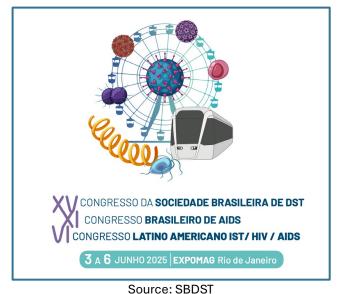
IUSTI Letter - LAC Region

XV SBDST Congress, XI Brazilian AIDS Congress, and VI Latin American Congress on STIs/HIV/AIDS

The Congress of the Brazilian Society of Sexually Transmitted Diseases (SBDST) is organized by the Brazilian Society of Sexually Transmitted Diseases (SBDST), with support from the Brazilian Ministry of Health and IUSTI LAC. The congress brings together doctors, researchers, epidemiologists, microbiologists, nurses, and other health professionals from Brazil and Latin America to discuss scientific advances, challenges, and strategies for the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of sexually transmitted infections. The next congress will be held in Rio de Janeiro from June 3 to 6, 2025. Save the date!



Exhibition: History, Science, and Art of Syphilis

In a cooperative effort between scientific societies, the exhibition Syphilis: History, Science, and Art was showcased at the Congress of the Brazilian Society of Infectious Diseases. The initiative aims to raise awareness about the disease, presenting information on its clinical manifestations, key signs and symptoms, and treatment options. The goal is to increase syphilis visibility in other medical specialties by offering a comprehensive overview through various perspectives, including historical documents, scientific records, epidemiological milestones, reproductions of artworks, and historical artifacts. The hybrid exhibition, organized in 2021, is also available as traveling exhibition and in the online viewing through the website: http://exposifilis.aids.gov.br/tour/





Source: Mauro Romero Leal de Passos

Enhanced Gonococcal Antimicrobial Surveillance Program (Egasp) in Brazil

From August 5 to 8, Brazil hosted professionals from the World Health Organization (WHO), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the WHO Collaborating Center for Gonorrhea and other STIs at the University of Örebro, Sweden, and the Carlos Malbrán Institute of Microbiology in Buenos Aires, Argentina, for a joint mission to implement the Enhanced Gonococcal Antimicrobial Surveillance Program (Egasp) in Brazil and discuss tools for responding to syphilis and congenital syphilis. The national reference laboratory in Brazil is Laboratório de Biologia Molecular e Micobactérias (LBMM). The goal of Egasp is to strengthen gonorrhea control by monitoring antimicrobial resistance in drugs used to treat its agent, Neisseria gonorrhoeae. Participants in the visit included Dr. Magnus Unemo, Dr. Maria Luiza Bazzo, Dr. Patricia Galarza, Dr. Angelica Miranda, and Dr. Pamela Gaspar, who are part of IUSTI, involved in STI policies in Latin America and the Caribbean. The meetings were held in two Brazilian cities, Florianópolis and Brasília.









Source: Maria Luiza Bazzo (LBMM)

National Day to Combat Syphilis and Congenital Syphilis in Brazil

Since 2017, the third Saturday of October has marked the National Day to Combat Syphilis and Congenital Syphilis, as established by Law No. 13.430/2017. The project was born from a petition signed during an event on syphilis at the Fluminense Medical Association in 2004. The date was made official in Brazil to raise awareness and strengthen actions for the prevention, early diagnosis, and treatment of syphilis, especially congenital syphilis. October, also known as "Green October," provides an opportunity to reinforce efforts against syphilis and its complications, working towards a healthier and more informed society. In addition to the Ministry of Health, several institutions across the country participate in the activities, including SBDST and IUSTI LAC. In 2024, it will be celebrated on October 19.

Lei cria o Dia Nacional de Combate à Sífilis e à Sífilis Congênita



Senado aprova o Dia Nacional de Combate à Sífilis e à Sífilis Congênita

A data passa a ser lembrada todo terceiro domingo do mês de outubro.

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O Plenário do Senado Federal aprovou, na manhã desta quintafeira (9), a criação do Dia Nacional de Combate à Sífilis e à Sífilis Congénita (PLC nº 146/2015 P), instituído no terceiro sábado do mês de outubro em todo o Brasil. O projeto agora segue para sanção presidencial.

A diretora do Departamento das IST, do HIV/Aids e das Hepatites Virais (DCCI), Adele Benzaken, comemora a decisão. _

Source: https://antigo.aids.gov.br/pt-br/noticias/senado-aprova-o-dia-nacional-de-combate-sifilis-e-sifilis-congenita





Source: Brazilian Ministry of Health

Annual Laboratory Diagnosis Course on Genital Infections in Argentina

The Annual Laboratory Diagnosis Course on Genital Infections is an event aimed at healthcare professionals, particularly those working in microbiology and infectious disease laboratories. Its goal is to provide specialized training on diagnostic techniques for genital infections, which are a crucial part of managing sexually transmitted infections (STIs). The course was offered by the Carlos Malbrán Institute of Microbiology in Buenos Aires from September 16 to 20, with participation from professionals from Argentina and other Latin American countries.









Source: MALBRAN/Patricia Galarza

Elimination of Communicable Diseases in Argentina

The Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) in Argentina held a high-level dialogue on the PAHO Initiative for the Elimination of Communicable Diseases, as part of the process for developing the 2024-2028 Country Cooperation Strategy (CCS). The dialogue addressed sexually transmitted infections (STIs), with a particular focus on syphilis, within the MTCT+ (HIV, Syphilis, HBV and Chagas Disease) framework. Patricia Galarza, member of IUSTI LAC, participated in the organization.



Source: Patricia Galarza

PAHO visit to monitor the implementation of the initiative for the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, Syphilis, Hepatitis B, and Chagas Disease in Ecuador

The visit aimed to assess and discuss the progress of Ecuador's subnational validation initiative for the elimination of HIV and syphilis. A work plan was also developed to meet the elimination goals. Additionally, Ecuador is organizing its first HIV/AIDS Congress, where new strategies for the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of HIV, hepatitis, and sexually transmitted infections (STI) will be explored. Congenital syphilis is a challenge in Latin America and IUSTI LAC can enhance its support to countries in their efforts to control syphilis and other STI in the region.



