI website. <https://iusti.org/treatment-guidelines/>. In 2022 a new guideline on *Mycoplasma genitalium* has been published and the guideline on vulval disorders updated. The guidelines on balanitis, chlamydia, herpes and male urethritis are currently being revised, as is the protocol for production to ensure current best practice in guideline development is being followed.

The editorial board benefits from input from EADV, EDF, ESCMID, ECDC, ISIDOG, UEMS and WHO Europe, in addition to, IUSTI Europe members.

Any IUSTI Europe member who has experience of guideline development and would like to contribute as a board member is invited to submit a maximum of one page outlining your experience in STI treatment and any experience in evidence appraisal and how you feel you could contribute to the board to jackiesherrard@doctors.org.uk

If you know of any resident or trainee with an interest in evidence-based medicine who is looking to develop skills in guideline writing there are ideal opportunities to work alongside an experienced guideline editor as a Guideline Fellow. Please send any nominations to jackiesherrard@doctors.org.uk

Report from the Communications Group

September 2022

Andy Winter, Chair for Communication IUSTI-Europe

Website

The IUSTI Europe website <https://www.iusti-europe.eu/web/> has been a great asset, looked after by BachDesign in Austria. We have been able to update this much more quickly than under previous arrangements. The most used parts of the website are the webinars information and recordings and links to the guidelines. We have added a useful links page around monkeypox.

Newsletters

We published two formal e-newsletters to members in October 2021 and May 2022. Newsletters are available at IUSTI Europe - Newsletter (www.iusti-europe.eu). Tomislav Meštrović has helped pull together much of the content and this is greatly appreciated.

Social Media

Three colleagues from Bucharest have been doing a great job with social media promotions for the webinars: Iulia Negulet. Ana-Maria Drăghici-Ionescu and Raluca Lascu. We updated the twitter account to be called @IUSTI_Europe rather than focus only on the webinars and reviewed how these accounts were managed to make sure they remained secure. The twitter account has 152 followers. We remain very careful to post only content directly related to our events.

The LinkedIn professional group has 61 members <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8235039/>, an increase of 4 from last year

Report on the activities (and plans) for the IUSTI-Europe International development 2021/2022

Mihael Skerlev, Chair for international development IUSTI-Europe

The Covid-19 pandemic has definitely influenced the IUSTI Europe international development activities. Though, there are some activities and “developmental issues” I would like to point out.

Some background information, for better understanding, I guess! The “liaison” between IUSTI Europe and other international societies has been (and should have been) “strengthen”, such as European Dermatology Forum (EDF), for instance. I have put a lot of personal efforts to try to put the report on the IUSTI Europe activities on the official agenda of the Annual Dermatology Forum meeting to be held in 2016 in Zurich. This has been realized for the first time ever the three last consecutive years (as my proposition for the meetings in 2014 and 2015 had not been implemented). During the EDF Meeting in Montreux, January 2017, the joint IUSTI Europe-EDF-EADV meeting has been organized (IUSTI Europe has been represented by Keith Radcliffe, Michel Janier and me; EDF by Harald Gollnick and Alexander Nast and EADV by Olle Larkö and Branka Marinović)! The common strategy for the STIs guidelines has been agreed, as well as the inclusion of the report on the IUSTI Europe activities on the Annual Dermatology Forum. We should be “visible” on such Forum!

Accordingly, the IUSTI Europe activities have been reported in January 2018, 2019 and 2020 during the EDF Meeting in St. Gallen, Switzerland and in Montreux (2019 and 2020), Switzerland respectively as the part of the official Agenda.

Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the previously planned EDF Annual Meeting in Montreux, Switzerland was not hold in 2021 and in 2022 either in spite of the fact that the IUSTI Europe activities report (M. Skerlev) has been planned and listed in the official agenda. As per the organizers’ notification, the character of the Meeting was not such that the virtual form could “hit the target”! It is planned for 2023!

Besides, the IUSTI Europe Council members should be even more represented in the scientific programme of the EADV events. However, this situation has improved as compared to the previous years in spite of the fact that the both EADV Spring Symposium (Porto) and the Annual Congress (Vienna) were hold only virtually! At this stage, some EADV Task Forces in the field(s) of STIs have been officially (re)approved, thus, the EADV HPV Task Force has been reapproved by the EADV Board (chaired by M. Skerlev, co-

chaired by A. Vikström, with M. Cusini, C. Heller-Vitouch, E. Nicolaidou and M. Potočnik as members, all of them being also members of the IUSTI Europe Council). The EADV STIs Task Forces has been also approved with many IUSTI members, as well. The official EADV HPV Task Force Meeting was held virtually, December 2020. The article about this has been published in the EADV News. Photos from the Meeting enclosed at the end of this report!

The HPV vaccination campaign has been proposed to the former EADV Media Committee (Communication Committee now) (M. Skerlev, member) for support and budget. This proposition has been shortly explained (M. Skerlev) during the Meeting of the EADV Committee with the members of the European Parliament. As a result of this the EADV has formed the "Cancer beating and prevention platform" (M. Skerlev, member) joined with Europarlament, Brussels (2021). Accordingly, for the first time the HPV-vaccination programme has been officially recognized as the cancer prevention measure (and not only the sun protection!). The virtual meetings and a press conference took place in the first part of 2021 and HPV vaccination campaign is going to be officially presented (again) in Europarlament, most likely in 2022.

The constant "representation" of the IUSTI-Europe Council team in the UEMS-EBDV, in the STIs Subcommission (M. Janier, A. Poder, M. Potočnik and M. Skerlev). M. Potočnik has been appointed the Chair.

M. Skerlev and A. Poder have been appointed the UEMS representatives to the Multidisciplinary Joint Committee for Infections Control. The kick-off meeting has taken place in Rome, in April 2018. M. Skerlev has attended and has been appointed the member of the Executive Committee. This year's Meeting took place in Prague, May 2020 (virtually). Some activities have been done in terms of appointing the new IUSTI Europe Council national representatives from the European countries that have not been already represented (or the "old" national representative has not been active for longer period and no other person has been nominated as a successor). However, at this stage it is too early to report more precisely about the certain names; further "investigation" might be required to obtain the most satisfying results!

The list of the IUSTI Europe Council members who wish to participate in the activities in the field of the International development has been updated. However, all volunteers are more than welcome! This might help in getting a clearer picture for planning the future activities!

6th International Symposium: Sexually Transmitted Diseases – New Horizons (supported by IUSTI Europe) was most seriously planned for September 2020, (again, as a part of tradition) in Brijuni Islands, Croatia, but, due to the Covid-19

pandemic, it has been postponed for September 2022.

ECDC Report – September 2022

Raj Patel, IUSTI Representative to ECDC

The ECDC continues to spearhead campaigns against COVID 19 and more recently Monkeypox. All meetings have been virtual.

Meetings

STI Network Coordination Committee (June 22)

1. Update on ECDC activities in 2022 and beyond
2. Proposed changes to STI surveillance case definitions
3. Update on Monkeypox outbreak

Extensive Briefing meetings on the development of the Monkeypox outbreak

1. Initial weekly meetings with EACS / IUSTI updating on key research
2. Since late August 2 weekly

Dr Andrew Winter presented at an early meeting on the impact of Monkeypox on STI services. Extremely well attended and highly informative. Further meeting of the STI Network planned for December 2022 to which IUSTI is invited and we shall be presenting highlights from Georgia IUSTI-E 2022.

Report of the meeting of the Subcommission on STI of the European Section and Board of Dermatology and Venereology held from 5 - 7 May 2022 in Sibiu, Romania

Michel Janier, Marko Potočnik

One of the subcommissions of the European Section and Board of Dermatology and Venereology is Subcommission on STI, and is regularly part of every Meeting of European Section and Board of Dermatology and Venereology. The Subcommission was for many years very successfully chaired by Michel Janier (France), who is now observer of IUSTI and is since November 2021 chaired by Marko Potočnik (Slovenia).

The members are discussing actual questions on STI, preparing STI questions for the UEMS European Board of Dermatovenereology Diploma (EBDVD), taking part in other Subcommissions (Sub-commission on European Board Examination, Sub-commission on Training Requirements (Magdalena Czarnecka-Operacz, Poland, Sub-commission on Guidelines (Daiva Jasaitiene, Lithuania) and approving other documents of different MJCs of UEMS regarding STI and suggesting eventual improvements.

The members of the Subcommission discussed the following IUSTI STI European Treatment Guidelines: 2021 European guideline on HIV

testing in genito-urinary medicine settings, 2020 European guideline on the management of genital molluscum contagiosum, 2021 European guideline on the management of Mycoplasma genitalium infections, 2020 European guideline on the management of syphilis, 2021 European Guideline on the management of proctitis, proctocolitis and enteritis caused by sexually transmissible pathogens and endorse all of them.

An important task of Subcommission on STI is also cooperation with other Boards and MJC's of UEMS and other societies engaged in STI. The UEMS European Board of Dermatovenereology Diploma (EBDVD) Examination is a test of excellence in Dermatology and Venereology, every year more popular in the world, is designed to assess the knowledge and clinical skills requisite to the delivery of a high standard of dermatovenereological care both in hospitals and in independent clinical practices.

The following members of the STI Subcommission Jackie Sherrard, Daiva Jasaitiene, Michel Janier and Marko Potočnik also participate as speakers at the online course on STIs which is going to help EADV members prepare to future UEMS-EBDVD Examination 2022.

The following members of Subcommission on STI are also the members of IUSTI: Jackie Sherrard (UK), Mihael Skerlev (Croatia) and Marko Potočnik (Slovenia), Michel Janier (France), the observer of IUSTI, who is also actively cooperating, but also many other members of European Section and Board of Dermatology and Venereology are attending the meetings of the Subcommission on STI.

Claudia Heller-Vitouch

Asia Pacific

High-risk sexual behaviour patterns and multisite infection of gonorrhoea among men who have sex with men in China

Neisseria gonorrhoeae is prevalent among men who have sex with men (MSM) in China. Lei Zhang, the Adjunct Associate Professor, from School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Monash University, Australia. And also the Professor from the School of Public Health, Xi'an Jiaotong University led an investigative study to understand the sequential sexual behavioural pattern in MSM and its contribution to anatomical site-specific gonorrhoea infection. This study was conducted in collaboration with Prof Pingyu Zhou, from Shanghai Skin Disease Hospital, Tongji University. While Prof Zhang's team structured and designed the study, Prof Zhou implemented it successfully. Through a 12 consecutive weeks follow-up, the study explores how the complex sexual

behavioural pattern in men who have sex with men contributes to the new incidental cases of gonorrhoea infection at the oropharynx, anorectum and urethra.

From November 2020 to January 2022, a total of 332 men who have sex with men were recruited, of whom 312 completed the 12-week follow-up, and the median age of the participants was 28 (IQR 24-32) years. During the 12-week follow-up, the incidence of any-site gonorrhoea was 117/100 person-years, whereas site-specific gonorrhoea incidence for oropharynx, urethra and anorectum is 63.7, 7.3 and 85.2/100 person-years respectively. For single-sex acts, kissing is the most performed, followed by receptive and insertive oral sex, and receptive and insertive anal sex. Rimming, receptive and insertive, is the least practised sexual act. For consecutive sex act pairs, 'kissing-receptive oral sex' ($K-O_r$) is the most frequently performed, followed by 'kissing-insertive oral sex' ($K-O_i$) and 'receptive oral sex-insertive oral sex' (O_r-O_i). Particularly, machine-learning models demonstrate that 'insertive oral sex-receptive oral sex' (O_i-O_r), kissing and insertive oral sex are the most important contributors to any-site gonorrhoea infection, whereas insertive oral sex, behavioural consistency and kissing substantially contribute to oral infection, and kissing, O_i-O_r and diversity in sexual act pairs to anorectal infection. Further exploration of the sexual behavioural characteristics of MSM in association with infection is necessary for future studies, with a view to better controlling the prevalence and spread of gonorrhoea.

Pingyu Zhou

North America

From the American STD Association (ASTDA)



From the American STD Association (ASTDA)

- The ASTDA 2022 Achievement Award winners have been announced:
 - Distinguished Career Award: Jeanne Marrazzo MD, MPH
 - Jack N Spencer Award: Julie Schillinger MD, MSc
 - Achievement Award: Kyle Bernstein, PhD, ScM

- Young Investigator Award: Stacey Griner, PhD, MPH
- Best STD Paper by an Early Career Investigator: Ling Kong, MD
- The RFA for the second annual ASTDA Summer Fellowship Program will be released this winter. Trainees will receive up to \$7000 and their mentors will receive \$2000 for a summer 2023 research experience. <https://www.astda.org/2022-summer-fellowship-recipients/>
- ASTDA has increased funding for the Small Projects Assistance Fund. The goal of the fund is to provide up to \$5000 to young investigators for projects related to STIs. Four deserving investigators received support during July 2022 funding cycle: Jaquetta Reeves, Neetha Iyer, Erica Dommasch, and Jacob Elnaggar. The deadline for the next cycle is January 3, 2023. <https://www.astda.org/small-project-assistance/>



- Planning for the Joint 25th ISSTD/24th IUSTI World Congress is well underway! The Congress is co-sponsored by ASTDA / IUSTI-North America, and will be held in conjunction with the National Sexual Health Conference. Abstract submission will open soon at www.stihiv2023.org and we hope you will share your data and come interact with your colleagues in Chicago 24-27 July 2023. When making travel plans, remember that there will be a robust pre-Congress day of event so plan to arrive accordingly. Exciting events during the congress will include:
 - A celebration of IUSTI's Centenary
 - A global art contest to display visual interpretations of people's experiences with STI
 - A design-athon intended to bring fresh ideas to development of solutions to our STI control efforts
 We hope to see you in July in Chicago, USA.
- The ISSTD Board invites nominations for membership on the Board, to be considered at the ISSTD Board meeting to be held in June 2023. Successful applicants will have a strong track record in sexually transmitted infection research, including research leadership. Applications are due 15 May 2023. Additional information is available at www.stihiv2023.org.
- ISSTD and IUSTI solicit proposals by qualified investigators to conduct ISSTD's 27th biennial meeting in conjunction with the 26th World IUSTI meeting in 2027. Application deadline is 15 May 2023. Additional information is available at www.stihiv2023.org.

From the CDC Division of STD Prevention (DSTDP)



- CDC released new [preliminary 2021 STD surveillance data](#) prior to the biannual 2022 STD Prevention Conference. The new preliminary 2021 data suggest STDs continued to increase during the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic with no signs of slowing. Nearly 2.5 million cases of chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis were reported in the United States, reflecting a 4.4% increase since 2020.
- In July, CDC released [COVID-19: U.S. Impact on Antimicrobial Resistance, Special Report 2022](#). The analysis finds that much of the progress made in the United States in previous years combating antimicrobial resistance was lost, in large part, due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. For *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, the pandemic hindered the ability to estimate the number of drug-resistant infections in 2020. However, increases seen in previous years remain concerning – and public health action is critical.
- CDC launched the new [STI Treatment \(Tx\) Guide Mobile App](#). The new app provides streamlined STI prevention, diagnostic, and treatment recommendations. The user-friendly interface includes a number of features to assist with patient management such as clinical care guidance, sexual history resources, and patient materials. The app is free and available for Apple and Android mobile devices.
- The Division published its [Strategic Plan](#) for 2022-2026 in September. The plan's

six goals outline a comprehensive approach to maximize the impact of STI prevention programs, science, and policy.

- The [2022 STD Prevention Conference](#) was held virtually September 19-22, 2022. More than 1300 colleagues attended from across the globe where they explored opportunities for new horizons in sexual health. With discussions ranging from syndemics to monkeypox and doxycycline post-exposure prophylaxis (doxy-PEP), attendees reimagined what STI prevention could be. The next STD Prevention Conference is scheduled for September 2024.
- CDC is investing \$9 million in several projects to innovate STI testing and service delivery. Areas of innovation include development of rapid and inexpensive point-of-care syphilis diagnostic tests, expansion of STI/HIV services and care in pharmacy and retail health clinics, and interventions for syphilis and congenital syphilis.
- CDC colleagues in the Division of STD Prevention continue to assist health departments in diagnosing and responding to [multiple cases of monkeypox in the United States](#).

Stay up-to-date on the latest news from DSTDP by visiting the Division's [What's New page](#).

From IUSTI-Canada



The IUSTI Canada Webinar Series continues to offer high-quality presentations by experts in the field.

- On September 26, 2022, IUSTI-Canada hosted a webinar entitled “*Mycoplasma genitalium* Infections: A Challenge for Clinicians.” Speakers included Dre. Annie-Claude Labbé and Irene Martin. The webinar was hosted by IUSTI-Canada President Dr. Marc Steben. A recording of the webinar is now available on the [IUSTI-Canada website](#).
- Upcoming webinars will include
 - November 16, 2022: “Syphilis Vaccine Development” with Dr.

Caroline Cameron and Dr. Lorenzo Giacani.

- December 1, 2022: “AIDS 2022 – What Have We Learned?” with Dr. Jean-Pierre Routy.
- January, 2023 (TBD): Webinar with Dr. Carmen Logie.

Further information will be forthcoming on the IUSTI-Canada website.



IUSTI Canada continues to plan for the 2025 ISSTD IUSTI Congress, to be held in Montreal, Quebec on July 24-27, 2025. A robust local organizing committee is currently under development. Please mark your calendars for this exciting conference in a world-class city.

From the American Sexual Health Association (ASHA)



- ASHA's presentation at the 2022 STD Prevention Conference, *A Social Media Intervention: Addressing Misinformation and Misdiagnosis on Reddit*, outlined the Yes Means Test campaign, an initiative that addresses the need for STD testing among young people under age 25. The presentation is available at <https://www.ashasexualhealth.org/yesmeantest/> and details the development of this activity and its outcomes.
- ASHA co-sponsored the 2022 Contraceptive Technology Conference in September 2022. We are also an organizing partner with the [STI & HIV 2023 World Congress](#) to be held July 24-27.
- ASHA released additional episodes of our Sex+Health podcast including conversations that focus on the treatment of trichomoniasis infections and the emotional and relationship aspects of the diagnosis. Another recent episode focuses on coping with cancer during COVID.
- ASHA also took part in public health observations including World Sexual Health Day and Gynecologic Cancer Awareness Month, both in September.
- ASHA expanded our monkeypox resources including commentary on the

case for considering monkeypox as an STI.

- ASHA published a CE activity for physicians and nurses *Improving Adolescent and Young Adult Sexual Health through Routine Screening and Preventive Care*. Credit is available through June 30, 2023 at <https://www.ashasexualhealth.org/improving-adolescent-sexual-health-through-routine-screening-and-preventive-care/>.

Brad Stoner

Conference Update

IUSTI Events:

STI & HIV World Congress

Dates: July 24-27, 2023

Chicago, USA

Website: <https://stihiv2023.org/>

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

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