

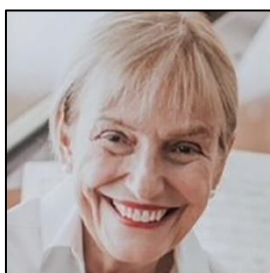
## ***STI Global Update***

### **Newsletter of the International Union against Sexually Transmitted Infections**

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#### **President's Letter**



Dr Jo-Anne Dillon - President of IUSTI

#### **A Heartfelt Thank You and a Call to Action**

Dear Members of the International Union Against Sexually Transmitted Infections (IUSTI),

I am honoured to address you as the newly appointed President of our distinguished organization. I step into this role with enthusiasm, dedication, and gratitude.

First and foremost, I would like to extend my deepest appreciation to the outgoing President, Janet Wilson, for her indefatigable effort and commitment to advancing the mission of IUSTI. I would also like to acknowledge all previous members who have tirelessly served in their roles, contributing to the growth and success of our Union. The contributions of our past leaders and members have laid a strong legacy upon which we will continue to build as we forge ahead, together, in our mission.

In this moment of transition, I am reminded of the vital role that volunteers play in the success of an organization like ours. Volunteers are the lifeblood of our Union, dedicating their time, energy, and expertise. Whether organizing crucial meetings or

contributing to the ongoing agenda of our Union, each volunteer plays a pivotal role in shaping the direction of our collective efforts that make a real impact on the global fight against STIs.

In the coming months, we will work as teams and have exciting plans to reach out to enhance membership, to articulate our achievements, and to collaborate with experts and organizations around the world. Our on-going collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) includes supporting WHO's work in reducing the burden of STIs globally and our members actively engaged in various initiatives towards this goal. The Wisdom project will codify our history by creating an archive of IUSTI documents that are easily accessible. The Wisdom project will also make meeting organization easier by creating standardized bid formats for meetings, and documenting what is required to organize and plan meetings; and the Wisdom project will clarify roles and responsibilities within IUSTI while reviewing IUSTI statutes and values. The Membership project seeks to expand memberships and activities throughout all IUSTI regions and to ascertain how to empower early and midcareer members within the Union. The Scholarship project will identify strategies to create an on-going viable scholarship fund and to develop ways so that members have greater access to meetings and other IUSTI initiatives. The STI Day project will promote plans to create an international day recognizing the need to reduce STIs and promote sexual health. IUSTI also requires volunteers who are knowledgeable about communication strategies through social media, harmonizing websites, and more. Volunteers have already signed on to frame and participate in these projects. Some of these projects will take several years and the IUSTI Executive team is working together to ensure continuity and closure as the leadership changes over time.

Please remember the upcoming meetings which IUSTI supports (<https://iusti.org/events/>): The Sri Lanka College of Sexual Health and Medicine 28th Annual Conference 2023, October 13-14 (Safeguarding the Vulnerable within the Practice of Sexual Health); the 36th IUSTI Europe Congress, 26-28 October, Malta; 37th IUSTI Europe Congress, 11-14 September 2024, Zagreb, Croatia; 25th IUSTI World Congress, 17-20 September 2024, Sydney, Australia; and the STI

and HIV 2025 World Congress, July 26-30, Montreal Canada. Thank you to the many volunteers who will organize and participate in these meetings.

If you are interested in volunteering or have ideas to share, please don't hesitate to reach out. Your involvement will contribute to the vibrant tapestry of IUSTI.

Thank you once again for entrusting me with the honour of serving as your President and for your continued support and dedication to IUSTI.

*Jo-Anne Dillon, IUSTI-World President*

## News

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 -**

[A vaccine against gonorrhoea: Is it more than an aspiration?](#) - Over the last years, we have seen a rise in the number of people diagnosed with gonorrhoea, alongside growing rates of antibiotic resistance. New research makes us hopeful that a vaccine may soon become available to provide global, large scale benefits. In this podcast, we explore this possibility with three experts in the field: Prof Kate Seib, Dr Claire Dewsnap and Dr Silvia Nozza.

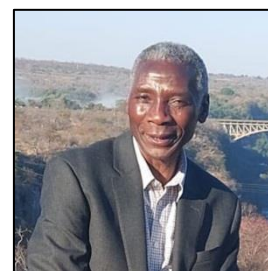
[World Hepatitis Day 2023: Unveiling the Hidden Threats of the Hepatitis B Virus](#) - In honour of World Hepatitis Day, this episode focuses on the Hepatitis B virus (HBV). Since HBV was discovered in 1965, we have made great progress in reducing the burden of infections and disease through prevention and antiviral treatment, but much is left to do. The WHO has called for enhanced efforts along four main pathways: i) increasing awareness of HBV infection, ii) promoting prevention strategies, iii) expanding access to testing and treatment; and iv) improving surveillance, data collection and research. In this special edition of the podcast we discuss these topics with a focus on the European Region with

our three guests: Dr. Erika Duffell, Prof. Simon de Lusignan and Prof. Anna Maria Geretti.

STI podcasts are free to access and available on all major podcast platforms including [Podbean](#), [Apple Podcasts](#), [Google Podcasts](#), [Stitcher](#) and [Spotify](#). Don't forget to subscribe to be notified of new episodes and if you enjoy the show, please leave us a [review](#).

## Regional Reports

### **Africa MENA**



Dr Francis Ndowa – Regional Director of IUSTI-Africa MENA

### **1. The International Conference on AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections in Africa (ICASA)**

The 22<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections in Africa (ICASA 2023) will take place in Harare, Zimbabwe from 4 to 9 December 2023, <http://icasa2023.saafrica.org/>. The theme of the conference is “*AIDS IS NOT OVER: Address inequalities, accelerate inclusion and innovation*”. ICASA is a major bilingual international AIDS conference which takes place in Africa with a biennial hosting alternating between anglophone and francophone African countries. The official languages of the conference are English and French. Simultaneous interpretation from English to French and from French to English will be provided in all session rooms. The ICASA 2023 Conference will be a hybrid conference with both in-person and virtual participation.

### **2. Publications and data from the IUSTI Africa-MENA region**

**2.1 Seroprevalence of herpes simplex virus type 1 and type 2 among the migrant workers in Qatar**  
A collaborative study conducted by the Infectious Disease Epidemiology Group of Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar and Qatar University found that the seroprevalence of herpes simplex virus type 1 (HSV-1) and type 2 (HSV-2) infections among craft and manual workers in Qatar was 84.2% and 11.4%, respectively. HSV-1 infection was associated with nationality, educational attainment, and occupation. HSV-2 infection was associated

with age, nationality, and educational attainment. Published in *Virology*, the study represents the first assessment of seroprevalence of HSV-1 and HSV-2 infections among this majority segment of Qatar's population. The findings emphasize the importance of monitoring trends in HSV-1 and HSV-2 seroprevalence, conducting etiological surveillance of genital ulcer disease, genital herpes, and other HSV-related morbidities, and implementing sexual health programs to tackle sexually transmitted infections among craft and manual workers.

Citation: Nasrallah GK, Dargham SR, Al-Sadeq DW, Amanullah FH, Shurrah FM, Nizamuddin PB, et al. Seroprevalence of herpes simplex virus type 1 and type 2 among the migrant workers in Qatar. *Virology*. 2023 Aug 22;20(1):188. doi: 10.1186/s12985-023-02157-1.

Weblink:

<https://virology.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12985-023-02157-1>

## 2.2 Low screening rates for cervical cancer in sub-Saharan Africa

A recent publication demonstrated that cervical precancer screening rates were inequitable and low in all the 6 surveyed countries in sub-Saharan Africa, namely, Ethiopia, Malawi, Rwanda, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. None of the countries achieved one-third of the WHO's target of screening 70% of eligible women by 2030, 8 years away from the 2030 deadline. Self-reported screening rates ranged from 3.5% (Rwanda) to 17.1% in Zambia and Zimbabwe. There were differences of uptake of screening based on age, urban/rural setting, educational level and wealth quintile.

Citation: Chipanta D, Kapambwe S, Nyondo-Mipando AL, Pascoe M, Amo-Agyei S, Bohlius F, et al. Socioeconomic inequalities in cervical precancer screening among women in Ethiopia, Malawi, Rwanda, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe: analysis of Population-Based HIV Impact Assessment surveys. *BMJ Open* 2023;13:e067948. doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2022-067948

## 2.3 Challenges in offering same day results using GeneXpert platform as a point-of-care test for STIs among youth in Zimbabwe

Although point-of-care testing for STIs may improve diagnosis and treatment of STIs in low- and middle-income countries, a trial in Zimbabwe exploring the use of the GeneXpert platform as a point-of-care testing for *C. trachomatis* and *N. gonorrhoeae* in community-based settings in Zimbabwe for youth aged 16 to 24 years found that several barriers prevented an operational same-day testing and treatment strategy, resulting in only two-thirds of those with positive tests being treated. The study could only make the results available in a week. Analytic capacity and testing time were found to be some of the barriers to the application of the GeneXpert as a true point-of-care test.

Citation: Martin K, Dziva Chikwari C, Mackworth-Young CRS, Chisenga M, Bandason T, Dauya E, et al. "It was difficult to offer same day results": evaluation of community-based point-of-care testing for sexually transmitted infections among youth

using the GeneXpert platform in Zimbabwe. *BMC Health Serv Res.* 22, 171 (2022). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12913-022-07557-7>.

Francis Ndowa

## Europe



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

It is my pleasure to report that within the past months IUSTI-Europe stayed as active as before and we are delighted to announce further events.

## 36th IUSTI Europe Congress 26 to the 28 October 2023, Valletta, Malta



REACHING OUT  
TO THE HARD TO REACH

The Congress '*Reaching Out to the Hard to Reach*' organised so wonderfully by Valeska Padovese has an outstanding scientific programme led by Scientific Chair Henry de Vries and we look forward to meeting many IUSTI Europe members there. All details are on the webpage of the conference: <https://iustimalta.eventsair.com/iusti-europe-congress-2023/>

In 3 plenary sessions, 5 symposia, 9 workshops and 4 abstract driven sessions we will cover a selection of topics. We have an impressive line-up of highly acclaimed international speakers who will inform you on all aspects of STIs, including its clinical issues. This year the program is focused on health policies to improve the sexual health outcomes of socially disadvantaged groups. Key populations are central in the STI epidemic and important groups to collaborate with in the fight against STI.



### 37th IUSTI-Europe congress September 12-14, 2024 in Zagreb, Croatia



*Derek Freedman (IUSTI Europe Council Scientific Policy), Suzana Ljubojevic Hadzavdic & Mihael Skerlev (Congress Presidents), Claudia Heller-Vitouch (IUSTI Europe Regional Director) and Marco Cusini (Scientific Chair) in Zagreb planning the 2024 Congress*

Congress president Mihael Skerlev and Suzana Ljubojevic Hadzavdic and scientific chair Marco Cusini have already started preparations for the 37th IUSTI-Europe congress in Zagreb, Croatia September 12-14, 2024. A site visit by Derek Freedman, Marco Cusini and Claudia Heller-Vitouch has taken place recently where important issues were discussed and we could assure ourselves once again of the great professionalism of the organizing team as well as the warm hospitality of our Croatian friends.

### 38th IUSTI-Europe congress expected 9 -11 October 2025, in Rhodes, Greece

We are looking even further ahead to the 38th IUSTI-Europe congress in Rhodes, Greece expected 9 -11 October 2025 led by Electra Nicolaidu.

#### IUSTI-Europe STI-courses:

A very successful IUSTI-Europe STI-Advanced Course on the anniversary of 100 years of IUSTI was held at the STI & HIV World congress in Chicago in July 2023. More than 120 participants followed the excellent programme of the course organized by the IUSTI-Europe Educational Chairs Angelika Stary and Marco Cusini. In the first session Charlotte Gaydos reported about news in point of care tests, Carolin Cameron spoke about modernizing Syphilis diagnostics and Janet Wilson introduced new diagnostic methods for genital discharge. In the second session Raj Patel tried to solve the problem of microbial resistance as did Jörgen Skov Jensen concerning *Mycoplasma genitalium*. Connie Celum answered questions around Doxy PrEP and Ellen Kersh and Jackie Sherrard gave an overview about the STI treatment guidelines of CDC and IUSTI-Europe respectively. After a lunch break Kit Fairley provided the audience with an update about HPV-vaccination, Angelica Espinosa Miranda spoke about STIs and pregnancy and Henry de Vries covered STIs in sexual minorities. The discussion was lively leading to a very interactive course. The overall feedback was excellent.



*IUSTI World 100 Years Celebration Advanced Course, IUSTI-Europe*

The next advanced STI-Course "Syphilis from Alpha to Omega" again organized by Angelika Stary and Marco Cusini with excellent international speakers and an outstanding programme will take place on Thursday, October 26, 2023 during the 36th IUSTI-Europe Congress in Malta (October 26 – 28, 2023). A discount will apply if Course and congress are booked together. IUSTI-members pay a reduced fee.

This year's advanced course is dedicated to syphilis, offering a comprehensive overview of the disease. With a noticeable rise in cases over the past years, syphilis stands as an intriguing and intricate ailment. The course aims to equip participants with a holistic understanding of the disease, integrating the latest updated information that proves invaluable in everyday clinical practice. Though tailored for young STI professionals, attendees of the congress as a whole will derive substantial benefits. "Syphilis from Alpha to Omega" is slated for **Thursday, October 26th, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm**, with a deliberately limited number of participants to encourage enhanced interactivity and robust discussions. The organizers emphasize that interactive exchanges with speakers and facilitators are defining features of these courses, enriching the learning experience for all involved. The course program encompasses the entire spectrum of syphilis. Kicking off with historical insights shared by Professor Michel Janier, the leading author of IUSTI Europe's Syphilis guidelines, the course then traverses through epidemiology, clinical manifestations, differential and laboratory diagnosis, including rapid tests. Notable topics such as congenital syphilis and syphilis in the context of HIV will be thoroughly explored by Dr. S. Fouéré and Dr. D. Gökengin. Professor Georg Stary will delve into the immunological dimensions of syphilis. The course concludes with discussions on current treatments and the issue of resistance, led by Professor George Sorin Tiplica and Dr. Marti Vall Mayans.

#### IUSTI-Europe Webinars

Another series of excellent webinars organized by the webinar co-editors Derek Freedman and George-Sorin Tiplica has taken place which can be

watched online on [www.iusti-europe.eu](http://www.iusti-europe.eu). These series are a tremendous success, with hundreds of registrations and enthusiastic online attendance. The speakers delivered outstanding presentations and took the time to address questions.

In September 2023 IUSTI-Europe did not organize an own presentation but invited to participate in the BASHH Webinar: Highlights of the STI + HIV World Congress in Chicago 2023. There will be no October IUSTI Europe Webinar as we will be at the IUSTI Europe 2023 Congress Malta. The next IUSTI Europe Webinar will take place in November 2023.

In the meantime, please feel free to delve into the summary of the Spring 2023 webinars.

**Webinar 17 - The best from Germany, March 29, 2023**

This event brought together professionals from the Robert Koch Institut (RKI), Ruhr-University Bochum, Universitätsklinikum Carl Gustav Carus, and Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin.

**Webinar 18 - Recommendations for the Diagnosis and Treatment of Vaginitis, April 26, 2023**

This webinar discussed the International Society for the Study of Vulvo- vaginal Diseases (ISSVD)'s extraordinarily comprehensive set of recommendations and guidance concerning the diagnosis and treatment of vaginitis

**Webinar 19 - End of Season | STI Pot-Pourri, May 31, 2023**

The "End of Season | STI Pot-Pourri" webinar brought together experts in the field of STIs to discuss a diverse range of topics.

Please let us know what you would like to see presented. Email us with your suggestions [df@freedman.ie](mailto:df@freedman.ie) / [romsocderm@yahoo.com](mailto:romsocderm@yahoo.com)

**IUSTI-Europe Guidelines**

The guidelines group is chaired by Dr Jackie Sherrard, UK and meets quarterly.

The vaginal discharge guideline has had some minor revisions. Under review are guidelines on chlamydia, partner management, scabies and non-specific urethritis. Over the next year we plan to pilot a new way of producing 'living guidelines' using an online tool which should make guideline production more straightforward.

The guidelines group is always looking for members with skills in guideline development, critical appraisal of literature and writing to contribute, both at the level of the Guidelines Editorial group and to help with individual guidelines as lead or co-author. The next

Guidelines group meeting will be during the Malta conference at the end of October.

Please contact Dr Sherrard if you are interested at [jackiesherrard@doctors.org.uk](mailto:jackiesherrard@doctors.org.uk). All current and draft guidelines are published here: <https://iusti.org/treatment-guidelines/>

**ECDC: STI Network meeting, June 2023**

by Lina Nerlander, Principal Expert, Sexually Transmitted Infections, ECDC

The STI Network met in person at the ECDC office in Stockholm, Sweden on 28-29 June 2023. The Network consists of representatives from partner organisations (WHO Europe, IUSTI Europe), civil society and other invited speakers. The aim was to offer an opportunity for ECDC and STI Network members to reconnect in person after several years of no face-to-face meetings, and resume discussions from the 2022 virtual STI Network meeting. This was a two-day technical meeting with plenary and panel discussions combined with expert keynote talks, small group discussions and country example presentations on recent STI outbreaks and the associated public health responses.

IUSTI Europe delegates included Chris Kenyon (Belgium), George-Sorin Tiplica (Romania) and Magnus Unemo (Sweden).

Presentations and panel discussions covered several areas of STI work:

- Progress towards European Union/European Economic Area (EU/EEA) STI surveillance objectives and plans for developing STI surveillance standards for the Member States
- New initiative to collect surveillance data from electronic health records
- Feasibility of STI sentinel surveillance in the EU/EEA
- Euro-GASP update on antimicrobial resistance trends of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*
- National preparedness and response to STI outbreaks among men who have sex with men (MSM) in the EU/EEA
- Plans for an ECDC preparedness simulation exercise on a STI topic.
- Recent trends of increased gonorrhoea notifications among heterosexuals in the EU/EEA
- Plans for STI monitoring within the ECDC framework service contract for Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) monitoring.
- STI topics for ECDC scientific advice work for the next 2-3 years
- Evidence, effectiveness, benefits and potential harms of doxycycline for prophylaxis of bacterial STIs

- Strategies to accelerate progress towards ending STI epidemics by 2030.

### Autumn European Testing Week: 20th to 27th November 2023



European Testing Week is an initiative in Europe that calls on partner organizations spanning community groups, healthcare facilities, and policy institutions to come together twice a year for a week-long period. Its primary objectives are to boost testing endeavours and raise awareness about the advantages of early hepatitis and HIV testing. This campaign has evolved significantly since its inception in 2013 and has now become a well-established European event, drawing the participation of numerous organizations each year. IUSTI Europe is pleased to support EuroTEST's European Testing Week initiative #EuroTestWeek. More information available at Testing Week @EuroTestWeek (<https://www.testingweek.eu/>) or hashtag #EuroTestWeek

All materials to support testing week are available here: <https://www.testingweek.eu/campaign-materials/>.

### IUSTI-Europe webpage

Please stay tuned on our webpage [www.iusti-europe.eu](http://www.iusti-europe.eu), where you can find the recordings of the webinars as well as the European Newsletter archive, a link to the guidelines and most recent information about IUSTI-Europe's activities.

*Claudia Heller-Vitouch*

### Asia Pacific



Dr Pingyu Zhou – Regional Director of IUSTI-Asia-Pacific

### Improving reproductive health by controlling the prevalence of *Chlamydia trachomatis* --

### Chlamydia Control Project in Guangdong, China

*Changchang Li, Shujie Huang, Ligang Yang*

Guangdong, a southern coastal province, is one of China's most economically dynamic regions and has a high prevalence of sexually transmitted diseases. In 2017, China's National Centre for the Prevention and Control of Sexually Transmitted Diseases launched the "Comprehensive Prevention and Control Pilot Project for Chlamydia Trachomatis" in the province with the aim of developing an appropriate strategy for the prevention and control of chlamydia infection in China.

In 2018, the Guangdong Provincial Center for Sexually Transmitted Disease Control conducted a base line survey among women of childbearing age to understand the epidemiology of Chlamydia infection. At the same time, the centre systematically reviewed and analysed global research on the association between Chlamydia infection and infertility and adverse pregnancy outcomes. The above evidence formed the basis for the Guangdong Chlamydia Intervention Programme (GCiP) pilot project developed by the Guangdong Provincial STD Prevention and Control Centre. From 2021, the Guangdong Provincial Health Commission funded and launched the "Guangdong Province Comprehensive Chlamydia Infection Prevention and Control Pilot Project Plan (GCiP)". The project covered Nanshan in Shenzhen, Zhuhai, Xinxing in Yunfu, Xinyi in Maoming and Puning in Jieyang.



GCiP consists of two phases: From 2022 to the end of 2023, the project focused on strengthening the capacity of the local health system for surveillance, testing, diagnosis and treatment. In the second phase, from 2023 to the end of 2025, it will focus on strengthening the coverage, efficiency and quality of health services.

The Comprehensive Chlamydia Infection Prevention and Control Pilot Project represents an important step in addressing Chlamydia infection in Guangdong, with the aim of safeguarding the reproductive health of the population and contributing to the national Chlamydia prevention and control strategy.





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### Recent Conferences

Australasian Sexual & Reproductive health conference, Manly Sydney 18-20 September - over 500 participants



UNDP Vanuatu HIV & STI training -3-9 September - 20 participants



UNDP Pacific Islands Online 'Short course in HIV/STI' - 61 participants



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### STI report from Japan in Eastern Asian region

Eighty years ago, syphilis was epidemic in Japan. About 220,000 patients with syphilis were reported in 1948. The patient numbers were dramatically decreased from the peak, as about 12000 in 1987, 2000 in 1987. Less than 1000 patients have been reported from 1993. However, the patient numbers increased from 2013 and reached 13000 in 2022. In this year, over 12000 patients were reported from January to August, and it is estimated that total number of patients in 2023 will be more than 20000. Age distribution of female and male patients in recent years was characteristic. Among female patients, 35% were young females aged 20-24 years. In contrast, ages of male patients were broadly distributed from 20-50 years old. Almost all patients were infected heterosexually between young females and males of any age. Syphilis has been spread not only by commercial sex female workers (CSFW), but also non-CSFW in Japan. The reasons for this increase in syphilis patients remain unexplained. Government and Japanese Association of sexually infected (JSSI) has highlighted the issue to the general public and medical experts, but with little effect so far.

*Mycoplasma genitalium* infection has been focused worldwide because of its antimicrobial resistance. In June 2022, the nucleic acid amplification test to detect both *M. genitalium* and *Trichomonas vaginalis* was accepted by the national insurance system in Japan. Treatment failure cases of *M. genitalium* infection including male urethritis and female cervicitis are increasing. The percentage of macrolide resistance was reported to be over 70% in 2017 and over 90% in 2021. Moreover, macrolide-resistance and fluoroquinolone resistant *M. genitalium* strains were isolated. In fact, some patients can no longer be treated effectively with azithromycin, tetracyclines or sitafloxacin.

Pingyu Zhou

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## **North America**



Dr Brad Stoner – Regional Director of IUSTI-North America

### **From the American STD Association (ASTDA)**



- The ASTDA leadership team transitioned in July 2023, with Dr. Abigail Norris Turner becoming President, Dr. Julie Dombrowski as President-Elect, and Dr. Khalil Ghanem becoming Past President.
- ASTDA hosted the marvelous International Society for STD Research/IUSTI joint [STI/HIV World Congress](#) in Chicago, USA in July. The meeting had 1139 attendees from 55 countries, and was a high-energy combination of science, innovation, activism and collaboration. Some additional highlights:
  - Reinforcing ASTDA's commitment to developing the STI workforce, nearly 25% of conference attendees were early-career scholars
  - ASTDA provided \$50,000 in scholarship funds to support young people worldwide attending the meeting
  - ASTDA sponsored and planned three breakfast sessions, again targeting young people in the field: 1. "Meet the experts"; 2. "Strategies on grant funding—both nationally and internationally" and 3. "Writing and submitting a manuscript for publication". These sessions had wonderful attendance despite the early hour each morning.
  - ASTDA hosted a plenary session featuring exclusively early-career scholars.
  - ASTDA awarded our three annual recognition awards, to Dr. Dennis Fortenberry (Distinguished Career Award), Dr. Rebecca Brotman (Achievement Award), and Dr. Jenell Stewart (Young Investigator Award)
  - ASTDA gave seven prizes for the best oral presentations among early-career scholars, to Ms. Kathryn "Addie" Hayes, Dr. Karen Lithgow, Dr. Constanca Mavodza, Ms. Mandisa Mildred Mdingi, Dr.

Jenell Stewart, Ms. Maartje Visser, and Mr. Sean Waugh.

- ASTDA celebrated the selection of former ASTDA President and 2022 Distinguished Career Awardee, Dr. Jeanne Marrazzo, to succeed Dr. Tony Fauci as head of the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)
- ASTDA redesigned the cover of the *STD* journal, with the final selected design submitted by Em Pike from the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. The new design will roll out in January 2024.
- ASTDA enrolled our second cohort of summer research fellows, with the expectation that the summer fellowship program will continue again in 2024. Awardees receive \$5000 to support their STI-related research, and their mentors receive \$2000. The ASTDA [website](#) will have additional information in the coming months.
- ASTDA committed to co-hosting the 2024 STD Prevention Conference, with partners at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the American Sexual Health Association (ASHA), and the National Coalition of STD Directors (NCSd).

### **From the CDC Division of STD Prevention (DSTDP)**



- CDC has developed draft guidelines on the use of sexually transmitted infection (STI) post-exposure prophylaxis with doxycycline (Doxy PEP) for preventing some bacterial STIs. Beginning Monday, October 02, the agency will request public input on the draft. Comments can be shared for 45 days on [Guidelines for the Use of Doxycycline Post-Exposure Prophylaxis for Bacterial Sexually Transmitted Infection \(STI\) Prevention](#). An [informational presentation](#) about the draft guidelines is available online.
- [National Disease Intervention Specialists \(DIS\) Recognition Day](#) will be observed the first Friday in October - October 06, 2023.
- On July 20, DSTDP issued [a Dear Colleague Letter](#) with clinical reminders for us during [the ongoing national Bicillin L-A shortage](#).
- On September 22, DSTDP issued [a Dear Colleague Letter](#) announcing the award of funding to 26 partner recipients through Enhancing STI and Sexual Health Clinic Infrastructure (ESSHCI).
- CDC continues to highlight important STI prevention work at the state and local level via [success stories](#) and [brief bulletins](#). In September, CDC released [a success story](#)



about a project providing STI healthcare in a community church in Southern Nevada.

- In September, DSTDP updated [the Ending the HIV Epidemic webpage](#) with new recipient information and updated Promising Practices from the field.
- Stay up-to-date on the latest news from DSTDP by visiting the Division's [What's New page](#).

#### From IUSTI-Canada



- For the upcoming 2025 STI & HIV World Congress to be held in Montreal, Canada, one of IUSTI-Canada's goals is to provide scholarships to Indigenous groups to support travel and/or registration for the meeting.



- IUSTI-Canada webinars:
  - IUSTI-Canada recently hosted the following online webinar:
    - June 27- Dr. William Fisher and Dr. Marc Steben: *Genital herpes is still an important issue in 2023*. A recording of this presentation is available on the [IUSTI-Canada website](#).
    - Sept. 20 – Dr. Troy Grennan: *Doxycycline for bacterial STI prevention – an emerging paradigm*. A recording of this presentation is available on the [IUSTI-Canada website](#).
  - The following webinar is planned:

- Oct. 18 – Dr. Karen Lithgow: STI pathogens and preterm birth.
- Organization planning is well underway for the 2025 ISSTD IUSTI Congress, to be held in Montreal, Quebec on July 24-27, 2025. Please mark your calendars for this exciting conference in a world-class city.

#### From the American Sexual Health Association (ASHA)



- ASHA was the organizing partner and co-sponsor with the STI & HIV 2023 World Congress, held July 24-27 in Chicago, IL.
- ASHA also served as secretariat and an organizer of the 2023 Contraceptive Technology Conference, held in Atlanta, GA September 20-22.
- ASHA took part in public health observations including National Immunization Awareness Month (August), World Sexual Health Day (September), and Gynecologic Cancer Awareness Month (September).
- ASHA released several episodes of our Sex+Health podcast including a three-part mini-series on disability and sexual health. Topics covered are sex education, implicit bias and ableism, and health disparities, sexuality, and research.
- ASHA is expanding our interactive patient education tool, Understanding Cervical Cancer Prevention, to include three new languages: Dari, Pashto, and Arabic. The tool is currently available in English and Spanish; the Dari version is currently being tested with community stakeholders.

Brad Stoner

### Conference Update

#### **IUSTI Events:**

36th IUSTI Europe Congress

26 - 28 October 2023

Valletta, Malta

<http://iustimalta.eventsair.com/iusti-europe-congress-2023/>

25<sup>th</sup> World IUSTI Congress 2024

17 – 20 September 2024

Sydney, Australia

<https://www.iusti2024sydney.org/>

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*STI Global Update* is published by the International Union against Sexually Transmitted Infections. Its aims are to provide an international perspective on the management and control of

sexually acquired infections.

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Further information on the activities of IUSTI available at

[www.iusti.org](http://www.iusti.org)