



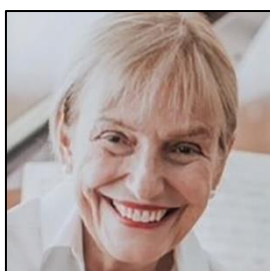
STI Global Update

Newsletter of the International Union against Sexually Transmitted Infections

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President's Letter



Dr Jo-Anne Dillon - President of IUSTI

As I prepared my second-to-last IUSTI Newsletter, I contemplated the journey we have taken together. Our organization has grown and evolved, thanks to the dedication of our members, volunteers, and leadership. It has been remarkable to observe and participate in the collaborative efforts that drive our mission forward. For this Issue, I want to update you on several ongoing initiatives, including our website redesign and opportunities for you to get involved in IUSTI and to make an impact in your community.

The IUSTI Website: A Hub for Members

I am pleased to announce that IUSTI World is undertaking a major website redesign to improve functionality and user experience. After a thorough bidding process, which was led by our Communication Director, Ina Park, we have selected a web designer to create a more streamlined and accessible platform. This upgrade aims to address challenges in managing memberships and payments, making the website more efficient and user-friendly. We have begun consultations with experts from each region to ensure the new platform meets diverse regional needs and aspirations. You should see the upgrades in the coming months.

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to Kit Fairley, our President-Elect, and Mark Chung who have tirelessly managed the website for so many years and addressed the many challenges of maintaining such a complex platform.

Our website (<https://iusti.org/>) serves multiple functions. It allows individuals to become members and provides details about our fee structure. Did you know that you can become an associate member for a time-limited period at no cost? The site also facilitates donations to IUSTI, supporting our scholarship program and initiatives aimed at enabling members from low- and middle-income countries to present their research at our annual meetings. Our website also serves as a repository of historical materials, archiving documents dating back to our founding in 1922, along with educational resources, including treatment guidelines from various parts of the world. It showcases activities from our five regions - Asia-Pacific, Latin America, North America, Europe, and Africa-MENA. The website provides access to expert-led webinars from around the globe.

Beyond these visible features, our website has several essential behind-the-scenes functions, such as maintaining our membership database and organizing members by region. Importantly, IUSTI reinvests a portion of membership fees back into the regions to support local initiatives and strengthen regional funding.

The website also advertises our upcoming and past international meetings. IUSTI hosts international meetings annually. These include the IUSTI-Europe meeting, the biannual IUSTI International Congress (which rotates among regions to address region-specific STI concerns), and the biannual STI & HIV Congress, held jointly with the International Society for Sexually Transmitted Diseases Research (ISSTD). Don't forget to register for the upcoming STI and

HIV 2025 Congress in Montreal (<https://stihiv2025.org/>) which takes place from July 26-30. Over 1000 abstracts have been submitted! Early bird registration ends April 4, 2025. Don't miss out!

The Power of Volunteering

IUSTI operates entirely through volunteer efforts. Each year, our international meetings depend on volunteers to lead the organization of the meeting and to serve on various committees such as Scientific, Community Outreach, Marketing, Early Career Researcher, and Scholarship.

Why volunteer? Volunteering provides opportunities to build professional reputation, develop leadership skills, make a meaningful impact, engage with a global community, and influence key organizational decisions. Many volunteering opportunities require stepping forward and offering your skills.

In every region IUSTI is looking for volunteers who wish to build regional visibility, memberships and international linkages. We also require volunteers with social media expertise and strong communication skills to help enhance IUSTI's outreach. If you're interested, reach out to Regional Directors or Committee Chairs to explore how you can contribute.

Recognizing Outstanding Contributions

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize two exceptional volunteers who will complete their terms as IUSTI Officers in July 2025: Janet Wilson and Jonathan Ross.

Janet Wilson is the Immediate past president of IUSTI and has served IUSTI for many years. She served two terms President (2019 to 2023) and steered IUSTI through the tough times during the COVID pandemic. She also was the co-Chair for several notable international meetings including those held in Amsterdam (2021), Victoria Falls (2022) and Chicago (2023). Notably, Janet helped us all celebrate the 100th anniversary of IUSTI in 2023. She is a tireless promoter for IUSTI attending various international meetings to promote our organization and to strengthen linkages around the world.

Jonathan Ross has been a member of the IUSTI Executive Committee since 2006, initially as the STI Global Update Editor, producing three newsletters per year. In 2017, he was appointed IUSTI Treasurer. Over the years, he has contributed significantly to IUSTI conferences, symposia, and the European STI Guidelines Editorial Board. Reflecting on his time with IUSTI, Jonathan shared: "One of my fondest memories is the people I have met from around the world—sharing ideas, collaborating on STI research and management, and enjoying the camaraderie that defines IUSTI." Among his proudest accomplishments are helping establish the European STI guidelines, which have since become the standard of care in many regions, and

serving as an officer of IUSTI, contributing to the organization's growth.

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.

Listen to the latest episodes [HIV and Syphilis Home Testing 101](#) and [To Screen or Not to Screen?](#)

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

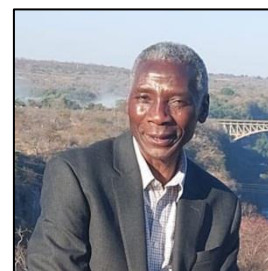
Topic Collection: STI is inviting submissions to be part of a themed issue on 'Advances and challenges of STI point-of-care testing'. Find out more information and how to submit [here](#). Submissions are open until **31st August 2025**.

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

Anna Maria Geretti, Editor in Chief

Regional Reports

Africa MENA



Dr Francis Ndowa – Regional Director of IUSTI-Africa MENA

1. The IUSTI Africa-MENA Region membership and regional committees

In November 2024, the IUSTI Africa-MENA region welcomed new regional Committee Members. These are Chido Chikwari, based in Zimbabwe, Assistant Professor, affiliated to The Biomedical Research and Training Institute (Zimbabwe) and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (UK) and Mandisa Mdingi, Research Manager at the Foundation for Professional Development (FDP) in South Africa. The website has been updated to reflect the new members

2. Highlights of research and publications from the Region

i. Prevalence of syphilis infection among migrant workers in Qatar

A collaborative study by the Infectious Disease Epidemiology Group at Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar and Qatar University found that the prevalence of lifetime and recent syphilis infections among migrant craft and manual workers in Qatar was approximately 1% and 0.1%, respectively. These rates align with global trends, highlighting an overlooked disease burden with implications for both health and social well-being.

Conducted by Nasrallah et al. and published in *BMJ Open*, the study, titled "**Prevalence of Syphilis Infection Among Migrant Workers in Qatar: A Nationwide Cross-Sectional Survey**," underscores the need for targeted programs to address sexually transmitted infections and improve the broader sexual health needs of this population.

Citation: Nasrallah GK, Chemaitelly H, Ismail AIA, et al. Prevalence of syphilis infection among migrant workers in Qatar: a nationwide cross-sectional survey. *BMJ Open*. 2024 Nov 27;14(11):e083810. doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2023-083810.

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<https://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/14/11/e083810>

ii. Dynamics of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* transmission among female sex workers and clients

Researchers at the Infectious Disease Epidemiology Group at Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar found that in low-partner-number heterosexual sex work networks (HSWNs), a large proportion of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* (NG) incidence occurs among female sex workers (FSWs). NG prevalence was 13 times higher among FSWs than their clients and three times higher among clients than their spouses. However, interventions were shown to substantially reduce incidence in such HSWNs.

Conducted by Ayoub et al. and published in *Epidemics*, the study, titled "**Dynamics of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* Transmission Among Female Sex Workers and Clients: A**

Mathematical Modeling Study," suggested that NG epidemiology in HSWNs represents a "fragile epidemiology," highly responsive to interventions—even if they are incremental, partially efficacious, and applied only to FSWs.

Citation: Ayoub HH, Tomy M, Chemaitelly H, et al. Dynamics of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* transmission among female sex workers and clients: A mathematical modeling study. *Epidemics*. 2024 Sep;48:100785. doi: 10.1016/j.epidem.2024.100785. Epub 2024 Aug 5.

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<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S175543652400046X>

iii. Global and regional incidence and prevalence of herpes simplex virus infections and genital ulcer disease in 2020

Researchers at the Infectious Disease Epidemiology Group at Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar, the University of Bristol, and the World Health Organization estimated that in 2020, globally, 26 million people aged 15–49 acquired a new herpes simplex virus type 2 (HSV-2) infection, 520 million were living with HSV-2, and 188 million experienced at least one episode of genital ulcer disease (GUD) caused by HSV-2. Additionally, 17 million people in the same age group acquired a new genital herpes simplex virus type 1 (HSV-1) infection through sexual transmission, 376 million were living with genital HSV-1, and 17 million had at least one episode of GUD caused by HSV-1.

The study by Harfouche et al., titled "**Estimated Global and Regional Incidence and Prevalence of Herpes Simplex Virus Infections and Genital Ulcer Disease in 2020: Mathematical Modelling Analyses**," published in *Sexually Transmitted Infections*, highlights the need for new prevention and treatment strategies, including prophylactic and therapeutic HSV vaccines, to control infections and reduce the associated disease burden.

Citation: Harfouche M, AIMukdad S, Alareeki A, et al. Estimated global and regional incidence and prevalence of herpes simplex virus infections and genital ulcer disease in 2020: mathematical modelling analyses. *Sex Transm Infect*. 2024 Dec 10;sextrans-2024-056307. doi: 10.1136/sextrans-2024-056307.

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<https://sti.bmj.com/content/early/2024/11/12/sextrans-2024-056307>

iv. Prevalence of one STI as a predictor for another

A collaborative study by the Infectious Disease Epidemiology Group at Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar and Hokkaido University in Japan investigated the concurrent transmission of HIV, herpes simplex virus type 2 (HSV-2), chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis in men who have sex with men (MSM) sexual networks. The study found that gonorrhea prevalence was a strong predictor of

HIV prevalence, while HSV-2 and syphilis prevalences were weak predictors of each other.

Conducted by Omori et al. and published in *Infectious Disease Modelling*, the study, titled "**Can the Prevalence of One STI Serve as a Predictor for Another? A Mathematical Modeling Analysis**," highlights the complex dynamics of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) within sexual networks. The findings demonstrate how different STIs exhibit distinct epidemiological patterns while also revealing ecological associations facilitated by their shared mode of transmission, allowing for predictive relationships between STI prevalences.

Citation: Omori R, Chemaitelly H, Abu-Raddad LJ. Can the prevalence of one STI serve as a predictor for another? A mathematical modeling analysis. *Infect Dis Model*. 2024 Dec 12;10(2):423-428. doi: 10.1016/j.idm.2024.12.008.

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<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2468042724001349#:~:text=Knowledge%20of%20an%20STI%20prevalence,the%20prevalence%20of%20another%20STI.>

- v. Hepatitis C virus transmission among people who inject drugs in the Middle East and North Africa

Researchers at the Infectious Disease Epidemiology Group at Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar estimated the hepatitis C virus (HCV) incidence rate among people who inject drugs (PWID) in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region at approximately 10 per 100 person-years, with an estimated 42,364 new infections annually, accounting for 17% of all cases. These figures varied significantly across countries.

A 75% reduction in needle/syringe sharing was projected to decrease chronic infection prevalence by approximately 14%, the incidence rate by 34%, and annual new infections by 24%. Achieving 75% direct-acting antiviral treatment coverage by 2030 would lower chronic infection prevalence by approximately 65%, the incidence rate by 35%, and annual new infections by 25%.

Conducted by Makhoul et al. and published in *The Lancet's eClinicalMedicine*, the study, titled "**Hepatitis C Virus Transmission Among People Who Inject Drugs in the Middle East and North Africa: Mathematical Modeling Analyses of Incidence and Intervention Impact**," highlights the substantial HCV burden among PWID in MENA. While interventions show potential, only large-scale or multi-intervention strategies can achieve meaningful reductions in HCV transmission.

Citation: Makhoul M, Mumtaz GR, Ayoub HH, et al. Hepatitis C virus transmission among people who inject drugs in the Middle East and North Africa: mathematical modeling analyses of

incidence and intervention impact. *EClinicalMedicine*. 2025 Jan 15;80:103040. doi: 10.1016/j.eclinm.2024.103040.

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[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/eclinm/article/PIIS2589-5370\(24\)00619-9/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/eclinm/article/PIIS2589-5370(24)00619-9/fulltext)

Francis Ndowa

Latin America



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

Brazil

National Day for the Fight Against Syphilis and Congenital Syphilis (Third Saturday of October)

On October 17, 2024, the fight against syphilis took to the field at Brazil's most iconic soccer stadium, the Journalist Mário Filho Stadium, globally known as Maracanã. On a match day between two of the country's most famous teams, during the Brazilian Championship, an awareness campaign was carried out with videos (displayed on the stadium's big screens) and banners (on the field in the beginning of the game and during the interval) to promote the National Day for the Fight Against Syphilis and Congenital Syphilis. A group of activists and representatives from the Brazilian Society of STDs, the Sexually Transmitted Diseases Sector of the Fluminense Federal University, the Municipal Health Department of the city of Rio de Janeiro, and representatives from Casa Reviver (civil society group) took a symbolic "Olympic lap" around Maracanã, in Rio de Janeiro.

The initiative was supported by the Social Responsibility and Citizenship Department of "Clube de Regatas Flamengo" soccer team, and the match was attended by 58,117 people. In the end, Fluminense won the game. However, the widespread impact of the campaign's messages through banners and videos was the real highlight of the night. And for the cause, one of the victories came from Flamengo (the home team for the match), which immediately embraced our request to take the field with banners alluding to the campaign against syphilis.



Source: Paula Reis

The Latin American Congress on STI/AIDS will take place from June 3 to 6, 2025 in Rio de Janeiro, and will feature distinguished international experts, including Drs. David Lewis, Magnus Unemo, and Janet Wilson, who will discuss the latest advancements in the field.



Ecuador

In 2024, Ecuador made significant strides in addressing sexually transmitted infections (STIs). The country finalized its STI protocol, which is now ready for publication and includes 42 STIs, including MPOX. Additionally, the National Strategy for EMTCT Plus has reached its final stage, pending validation, publication, and implementation. Efforts to expand vaccination coverage have also advanced, with the acquisition of the hepatitis B vaccine for nationwide administration to university students and the HPV vaccine for people living with HIV up to 45 years old. Diagnostic improvements are another key milestone, as HPV testing in people living with HIV using GeneXpert is set to be implemented starting in April 2025. Similarly, testing for *N. gonorrhoeae* and *C. trachomatis* will be introduced in inclusive primary care health centers serving key and vulnerable populations, such as adolescents, and in secondary and tertiary hospitals for people living with HIV, utilizing GeneXpert technology. A major

achievement in maternal and child health was the approval of dual testing for pregnant women, marking an important step toward early detection and prevention. Furthermore, Ecuador is supporting the mandatory reporting of syphilis and 10 other STIs, reinforcing surveillance and response efforts. These initiatives demonstrate the country's commitment to strengthening STI prevention, diagnosis, and treatment nationwide.

Through the Ministry of Public Health and civil society, Ecuador successfully organized the First National HIV Congress in Quito from November 27-29, 2024. The opening ceremony took place on the evening of November 27, led by Dr. Antonio Naranjo Paz y Miño, Minister of Public Health. The congress featured 55 national and international speakers and provided free participation for 400 healthcare professionals, public servants, academic representatives, civil society organizations, and key and vulnerable population groups. The Minister emphasized the need for a strengthened effort from the entire National Health System and highlighted that there is still a long way to go in strengthening various initiatives for effective HIV and STI control. Ecuador has committed to the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and congenital syphilis, as well as to improving access to comprehensive sexual education services and harm reduction strategies.



Source: Gabriela Yerovi

Angelica Espinosa Miranda

Europe



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

Memorandum of Understanding between IUSTI-EU and EADV – January 2025

On January 24, 2025, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology (EADV) and IUSTI Europe was signed in Montreux, Switzerland. The MoU outlines the principles of cooperation and collaboration between the two organizations, aiming to enhance the quality of medical education, research, and practice in dermato-venereology in Europe, with a particular focus on sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and HIV.

The primary goal of this partnership is to promote and facilitate activities related to the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of STIs and HIV. Both parties are committed to defining joint actions to achieve the best possible outcomes and increase their visibility. The MoU outlines several areas of cooperation between IUSTI Europe and EADV, including:

- organizing joint symposiums and sessions during their respective Scientific Congresses
- collaborating on development of European guidelines for STIs
- promoting high-quality continuing medical education activities.
- collaborating on research activities,
- providing joint opinions to European institutions and engaging in lobbying efforts in the field of dermato-venereology.

This MoU marks a significant step towards improving the quality of care for patients with STIs and advancing the fields of dermatology and venereology in Europe. By working together, IUSTI-Europe and EADV aim to achieve their shared objectives and make a positive impact on public health.

EADV is a non-profit organization that gathers more than 11,000 members from all around the globe and is committed to building an international community that develops, shares, and adopts best

practices within dermatology and venereology. It is the biggest professional organization of dermato-venereologists in Europe.

IUSTI Europe has an STI update session timetabled at the Spring EADV meeting in May 2025 in Prague, and a session at the main EADV meeting in Paris in September 2025.



Figure 1. Prof. Branka Marinović - EADV President (centre), Prof. Menno de Rie - EADV Treasurer (left), and Prof. George-Sorin Tiplica – IUSTI Europe Chair of the Council (right) after the signature of the MoU between IUSTI-Europe and EADV in Montreux, Switzerland on January 24, 2025

IUSTI Europe Webinars 2024/25

The IUSTI- Europe monthly series of Webinars are now in their Fourth Season, and continue to be hugely successful, coordinated by the indefatigable Derek Freedman and co-chaired by Prof George-Sorin Tiplica. Attendance is usually around between 125 and 250 on the night.

We are delighted to announce that each webinar is recognised for two hours CPD by the Royal College of Physicians Ireland, who now recognise the webinars as a series. CPD certificates are issued to all attendees at a Webinar who have been present for at least 30 minutes.

This season started in October with '**Zagreb Highlights**' to bring some of the memorable presentations of the 37th IUSTI Europe Congress to an audience that were unable to attend, including a live re-run of the **DoxyPEP debate** and a chance to hear one of **Teodora Wi's** last talks before she retired from WHO. Hopefully, these will inspire an enthusiasm to experience the next IUSTI Europe Congress in Athens, October 2025 in person.

November's webinar '**Strange Bedfellows**' brought a seasonal flavour with **Ina Park's** witty presentation '**Humour and STI's**', focussing on **Sex in the Media**, which was followed by the more sobering reality of Cristina Galvan-Casas '**Intractable Scabies**' and wound up with George-Sorin Tiplica's biting '**Pediculosis Pubis – an endangered species, not to be forgotten**': both beautifully illustrated,

Our first webinar for 2025 featured remarkably clear and concise presentations on '**Highlights of the IUSTI World Congress in Sydney**'. This was very enthusiastically received and gave an insight into the wider epidemiology of STI's and the clinical

challenges of *Mycoplasma genitalium*, pelvic inflammatory disease and anti-microbial resistance of gonorrhoea in areas of the world which are so often not considered.

February's webinar focused on '**Presentation Skills**' and featured some of IUSTI's unique masters of memorable presentations, as well as an insight into current platforms which use Artificial Intelligence, to bring us beyond PowerPoint.

Genital Herpes and its wider implications will be the subject of our March Webinar. It will address potential therapeutic developments in HSV and HSV in Pregnancy; and '*Breaking the News – dealing with the initial Presentation and confronting stigma*'.

Our April Webinar will be '*La Vie en France*' and our French Council member, Sebastian Fouéré, will assemble what is sure to be an interesting variety of presentations from France, including the latest French research into STI's.

All our Webinars are available to view on <https://www.iusti-europe.eu/web/index.php/webinar-recordings>.

We are delighted with the success to date of the IUSTI Europe Webinars. IUSTI Europe is incredibly grateful to all the presenters who have so generously given time to ensure clinicians right across Europe can access the latest information easily. Their excellent presentations provide an unrivalled and invaluable source of up-to-date information for our specialty and encourage best practice for our patients.

IUSTI Europe Scientific Support Committee – a new group

Prof Henry de Vries, Amsterdam, chaired the first two meetings of this new group in Nov 2024 and Feb 2025, gathering interested STI scientists. The function of the group is 4-fold:

- a. To serve as a **standing scientific program committee** that can aid the appointed scientific chairs of future IUSTI Europe meetings.
- b. To serve as a **networking body** for the advancement of STI research in Europe through contacts with sister organizations and industry partners.^[1]
- c. To actively involve potential and current active IUSTI Europe members (especially trainees in STI and sexual health) to engage in **transnational scientific research** and other activities such as trainings, webinars, yearly courses and conference organization.

- d. To assist **sister organizations** (e.g. EADV) in identifying speakers for their meetings.

Currently, the group consists of the following members: Claire Dewsnap (UK), Nicolas Dupin (FR), Raj Patel (UK), Sébastien Fouéré (FR), Deniz Gokengin (TR), Carmen Lisboa (PT), Chris Kenyon (BE), Jorgen Jensen (DK), Valeska Padovese (MT), Georg Stary (AU), Henry de Vries (NL) (Chair), Andy Winter (UK)

IUSTI Europe – Guidelines update

The Guidelines editorial board meets quarterly, chaired by Jackie Sherrard. We were pleased to welcome some new members recently including **Natasa Teovska** (North Macedonia), **Valeria Gaspari** (Italy) and **Electra Nicolaidou** (Greece). The guidelines group always welcomes people with an interest in evidence-based medicine and skills in literature review and writing.

Recently published updates include: genital herpes and partner management. Guidelines near to or submitted for publication include chlamydia, epididymo-orchitis and scabies. Active work continues updating guidance on urethritis, and we plan to start work updating guidance on management of syphilis, M. genitalium, and pelvic inflammatory disease in 2025.

The main landing page for IUSTI Europe guidelines is at Treatment Guidelines (Europe) – IUSTI. Patient information leaflets available at Patient Information – IUSTI have now been translated into 13 languages.

STIs rise again across EU/EEA areas – ECDC report

The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) released its Annual Epidemiological Report on 10 Feb 2025, reporting on data to end 2023. Numbers of case reports of syphilis have doubled, and of gonorrhoea have more than tripled, since 2014. There were nearly 100,000 confirmed cases of gonorrhoea and over 41,000 cases of syphilis. Detailed reports are available for chlamydia, gonorrhoea, syphilis, congenital syphilis and lymphogranuloma venereum.

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

Congress President Prof. Electra Nicolaidou and Scientific Chair Prof. George Sorin Tiplica are delighted to invite you to the 38th IUSTI Europe Congress, to be held in Athens, Greece, between October 9-11, 2025. Key dates:

Abstract deadline is **Sunday 15 June 2025**
Early Bird registration **Tuesday 15 July 2025**.



Athens is a vibrant city with thousands of years of history, and abundance of archaeological, cultural and architectural treasures, and an excellent Mediterranean climate. This setting, along with a superb infrastructure in terms of accommodation, local transportation and recreation, make Athens an ideal venue for this important event. The Organizing and Scientific Committees are committed to ensuring an unforgettable experience for every participant. The Congress theme invites us all to be part of the journey from Hippocrates to AI!

IUSTI Europe group on Linked In and Instagram. With the increasing challenges of #medtwitter you may want a safer space to meet professionally. Anyone with a professional interest in STIs in Europe is welcome to join our [Linked In](#) group. You can also follow us on Instagram at [@iusti.europe](#) and on Bluesky at [@iusti-europe.bsky.social](#).

Claudia Heller-Vitouch / Andy Winter

Asia Pacific



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

Under the leadership of our new Chair, Catherine C. O'Connor, IUSTI-AP has made significant progress in strengthening its organizational structure, expanding its regional influence, and improving governance. Over the past months, the Executive Committee has convened four meetings, focusing on key structural improvements and strategic planning to enhance the functioning of IUSTI-AP.

One of the major milestones achieved is the revision of the IUSTI-AP Constitution. After in-depth discussions and careful consideration, the committee has successfully completed the initial modifications. To ensure transparency and

inclusivity, the revised constitution will be circulated among all members in the Asia-Pacific region for further feedback. This step reflects our commitment to an open and participatory decision-making process.

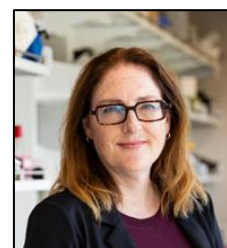
A key proposal within the revised constitution is the increase in the number of Regional Vice Chairs from four to six. This adjustment aims to strengthen IUSTI-AP's presence across the region, allowing for more localized engagement and better coordination of initiatives in different geographical areas. We believe this change will further support our efforts to promote STI prevention, research, and education throughout the Asia-Pacific.

In addition to governance reforms, we have also developed a structured membership recruitment plan, aiming to expand our network and foster greater collaboration among STI professionals in the region. Furthermore, new advisors have been appointed to the IUSTI-AP Board, bringing additional expertise and insights to guide our future direction. At the same time, we have finalized the leadership of the IUSTI-AP office, ensuring smooth administrative operations and effective coordination of regional activities.

With these advancements, IUSTI-AP is well-positioned to continue driving progress in STI prevention and management across the Asia-Pacific. We appreciate the ongoing support of our members and look forward to working together to achieve our shared goals.

Pingyu Zhou

North America



Dr Caroline Cameron – Regional Director of IUSTI-North America

From the American STD Association (ASTDA)





- We are now accepting nominations for the annual [ASTDA recognition awards](#), to be presented at the [STI & HIV 2025 World Congress, hosted by ISSTD and IUSTI](#) in Montreal, Canada in July 2025 (Congress chaired by Drs. Marc Steben and Jo-Anne Dillon). We look forward to celebrating the colleagues who win the 2025 Early Career, Achievement, and Distinguished Career Awards. ASTDA will also award a prize for the best paper published by an early career scholar in *Sexually Transmitted Diseases* in the last year.
- We hosted our annual ASTDA Workshop in January 2025, bringing together early and mid-career scholars with industry and government partners.
- We added historical surveillance reports, clinical guidelines and other materials to a new section of the [ASTDA website](#), after the originals were removed from the US CDC website.
- We are planning an early-career workshop in partnership with IUSTI Canada for the Montreal meeting – details to come.
- ASTDA tripled our scholarship commitment for the [upcoming conference](#) in July 2025. We are excited to see everyone in Montreal!

From IUSTI-Canada



STI & HIV World Congress, July 26-30, 2025, Montreal, Quebec:

- Registration and accommodation booking is open! Visit <https://stihiv2025.org/> and secure your spot to attend the Congress, co-hosted by ISSTD and IUSTI-World. Montréal is welcoming you and your close ones! Visit our inclusive city which has one of the greatest safety records in the world and is rated as one of the best cities to visit according to various travel guides. Join us for the season of festivals, including the gay pride parade occurring two days after the completion of the Congress. The Congress will be held at the Convention Centre, affectionately named “Le Palais” and located in the heart of old Montréal, close to the Gay village, an exciting international district, and all the festivals. At the Congress enjoy great workshops and symposia, and a diverse list of pre-congress sessions which are included with registration. The outstanding scientific program will bring the latest results of research from around the world. Join us for this great networking event where we will work hard but you will still have time to enjoy your new friends and colleagues! Additional reasons to attend the 2025 Congress include:
 - A focus on increasing participation of researchers from Indigenous communities, early career researchers, and researchers from low and middle income countries
 - 50th anniversary of the publication of the first WHO report on sexual health, a good time to revisit the true meaning of these words
 - Low registration price – early bird discounted registration is still available!
 - Low cost accommodation (a third of the price of a hotel room) is available in the University residences
 - An inexpensive bus pass at the airport will pay your travel to and from the airport and your travel for the full week.
 - International cuisine at all price levels can be found within a few blocks of Le Palais
 - Visit the famous Montréal underground that goes for many kilometers without going outside!
- ASTDA and IUSTI-Canada are co-hosting an Early Career Development Symposium at the 2025 STI & HIV World Congress on July 27, 2025. Topics covered will include how to get published, securing funding, strategies for career empowerment, alternative career paths, community engagement, and more. If you are an early career researcher from North America interested in career development opportunities, apply now as spots are limited! Applications are due by March 15; more information on this opportunity can be found on the Congress website.

- IUSTI-Canada has launched its 2025 webinar series! Join us to hear the latest developments in the STI field from leading experts. More information and details about how to register can be found on the [IUSTI-Canada website](#).
- From the proceeds of the 2019 STI & HIV World Congress held in Vancouver, Canada, IUSTI-Canada is pleased to provide scholarships to Canadian Early Career Researchers to attend the 2025 STI & HIV World Congress in Montreal. New for 2025, IUSTI-Canada has partnered with the [Pacific Public Health Foundation](#) to offer scholarships to Early Career Researchers from equity-deserving groups, including individuals who self-identify as BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour) and groups experiencing underrepresentation

From the American Sexual Health Association (ASHA)



- ASHA is currently planning the 2025 Contraceptive Technology Conference that will be held in San Francisco, CA on March 28-30, 2025. The conferences will be packed with new information and guidelines in sexual and reproductive health care (SRH). The faculty will share what's coming in the contraceptive pipeline, address cutting-edge topics like primary HPV testing with self-swabbing and anal cancer screening, present updates on all aspects of STIs and challenging vaginitis cases, and explore the controversial and rapidly changing situations in the post-Roe landscape.
- 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 activities include a podcast series and social media toolkit of patient perspectives on

Doxy-Pep. This series highlights the barriers patients face in accessing care, including lack of information provided by healthcare providers and stigma, as well as the importance of considering Doxy-Pep as part of your sexual healthcare.

- ASHA staff coordinated interviews with several media outlets including WebMD for an article on hyposexual desire disorder, Public Good News and Repertoire Magazine for Cervical Health Awareness Month, and the Power News Radio Network on disparities in STI rates with communities of color.
- ASHA took part in public health observations including World AIDS Day, (December), Cervical Health Awareness Month (January), and Condom Month (February). ASHA/NCCC are active on social media with each observation and offer relevant resources on our websites.

Caroline Cameron

Conference Update

IUSTI Events:

2025 ISSTD IUSTI Congress
24-27 July 2025
Montreal, Canada
<https://stihiv2025.org>

38th IUSTI Europe Congress
9-11 October 2025
Athens, Greece
<https://www.erasmus.gr/microsites/1301>

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