

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

Dear IUSTI Members

Ways to promote on-going communication with our IUSTI membership has been on my mind recently. In our rapidly evolving field of work, communication is vital for our success and consolidation both as an organization that spans all regions of the world and for creating community and collaboration with the diverse groups engaged in working with sexually transmitted infections. That is why we have strengthened our Communications Committee within IUSTI, headed by Ina Park.

Our major communication platform has been and continues to be our gathering at the superb and diverse meetings that take place annually in various parts of the world. This fall IUSTI will host two meetings (see following paragraphs). I encourage those who have not registered yet to do so.

The 25th IUSTI 2024 World Congress (<https://www.iusti2024sydney.org/>) will be held in Sydney, Australia, 18-20 September 2024 and will be held back-to-back with the 2024 Australasian HIV&AIDS Conference, from 16-18 September 2024. The Congress focusses on a commitment to sexual health and reproductive health and human

rights and is held in partnership with the Australian Society for HIV, Viral Hepatitis and Sexual Health Medicine (ASHM). Eric Chow is President of the Congress, and the Scientific Co-Chairs are Jonathan Ross, Catriona Bradshaw, Jennifer Power, and Kate Seib. Preconference activities include a pediatric theme day which will focus on the prevention and treatment of HIV, syphilis and hepatitis B and C in infants, children, and adolescents, with a focus on the Asia-Pacific region. The World Health Organization will hold a 3-hour session on mobilizing for actions against STIs, which involves community representatives from the Region, and aims at setting a frame for improving political / technology / community commitment to improve STIs. Keynote speakers will address the global syphilis epidemic, the state of science in STI prevention tools, epidemiology, and prevention of sexual reproductive coercion, Mpox, the human virome and sexual transmission, indigenous based approaches to prevention, and community-led sexual health research, literacy, and advocacy. The invited speaker and oral sessions span all areas of STI engagement and will include specific sessions pertaining to issues in the Asia Pacific region. The partners of conference delegates are also invited to attend the conference opening ceremony, reception and conference dinner – registration is available at <https://ashm.eventsair.com/hiv-asrh-iusti-2024-sydney/hiviustiguest>.

IUSTI-Europe <https://www.iustieurope2024.org> will host its meeting in Zagreb, the capital of Croatia, from September 12-14 this fall. The Congress Presidents are Mihael Skerlev and Susana Ljubojevic Hadzavdic. The Scientific Chair, Prof. Marco Cusini, has devised a programme that will focus on viral STIs. A stellar line-up of speakers will present on HPV and the current challenges; HSV - Unmet Needs and New Therapeutics; HIV and BBV; and Mpox. The Congress will also discuss PrEP and DoxyPEP and bacterial STIs. Practical aspects of patient care will be addressed with an emphasis on genital dermatology, including the joint Symposium with the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology. The Advanced Course on STIs has become a tradition for IUSTI-Eu Congresses and will take place on 12th September, the day the Congress begins. This year's theme is 'From Yeasts to HPV' and is particularly aimed at those in training.

Each Congress includes acclaimed experts providing stimulating findings. The efforts of committed volunteers for the various committees, for abstract reviews, presentations, and other activities, make our meetings remarkable and foster international community for which IUSTI is so well regarded. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone contributing for their dedication.

As invaluable as our annual, international meetings are, their use as our main source of communication with each other has limitations such as information overload, interactions that might not lead to sustained collaboration, and accessibility issues (all our members cannot attend these various meetings due to logistical or financial issues that thereby limit the diversity of voices and ideas that could be achieved).

Our challenge as an organization is figuring out how can we achieve continuous communication and engagement with our members across the world. As a start, the membership Committee and IUSTI Officers have taken advantage of our post COVID world and worked on *community building* by having quarterly zoom calls with regional directors to exchange ideas about how to strengthen regional activities, creating and improving relationships with regional associations and better engaging and serving out members.

To foster more interaction, we are building better platforms for continuous communication. Discussions are underway to revamp our website (iusti.org) for easier regional access and activities. We have a new Instagram site – @iusti.world; as the site develops, we hope that many will follow and post updates. We also encourage IUSTI members to join LinkedIn as a means of communicating with each other. Several regions of IUSTI communicate the latest scientific and health care advances through regular webinars, many of which are available on our website. Did you know that the European treatment guidelines, posted on our website, is one of the most visited items on the site? Our IUSTI archives, which we intend to make more prominent on the website, highlights a variety of invaluable historical resources about IUSTI and its history.

In conclusion, I am promoting continuous communication within our membership to further connect our members and to enhance the growth and impact of IUSTI. Effective communication will ensure that timely updates on scientific, health-oriented, technical and medical breakthroughs will be communicated to members in a timely fashion. As well, better communications will strengthen our organizational culture and activities and linkage with individual members across the world, help us

engage actively with external stakeholders and the broader STI community, and build strong relationships within and outside the organization. I look forward to many of you getting involved to create an even more vibrant community that highlights our pursuits and interactions.

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.



Non-occupational HIV post-exposure prophylaxis with RAL/TDF/FTC. The study evaluated adherence, tolerability and effectiveness of a 28-day course of non-occupational HIV PEP in a tertiary hospital in Madrid from 2018 to 2021. Among 878 individuals who initiated PEP (>97% men), prevalence of previously undiagnosed HIV infection was 1.1% (n=10), whereas PEP failure was documented in a single individual (0.2%). The regimen was well tolerated, with 5.6% (n=35) experiencing mild side effects, predominantly gastrointestinal symptoms. Renal function alterations were uncommon (n=3, 0.5%). The data confirm the effectiveness of RAL/TDF/FTC for non-occupational HIV PEP. <https://sti.bmj.com/content/100/4/231>

HIV PrEP needs among sex workers in Belgium. The study investigated the burden of HIV and other STIs among sex workers in Flanders, Belgium, using data from 2016-2019. Proportions with HIV infection were 0.3% (15/5617) among female, 8.9% (19/218) among male, and 12.3% (24/193) among transgender sex workers. Gonorrhoea and syphilis had a prevalence of 5.2% and 6.1% respectively among male and transgender sex workers, whereas prevalence was lower (2.2% and 0.5%, respectively) among female sex workers. Factors associated with a higher risk of HIV infection included escort work and origins from Latin America or Sub-Saharan Africa. The data point to several important indicators for enhanced access to HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP). <https://sti.bmj.com/content/100/4/236>

Digital interventions for STI and HIV partner notification. The systematic review examined the effectiveness and acceptability of digital interventions for STI and HIV partner notification (PN) from 26 studies. Digital PN methods, including SMS, email, apps, and websites, were found to be acceptable for casual partners but less so for established relationships. Whereas digital PN showed potential in reaching partners missed by traditional methods, privacy and misuse concerns were significant barriers. Further research with standardised outcome measures is needed to demonstrate the effectiveness of both purely digital and blended PN strategies. <https://sti.bmj.com/content/100/4/242>

Perspectives: Research news in clinical context. From myocardial disease in women living with HIV to point-of-care tests for gonorrhoea, our editors have screened the recent literature to bring you unmissable research news. <https://sti.bmj.com/content/100/4/257>

STI Podcast: Revisiting gonorrhoea - Update on the 4CMenB vaccine for gonorrhoea prevention Tune in to our latest podcast, where we discuss the advice provided by UK's Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) on using the meningococcus B vaccine for preventing gonorrhoea in at risk populations. Don't miss it! <https://stibmj.podbean.com/>

Find more at <https://sti.bmj.com/>

Enjoy!

Anna Maria Geretti, Editor in Chief

Regional Reports

Latin America



Dr Angelica Espinosa Miranda– Regional Director of IUSTI-Latin America

The IUSTI Latin America page (<https://iusti.org/latin-america/>) has been updated to feature publications, courses on STIs in the region, and a link to the Brazilian Journal for STIs. It now includes the Brazilian STI guidelines in

Portuguese, Spanish, and English. Argentine experts are reviewing treatment guidelines, which will be added when ready.

Mercosur:

External Quality Assessment for Rapid Diagnostic Testing (EQA-RDT) – Mercosur collaboration

The Mercosur Intergovernmental HIV/Aids Commission (CIVIH) has organized various activities to enhance the response to HIV, AIDS, viral hepatitis, and STIs. Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay identified an opportunity to improve the quality of diagnostic tests for syphilis, HIV, and HCV, focusing on developing panels to evaluate rapid diagnostic testing (RDT) using the dry tube specimens (DTS) methodology. Despite the high performance of RDTs, inaccuracies can occur if procedures are not performed correctly, underscoring the need for a unified methodology to ensure RDT quality in the region. Argentina and Brazil led the process of implementing a quality control methodology for rapid diagnostic testing (RDT) in Paraguay and Uruguay. Argentina conducts annual EQA-RDT rounds in 23 health units, supported by INEI/ANLIS, while Brazil distributes DTS panels to over 3,000 healthcare professionals, with support from the Ministry of Health since 2011. To standardize quality control in Mercosur countries, a unified protocol for preparing DTS panels for HIV, syphilis, and hepatitis C tests was developed. Technical visits were also made to help Paraguay and Uruguay produce their first EQA-RDT panels for these diseases. This collaborative effort highlighted the need for a unified information system to document EQA-RDT results and standardize the production of panels for other diagnostic tests. It aimed to facilitate sharing evidence to define diagnostic and monitoring algorithms for STIs in Mercosur countries.



Source: Brazilian Ministry of Health (Public)

Argentina

Annual multidisciplinary course on infections in gynecology and obstetrics in partnership with the Argentine Association for the Study of Infections in Gynecology and Obstetrics and STI Control (ASAIGO-ITS). The course has 8 modules to be taught on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Students must have 80% attendance. A final exam

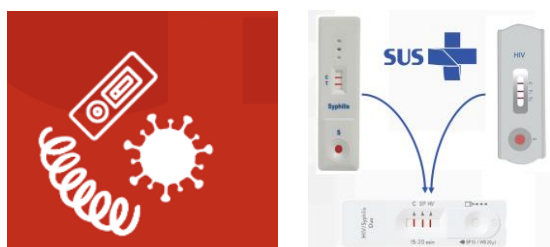
will be taken after completion. Information and registration at cursoanualasaigoits@gmail.com.



Source: ASAIGO (Public)

Brazil
Implementation of dual HIV/syphilis rapid diagnostic tests in Prenatal Services in Brazil

In June 2024, following WHO recommendations, the Brazilian Ministry of Health began distributing dual HIV/syphilis rapid diagnostic tests. These 4 million tests, designed to detect both infections simultaneously, are primarily for testing pregnant women to prevent vertical transmission. The goal is to increase timely syphilis testing, which is often delayed despite the availability of single rapid tests for HIV and syphilis in Brazil's health services. Brazil's strategy for implementation included conducting pilot studies in various regions, such as the Amazon (Soares et al., 2023 - doi: 10.3390/diagnostics13040810), publishing guidance materials with testing flowcharts and informative documents, hosting webinars, and offering an online course on how to perform the test (<https://campusvirtual.fiocruz.br/gestordecursos/hot-site/utrdiaq>).



Source: Brazilian Ministry of Health (Public)

Brazilian subnational certification for elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, syphilis, Hepatitis B and/or Chagas disease

The subnational certification of the Elimination of Mother-to-child Transmission (MTCT) in Brazil is a Ministry of Health strategy aligned with regional (Pan American Health Organization - PAHO) and global (World Health Organization - WHO) initiatives. A National Guideline for the certification process have been developed, incorporating PAHO and WHO strategies tailored to Brazilian conditions. This guideline aims to assist all Brazilian states and municipalities with over

100,000 inhabitants in achieving certification. The process involves collaboration among federal, state, and municipal levels of government, scientific societies such as IUSTI, civil society, and engaged communities, highlighting strong intersectoral governance. By the end of 2023, the guideline was updated to include impact and process targets for eliminating or reaching the tiers toward the elimination of hepatitis B and Chagas disease, alongside HIV and syphilis. Currently, 110 municipalities and 4 states in Brazil have achieved certification for eliminating or reaching milestones in the path to eliminating MTCT of syphilis and/or HIV, encompassing over 80 million inhabitants in these certified areas. In 2024, it is projected that more municipalities and states will obtain certification for eliminating MTCT of HIV, syphilis, and hepatitis B, reinforcing efforts from local to national levels.



Source: Brazilian Ministry of Health (Public)

Angelica Espinosa Miranda

Europe



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

37th IUSTI Europe Congress: Zagreb, Croatia 11-14 September 2024

The date of the Congress is approaching... don't miss this opportunity!!!

It is with our great honour and pleasure that we remind you and extend again to all of you our most cordial invitation to the 37th International Union against Sexually Transmitted Infections (IUSTI) Europe Congress to take place in Zagreb, Croatia, from September 11 to 14, 2024.

This year's Congress motte reflects our attitude:

Being in love with science of love

Key information:

Event Date: September 11 – 14, 2024

Event Venue: Hotel Sheraton, Zagreb

Early Registration cut off: July 15, 2024

Abstract submission deadline: July 10, 2024



The 37th IUSTI-Europe Congress is an exceptional opportunity for the exchange of the scientific ideas, knowledge, and experience among colleagues dedicated to sexually transmitted diseases and genital dermatology from across Europe and World. The lecturers that have already accepted our invitation represent a distinguished group of internationally renowned professionals, and it is our great privilege that we have developed a very close collaboration with all of them. But...much more than only this, many of the world-renowned experts in the field of STIs have become our good friends, based on the warm, friendly, open and sincere atmosphere characteristic of our Congresses and IUSTI Europe in general. Thus, we assure you that each of you wishing to share your experience and, at the same time get some new insight into the dynamic and challenging field of STIs today would benefit by joining us at this outstanding Congress!

The scientific programme will focus on viral STIs. The eminent and most interactive speakers will present on HPV and the current challenges in the vaccination programme and the cancer prevention; HSV- Unmet Needs and New Therapeutics; HIV and BBV; Mpox and, of course, no Congress can take place today without discussing PrEP and DoxyPEP. Bacterial STIs will not be neglected either, with a session addressing Syphilis, GC, CT and *M. genitalium*. Practical aspects of patient care will be addressed with an emphasis on Genital Dermatology, including the joint Symposium with the EADV.

The Advanced Course on STIs has become a tradition for IUSTI-Eu Congresses and will take place on 12th September, the day the Congress begins. This year's theme is 'From Yeasts to HPV' and is particularly aimed at those in training.

Traditional Croatian hospitality awaits you in our capital city Zagreb...the Middle-European "boutique" city with the unique "Southern breeze" at the same time, presenting itself in the best possible atmosphere in September, the most suitable time to visit Zagreb and experience its dynamic, vibrant, but also relaxing charm. The Congress Organizing and Scientific Committee will do their utmost to create an unforgettable professional and social atmosphere for every participant.



On the occasion of the site visit making sure that all would be fine for the IUSTI Europe Congress in Zagreb. (from left: D. Freedman, S. Ljubojević Hadžavdić, M. Skerlev, C. Heller-Vitouch and M. Cusini), Zagreb, September 2023.

Don't miss this chance! Awaiting you in Zagreb this September! Most cordially welcome!

Congress Presidents: Mihael Skerlev & Suzana Ljubojević Hadžavdić

Chair of the International Scientific Committee
Marco Cusini

Scholarships for the 37th IUSTI-Europe congress in Zagreb

IUSTI Europe is delighted to announce that, exceptionally, the number of scholarships will be increased from five to ten this year. This decision comes in response to the great interest and the large number of applications received. The enthusiasm and dedication shown by the applicants have been truly inspiring. Fortunately, we have sufficient funds this year to support this expansion. We are excited to offer this opportunity to more deserving young colleagues.

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

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

IUSTI-Europe STI-courses:

The IUSTI Advanced Course, focusing on Candida Infections and HPV will take place on Thursday, September 12th, organized by Angelika Stary and Marco Cusini. We aim to have a substantial number of participants, with a significant contribution from young colleagues. To support this goal, IUSTI Europe has decided to offer scholarships for the Course and the Conference. Each scholarship will be €600 and is available to IUSTI members under 35 years old.

Several National Societies have also committed to providing scholarships and we hope to get a

remarkable number of delegates supported, especially young participants.

IUSTI EUROPE ADVANCED COURSE: *"From yeasts to HPV"*

THURSDAY 12th SEPTEMBER, 8.45 - 16.45
08.45 Introduction: Marco Cusini, Angelika Stary

Session 1 Genital Candidiasis

Chairs: Stephan Lautenschlagter, Claudia Heller-Vitouch

09.00 – 09.25 Chronic candidiasis in women – a persistent problem

09.25 – 09.50 Vulvovaginitis: when it is not Candida

09.50 – 10.15 Itching in the genital tract

10.15 – 10.40 New and old treatment schedules for genital candidiasis

10.40 – 10.50 Panel discussion

10.50 – 11.05 Coffee Break

Session 2 Genital Candidiasis

Chairs: Sorin Tiplica, Susana Ljubolevic

11.05 – 11.30 Balanitis: not only Candidosis in the couple

11.30 – 11.55 When to treat or not to treat

11.55 – 12.20 How to manage with patient emotions

12.20 – 12.45 Are men the victims of genital candidosis and HPV in women, or vice-versa?

12.45 – 13.10 Panel discussion

Session 3: All around HPV infections in the genital tract and Case Reports

Chairs: Andrew Winter, Elektra Nikolaidu

14.00 – 14.25 Immunology of HPV: What should we know

14.25 – 14.50 Vaccination: whom and when and what

14.50 – 15.15 Vaccination in adults

15.15 – 15.40 Topical treatment of condylomata acuminata

15.40 – 16.05 Relapsing genital warts: management recommendations

16.05 – 16.35 Case presentations

16.35 -- 16.45 Discussion and closure

Chairs of the IUSTI Europe Educational Committee
Angelika Stary and Marco Cusini

IUSTI-Europe Webinars

Derek Freedman, George-Sorin Tiplica

The March Webinar was *STI Testing - Reaching Out and Testing Problems*. Prof Fiona Lyons and Ms Caroline Hurley presented on the launch of Ireland's free home STI Testing Service. This provided a much-valued insight on what can be achieved when there is a coordinated approach to providing an STI diagnostic service to the wider public. Magnus Unemo presented on the surge of gonorrhoea cases in Europe, and the role of

EuroGasp in monitoring this and the potential for antimicrobial resistance. A lively discussion ensued. 375 registered and 190 attended from 38 countries.

STI's and Vaginitis in the Menopause was the April Webinar and Dr Naomi Sutton gave a spirited presentation on *The Menopause Matters --- to Sex*. This was followed by Dr Peter Greenhouse who spoke on STI's in *The Menopause*. Prof Gilbert Donders then addressed the problems of *Mid-Age Vaginitis*. To ensure that male aspects were not left out, Dr Francesco Lotti presented on 'The Andropause'. This was an informative Webinar, which addressed aspects of our practice that are frequently not considered. 441 registered for the Webinar, and 247 attended from 51 countries.

The webinar series did not conclude with an end-of-May event due to scheduling conflicts with various congresses and meetings.

All webinars are accessible on the IUSTI Europe website, attracting 40-100 daily visitors. The recordings can be found at the IUSTI Europe webinar recordings section.

Previously, the Royal College of Physicians (RCP) in London provided CME accreditation until March. Changes in their policies, including a two-month advance notification requirement, have led to a temporary pause in formal CME recognition for our recent webinars. We plan to resolve this during the summer and are preparing a 2024-5 webinar series that will continue to serve the needs of both clinicians and researchers.

We offer free access to everyone interested, not only to the live webinars but also to the recorded sessions available on the IUSTI Europe website. (<https://www.iusti-europe.eu/web/>).



Derek Freedman, Claudia Heller-Vitouch and George-Sorin Tiplica / March 2024

On the sidelines of the BASHH conference in London this March, Derek Freedman and Sorin Tiplica engaged in a productive dialogue with Claudia Heller-Vitouch – IUSTI-Europe Regional Director. They explored the continuation of

educational webinars and the selection of compelling topics that would engage colleagues across various European countries. On this occasion the MoU between IUSTI-Europe and BASHH was signed.

The editors of the IUSTI Europe Webinar, Derek Freedman (df@freedman.ie) and George Sorin Tiplica (romsocderm@yahoo.com), warmly invite contributions and feedback for the program. We encourage all colleagues with an interest in STI to join our webinars, share their insights, and submit proposals for future topics and speakers.

Position Statement on Doxy PEP

IUSTI Europe council agreed a [position statement](#) on use of Doxy PEP at its council meeting on 25 June 2024. The statement was drafted by a writing group (Deniz Gökengin, Michael Marks, Jackie Sherrard, Andrew Winter) of IUSTI Europe's STI Guidelines Editorial Board with community comment provided by Daniele Calzavara from Milano Checkpoint and Zoran Dominoković from Zagreb Checkpoint. There will be an opportunity for further discussion at a special session devoted to Doxy PEP on Fri 13 Sep at the IUSTI Europe Congress in Zagreb.

Gonococcal Antimicrobial Susceptibility – Euro-GASP 2022

[Data published](#) by European Centres for Disease Control (ECDC) on 10 Jun 2024 highlighted an increase in isolates above the azithromycin resistance (MIC >1 mg/L) to 25.6% in 2022, observed across all 23 EU/EEA participating countries. Two isolates with resistance to ceftriaxone (MIC=0.25 mg/L) were detected in Austria and Germany, one of which was extensively drug resistant (XDR) and one multi-drug resistant (MDR). Ceftriaxone high-dose (1g) monotherapy is now the most frequently used antibiotic reported.

XDR Shigella outbreaks linked to festival

Extensively drug-resistant *Shigella sonnei* continues to cause problems across Europe with 31 cases reported in 2024. The [latest reported outbreak](#) included seven cases linked to the 'Darklands' festival in Belgium, a GBMSM oriented event. The *S. sonnei* strain related to the 2022–2024 outbreak cases shows extensive drug resistance with non-susceptibility to penicillins, third-generation cephalosporins (CTX-M-15), aminoglycosides, tetracycline, sulphonamides, quinolones, and azithromycin, leaving very limited treatment options for severe infections. ECDC issued [advice to travellers](#) to keep informed and practice safer sex as they leave for holidays and festivals

IUSTI Europe agrees to trial living guidelines

IUSTI Europe Council agreed to support the STI Guidelines Board request for an extended 3-year pilot of 'living guidelines' development using the [Magic App](#) tool. While still committing to publish completed guidelines in our partner journals we hope this tool will help with updating guidelines for conditions where evidence changes quickly, and facilitate the technical work of collating PICO questions, evidence review and recommendations development. The guidelines Board is also delighted to welcome several new members.

8th Euroguidelines in Central and Eastern Europe (ECEE) Conference “Engaged Practitioners Equals Empowered Patients (E=E), 14-15 June 2024 , Warsaw, Poland

Mihael Skerlev, Deniz Gokengin and Marco Cusini represented IUSTI-Europe at the Euroguidelines-Conference in Warsaw, Poland in June 2024.



Mihael Skerlev, Marco Cusini, Justyna Kowalska (ECEE-Congress President), Deniz Gokengin

Congresul Național de Dermatologie cu participare internațională, ediția a VI-a, July 4-5, 2024, Chisinau, Moldova

<https://usmf.md/ro/evenimente/congresul-national-de-dermatologie-cu-participare-internationala-ediția-vi>

Mircea Betiu, national representative of Moldova on the IUSTI-Europe council, is the congress president of the above mentioned meeting. He was giving a lecture on the epidemiological aspects of STIs. About 200 Moldovian Dermatovenereologists were attending the conference. Marco Cusini represented IUSTI-Europe at the congress.



Mircea Betiu, Marco Cusini, Placinta Gheorghe (Head of the department of infectious diseases, USMF, Chisinau, Moldova)

3rd Summer School on Refugee and MigrantHealth, taking place from 16 to 19

September 2024 in Bern, Switzerland

Co-organizer Valeska Padovese

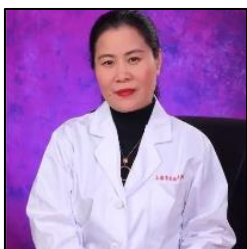
<https://migration-health.com/summer-school>

IUSTI-Europe webpage

Please stay tuned on our webpage 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

Exciting Sessions at the Upcoming IUSTI Conference: An Invitation to All STI Experts in the Asia Pacific Region

Dear Colleagues,

We are thrilled to announce that at the upcoming International Union against Sexually Transmitted Infections (IUSTI) conference, the IUSTI Asia Pacific (IUSTI-AP) branch will be hosting a dedicated segment featuring three highly anticipated sessions. These sessions are designed to address the most pressing and current issues in the field of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) within our region.

Current Status of Sexually Transmitted Infections in the Asia Pacific Region

This session will provide a comprehensive overview of the epidemiology, emerging trends, and control measures of STIs across different countries in the Asia Pacific.

Complexity of Urethritis and STD Syndromes in STD Populations

Focused on the multifaceted nature of urethritis and other STD syndromes, this session will delve into diagnostic challenges, treatment protocols, and management strategies for complex cases.

Clinical Issues and Research Advances in Syphilis

A deep dive into the latest clinical issues and groundbreaking research in the field of syphilis, highlighting advancements in diagnosis, treatment, and public health interventions.

We are proud to feature 16 distinguished speakers, representing a diverse geographical spectrum and showcasing the involvement of young scholars. This impressive lineup underscores the richness of the content and the academic influence of our speakers.

We warmly encourage all professionals engaged in the STI field within the Asia Pacific region to actively participate in the 25th IUSTI conference, to be held in Sydney. Your involvement will not only contribute to the success of the conference but also enhance the collaborative efforts to combat STIs in our region.

Join us in Sydney and be a part of these dynamic sessions, as we work together to advance STI research and practice.

Warm regards,

Pingyu Zhou

North America



Dr Brad Stoner – Regional Director of IUSTI-North America

From the American STD Association (ASTDA)



Since the last update, ASTDA:

- Held elections for the [ASTDA Board of Directors](#), electing 3 at-large board members (Leandro Mena, Patty Kissinger, Susan Tuddenham) and 2 early-career board members (Chase Cannon, Allison Footman). Congratulations to these new board members.
- Selected the 2024 winners of the [ASTDA Recognition Awards](#): Connie Celum won the Distinguished Career Award, Lorenzo Giacani won the Achievement Award, Roxanne Kerani won the Jack N. Spencer Award, and Lao Allen-Blitz won the Young

Investigator Award. Congratulations to these deserving award winners.

- Accepted 9 new Fellows into the [ASTDA Summer Research Fellowship Program](#), selected from a very strong applicant pool of 17 individuals. The program provides financial support for students and post-doctoral trainees to conduct a mentored STI-related research project during a 3-4 month period over the academic summer break.
- Participated in our first ever White Coat Day on Capitol Hill, advocating for enhanced STI funding among federal legislators and staff members.
- Continued to work with other partners such as the [American Sexual Health Association](#) (ASHA), the [National Coalition of STD Directors](#) (NCSD) and [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC) to organize the September [STI Prevention Conference](#), which will feature several ASTDA-sponsored activities
- Put together a special issue to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the [Sexually Transmitted Diseases](#) journal, to coincide with the STI Prevention Conference.

From the CDC Division of STD Prevention (DSTDP)



- REMINDER: The [2024 STI Prevention Conference](#) will be held in person September 16-19, 2024 in Atlanta, Georgia. This year's conference theme is "Strengthening Sexual Health through STI Prevention." Regular registration is open until August 15, 2024.
- In April, DSTDP observed [STI Awareness Week](#).
- In May, DSTDP relaunched [STI-related content](#) on the newly redesigned www.cdc.gov website.
- In June, DSTDP published [CDC Clinical Guidelines on the Use of Doxycycline Postexposure Prophylaxis for Bacterial Sexually Transmitted Infection Prevention, United States, 2024](#) – clinical guidelines on counseling patients regarding doxy PEP for STI prevention. [This letter](#) from the

acting DSTDP Director, Dr. Laura Bachmann summarizes the Guidelines and their implications.

- In June, DSTDP updated its [Availability of STI Testing & Treatment Products page](#) to reflect an update from Pfizer on the Bicillin L-A® shortage, noting improvements in the supply and encouraging clinicians to consider using Bicillin L-A® for all appropriate patients, per [CDC's standard guidance](#).
- In June, the Director of CDC's National Center for HIV, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention, Dr. Jonathan Mermin, [announced](#) that Dr. Bradley Stoner has been selected as the permanent Director of CDC's Division of STD Prevention.
- Stay up-to-date on the latest news from DSTDP by visiting the Division's [From the Director page](#) or [DSTDP's landing page](#).

From IUSTI-Canada



- The IUSTI-Canada Executive voted to provide financial support for scholarships to the 25th IUSTI World Congress in Sydney, Australia. The funds will help support attendance at the meeting for Canadian early career researchers, as well as attendees from low-income countries. Scholarship opportunities will also be provided for attendees to the 2025 STI & HIV World Congress in Montreal.
- IUSTI-Canada held its Annual General Meeting on June 18, 2024. The following individual were elected to the IUSTI-Canada Executive:
 - Caroline Cameron – President
 - Marc Steben – Immediate Past President
 - Anna Yeung – Secretary
 - Carmen Logie – Membership Secretary
 - Marissa Becker – Member-at-Large
 - Nitika Pant Pai – Member-at-Large
 - Karen Lithgow – Early Career Member-at-Large
 - Sumudu Perera – Early Career Member-at-Large

Congratulations to all these deserving officers.



- Organization planning continues 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. Please visit the [IUSTI-Canada website](#) for updates and additional information.

From the American Sexual Health Association (ASHA)



- ASHA continues our work as funded by CDC through the grant Support Technical Assistance and Opportunities for Program, Policy, and Communications to Prevent STDs (STOP STDs). We are working in three priority areas: congenital syphilis, bacterial STI prevention, and Doxy-PEP.
- Our STOP STDs projects include producing [audio-](#) and [video-](#)versions of our podcast featuring an interview with Dr. Laura Bachmann on the state of STIs in the U.S. Our conversation explored the 2022 surveillance data and covered topics including the reasons behind increases in STI incidence; the alarming jump in congenital syphilis rates; health equity; the impact of stigma on the STI epidemic; and potential solutions such as clinical services being offered proactively to “meet people where they are.”
- ASHA redesigned the [syphilis section](#) of our website into a “hub” which houses basic information on all aspects of the infection and the latest news items we publish. There’s also an enhanced infographic on [Congenital Syphilis: A Preventable Problem](#), that details the issue for consumers and links to CDC prevention information.

- We organized and held a live STI-themed event during STI Awareness Week in April, which was moderated by ASHA staff and featured Dr. Ina Park. The event centered on an STI quiz that tested participants’ knowledge and focused on prevention, testing, and symptoms.
- ASHA took part in public health observations including Sexual Pleasure Month (March), International Transgender Day of Visibility (March), STI Awareness Week/Month (April), Women’s Health Month (May), HIV Vaccine Awareness Day (May), and Men’s Health Month (June). ASHA/NCCC are active on social media with each observation and offer relevant resources on our websites.
- ASHA is a co-sponsor and managing partner of the 2024 STI Prevention Conference. The conference website and program [are here](#).

Brad Stoner

Conference Update

IUSTI Events:

37th IUSTI Europe Congress
11-14 September 2024
Zagreb, Croatia

<https://www.iustieurope2024.org/>

25th World IUSTI Congress 2024
17 – 20 September 2024
Sydney, Australia

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

2025 ISSTD IUSTI Congress
24-27 July 2025
Montreal, Canada

<https://stihiv2025.org>

38th IUSTI Europe Congress
9-11 October 2025
Athens, Greece

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