

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

Final Reflections

June 2025

Dear Colleagues and IUSTI Members,

As I conclude my term as President of IUSTI, I wish to thank each of you for your support, energy, and commitment. It has been a privilege to lead this extraordinary global organization over the past two years. Together, we have achieved several of the goals that I outlined when I assumed the presidency of IUSTI.

Some key highlights from 2023–2025 include:

Strengthening Global Collaboration. We established or revitalized several key committees, including Membership, Scholarships, Communications, and the Wisdom Project - to promote international cooperation and future sustainability. The Membership Committee, led by Jason Ong, has engaged on a quarterly basis with our regional Directors and Chairs, discussing ways to improve our membership experience and to increase regional visibility, partnerships and memberships.

Enhancing Communication & Visibility. In addition to regular zoom meetings with regional

members, regular monthly Zoom meetings with IUSTI Officers have strengthened internal coordination and discussion. Thanks to the Communications Committee, led by Ina Park, a new IUSTI website is under development for launch, and social media presence has expanded significantly. Ina has been key in linking communications between the upcoming STI and HIV 2025 Congress and IUSTI.

Expanding Access and Support. The Scholarship Committee, soon to be renamed the Education Committee, and led by Caroline Cameron, successfully launched fund raising initiatives which will ultimately support young investigators and members from LMICs. This committee raised funds for education from several corporate sponsors this year including Binx-Health, Roche and Zults, a promising start to reach out and make our meetings accessible. New governance structures were created to ensure continuity and transparency in scholarship allocations, and this committee was active in advising the scholarship committee for the STI and HIV 2025 Congress in Montreal. In future, the education mandate of this committee also promises to deliver educational materials to our membership.

Partnerships that Advance Our Mission. We've continued strong collaborations with WHO and ISSTD, including joint efforts in meeting planning, STI advocacy, and scientific engagement. The journal Sexual Health has become one of the official journals of IUSTI (the second journal is the International Journal of STD and AIDS).

International Meetings. As stated in a previous Newsletter, it was a pleasure to work with Eric Chow (President), as Co-President of the **25th IUSTI World Congress** which was held in Sydney, Australia, 17-20 September 2024. The meeting was an absolute success. I am also Co-President, representing IUSTI, with Marc Steben, representing ISSTD, of the **STI & HIV 2025 Congress, 27-30 July 2025, Montreal, Canada.** This meeting, despite global economic constraints, promises to be a landmark event. As of late June, over 1300 people from 70 countries have registered for the meeting. There have been over 1000 abstract submissions. Nine keynote and plenary sessions and 61 invited symposia, special

sessions, oral abstract sessions or poster tours are currently scheduled with more still being implemented. Twenty four attendee-organized workshops have been organized with 10 being preconference workshops. More participants from low and middle income countries will be supported to attend the Congress than at any previous Congress. Please check out the stimulating program for the Congress at <https://stihiv2025.org/>. It is not too late to attend!

I have long promoted the benefits of being a volunteer in an organization like IUSTI. I would like to highlight some of the many volunteers that have made the STI and HIV 2025 Congress possible.

International Advisory Committee	President	Senior Advisors	Committee Chairs		
	Jo-Anne Dillon, Canada Marc Steben, Canada	Adèle Bensaulen, Brazil Bradley Stoner, USA Francis Ndowa, Zimbabwe Khaili Gharem, USA Margaret Kiskawa Pfeis, Canada	Yonatan Grad, USA – Scientific Program Committee Remco Peters, Switzerland – Scientific Program Committee Yuka Morabe, USA – Sponsorship & Fundraising Committee Nilika Pant Pai, Canada – Scholarship Committee Iva Park, USA – Communication & Promotion Committee	Odile Harrison, UK – Trainee & Early Career Researcher Committee Cara Spence, Canada – Community Outreach Committee Patricia Garcia, Peru – Community Outreach George Sorin Tiplica, Romania – IUSTI Awards	
Scientific Program	Sponsorship & Fundraising	Scholarship	Trainee & Early Career Researcher	Communication & Promotion	Community Outreach
Co-Chairs Remco Peters, Switzerland Yonatan Grad, USA Track Chairs: Caroline Cameron, Canada Basic and Laboratory Science Jacky Jennings, USA Behavioral and Social Science Michael Marks, UK Clinical Science Rebecca Guy, Australia Epidemiology Joseph Tucker, USA Policy & Community Engagement Angelica Espinosa Miranda, Brazil Program & Implementation Science	Chair Yuka Morabe, USA Confirmed Committee Members Angelika Story, Austria Janet Wilson, UK Jean-Pierre Roudy, Canada Jeff Klause, USA Max Cherniack, Canada Patrick Sullivan, USA Tanya Applegate, Australia	Chair Nilika Pant Pai, Canada Confirmed Committee Members Adèle Bensaulen, Brazil Francis Ndowa, Zimbabwe Jonathan Merrin, USA Jorgen Jensen, Denmark Laura Syron, Canada Marissa Becker, Canada Patricia Garcia, Peru Pinggu Zhou, China Sema Sood, India Seiji O'Avai, USA Soma Nair, India Tanya Applegate, Australia	Chair Odile Harrison, UK Confirmed Committee Members Aminah Mossa, Botswana Alex de Voux, South Africa Elizabeth McIlmont, Canada Kevin Martin, Zimbabwe Tatum Mortimer, USA	Chair Iva Park, USA Confirmed Committee Members Anastasia Umit, UK Fred Wyand, USA Lauren Maggard, USA Mandikuta Tembo, Zimbabwe Meena Ramchandan, USA Rayner Kay Jin Tan, Singapore Vinicius Borges, Brazil	Co-Chairs Cara Spence, Canada Patricia Garcia, Peru Canadian Members Albert McLeod, Canada Carmen Logie, Canada Claudette Cardinal, Canada Margaret Kiskawa Pfeis, Canada Melissa Morris, Canada Mubula Hakanyama, Canada Sugendhi del Canto, Canada International Members Akhina Aler, India Ahmed Said, Kenya Beverly Lawton, New Zealand Carli Zavalata, Peru Dorothy Alorth Ogutu, Kenya Eric Chou, Australia Leonardo Mena, USA

Scientific Program Committee		Committee Chairs			
		Remco Peters, Switzerland Yonatan Grad, USA			
Basic & Laboratory Science	Behavioral & Social Science	Clinical Sciences	Epidemiology	Policy & Community Engagement	Implementation Science
Track Chair Caroline Cameron, Canada Members Christopher Tang, UK David Kelle, USA Pinggu Zhou, China Sanjay Ram, USA Sinaye Ngcapu, South Africa	Track Chair Jacky Jennings, USA Members Kate Grabowski, USA & Uganda Kelvin Poondee, Malawi Marissa Becker, Canada Souradet Shaw, Canada	Track Chair Michael Marks, UK Members Annie-Claude Labbe, Canada Lindley Barber, USA Marti Vail Mayrants, Spain Mitch Mataga, Malawi Rosesphom Kittiyosawarn, Thailand	Track Chair Rebecca Guy, Australia Members Dwora Joseph Davey, South Africa China Mumtaz, Lebanon Jannike Heijne, Netherlands Joseph Cox, Canada Kylie Bernstein, USA Miri Bellis, UK Weiming Tang, USA & China	Track Chair Joseph Tucker, USA Members Alison Footman, USA Fola Akintolu, Nigeria Lianne Gonsalves, Switzerland Mark Gilbert, Canada Rena Jaramunaysoot, Thailand	Track Chair Angelica Espinosa Miranda, Brazil Members Chido Dziva Chikwari, Zimbabwe Gary Whitlock, UK Jason Ong, Australia Matthew Hagden, USA Nilika Pant Pai, Canada Pamela Gaspar, Brazil

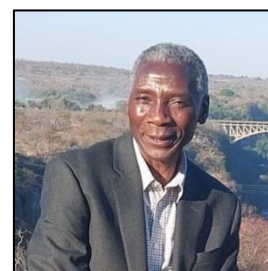
Lastly and with gratitude, I extend sincere thanks to our IUSTI Officers, Executive Committee, Regional Directors, Officers, and again, volunteers. Your passion and dedication continue to inspire. I am confident that under new leadership, IUSTI will thrive and expand its global impact on sexual health. Congratulations to Chistopher (Kit) Fairley, our incoming President. Congratulations also to Patricia (Patty) Garcia who has been voted as President-elect and to Andrew (Andy) Winter who has been elected as Treasurer.

With appreciation and best wishes.

Jo-Anne Dillon, IUSTI-World President

Regional Reports

Africa MENA



Dr Francis Ndowa – Regional Director of IUSTI-Africa MENA

1. The IUSTI Africa-MENA Region Committees

The following changes are going to take place in the IUSTI Africa-MENA Region.

- Francis Ndowa's term of office will end after serving two terms as IUSTI Regional Director.
- Sara Lowe has been selected as Director of the IUSTI Africa-Mena region. Sara's term of office will officially take effect after the annual general meeting of IUSTI in July in Montreal.
- Amina Hançali will step down from the role of the regional chairperson for IUSTI Africa-MENA after a long service in that position. Laith Abu-Raddad will assume the role of Regional Chairperson.

2. Highlights of training, research and awareness campaigns in the Region

A. Focus Country – Morocco STIs & HIV activities in Morocco

To strengthen the national response to the prevention, diagnosis and management of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV in Morocco, the following activities were undertaken in a collaborative manner between the public health authorities, academic institutions and civil society.

i. Capacity Building for Healthcare Professionals

Targeted training sessions were organized to enhance clinical and technical skills.

- Virology training modules for residents in infectious diseases and internal medicine, focusing on strategies for HIV diagnostic and biological follow up: from clinical to laboratory perspectives.

- b) Hands-on workshops on HIV and syphilis screening using rapid tests, for frontline health workers and community health providers.
- c) Specialized training sessions on HIV drug resistance, addressing clinical implications of emerging resistant strains, and interpretation of HIV drug resistance mutational profile.

ii. Community Outreach and Awareness Campaigns

Awareness campaigns were conducted in collaboration with local NGOs, targeting youth, women, and key populations, including sex workers, with a focus on combination prevention, voluntary testing, and stigma reduction.

iii. Operational Research and Epidemiological Surveillance

Several applied research activities are currently underway in Morocco:

- a) A bio-behavioural study focusing on HIV, syphilis, and bacterial STIs (*Chlamydia trachomatis* and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*) among sex workers is being prepared.
 - o Notably, this year's study will include *Mycoplasma genitalium* in the testing panel, reflecting increased attention to emerging STIs.
- b) A bio-behavioural study focusing on HIV and HCV among person injecting drugs is being prepared.
- c) Two research abstracts on HIV genomics and Drug resistance from the INH-UM6P project, co-directed by IUSTI members under a partnership with the OCP Foundation, have been accepted for poster presentations at the upcoming World Congress on STIs & HIV (Montreal, July 2025).

iv. Strengthened Institutional Coordination

The National HIV Program (PNLS) has intensified multisectoral coordination involving health, education, and community stakeholders, in alignment with the National Strategy on HIV/STIs 2023–2027.

These actions demonstrate Morocco's continued commitment to a comprehensive, evidence-based, and inclusive approach to combating STIs, including HIV, in line with IUSTI recommendations and global public health goals.

B. Focus Country – Zimbabwe

PROMISE STUDY: Funding has been procured for a study called “*PROtecting Mothers and their Infants through Screening and Comprehensive Management of Sexually Transmitted Infections in Antenatal Care in Zimbabwe* (PROMISE)

The aim of PROMISE is to conduct an individually randomised controlled trial to investigate the impact of diagnostic-led STI screening within antenatal care on newborn and maternal outcomes in Zimbabwe, a high HIV/STI prevalence setting in Africa.



PROMISE will be conducted in Harare, Zimbabwe and recruiting 12,780 women (6,390 per arm) from 15 antenatal clinics. The intervention will consist of testing for *C. trachomatis*, *N. gonorrhoeae* and *T. vaginalis*, integrated with HIV and syphilis testing, at two points during a woman's pregnancy (enrolment [<24 weeks' gestation], and during the third trimester [32–34 weeks' gestation]). STI treatment and management in the intervention arm will be based on the test result if asymptomatic; women with symptoms in both arms will be treated following syndromic management guidelines. Management will include partner notification and treatment.

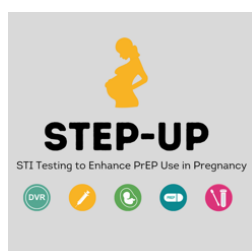
The primary outcome (composite outcome of low birthweight, preterm birth, and stillbirth) will be assessed at a birth visit occurring within 72 hours of birth. Children and mothers will be followed up at 1- and 6-weeks postnatal to assess secondary outcomes (individual outcomes from the composite primary outcome, small vulnerable newborn, small for gestational age, early and late neonatal death <7 and <28 days; neonatal conjunctivitis, pneumonia, sepsis, and prevalence of untreated STIs among mothers). PROMISE will investigate the cost-effectiveness of the antenatal STI screening strategy and conduct a process evaluation to understand the operational and structural factors required for scalability.

The PROMISE platform will also be used to conduct validations of novel STI diagnostics, and to investigate,

- the vaginal microbiome and metagenome,
- the effects of climate change in pregnancy on maternal and neonatal outcomes,
- the epidemiology of STI sequelae such as neonatal conjunctivitis,
- clinical and long-term outcomes of syphilis-exposed babies, and
- linkage between genital inflammation and adverse birth outcomes.

The trial will start recruiting in July 2025 and will follow participants up until the end of 2028.

C. Focus Country – Botswana STI Testing to Enhance PrEP Use in Pregnancy (STEP-UP)



STEP-UP is a two-arm individually randomised controlled trial designed to evaluate whether co-offering sexually transmitted infection (STI) testing and treatment alongside expanded pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for HIV options can improve PrEP uptake, persistence, and adherence during pregnancy and through the postpartum period among women in Botswana. The study will enrol 600 HIV-negative pregnant women seeking antenatal care and randomise them 1:1 to either receive standard-of-care syndromic STI management or syndromic management plus diagnostic STI testing (*C. trachomatis*/*N. gonorrhoeae*/*T. vaginalis* using GeneXpert® assays) and treatment at multiple time points: enrolment, 32 weeks' gestation, and 9 months postpartum.

Participants will be offered a choice of available PrEP modalities, including oral pills and the dapivirine vaginal ring (DPV-VR), with counselling provided at all study visits. Primary outcomes include PrEP initiation, 9-month postpartum PrEP persistence, and PrEP adherence (measured by hair drug levels). Secondary and exploratory outcomes include PrEP modality choice, STI prevalence and incidence, maternal and infant health outcomes (e.g., low birthweight, stillbirth, preterm birth), HIV incidence, and antimicrobial resistance patterns in *N. gonorrhoeae*. The trial will also quantify mother-to-infant transfer of DPV via hair sampling at birth and during breastfeeding and assess safety outcomes associated with PrEP exposure.

The trial is led and implemented by the Botswana Sexual and Reproductive Health Initiative (BSRHI) of the Botswana Harvard Health Partnership (BHP), in collaboration with the University of Washington. All regulatory approvals are in place and training is ongoing.

Recruitment is scheduled to begin in June 2025, with enrolment expected to span 18 months (through December 2026) and participant follow-up continuing until August 2027.

D. Focus Country – Zambia

To measure the prevalence of the four curable STIs, as well as HIV among 15–24-year-olds

CHoNGeTSa ✓
Ziba, Zisunge

The CHoNGeTSa Study aims to estimate the prevalence of curable Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs), *C. trachomatis*, *N. gonorrhoeae*, *T. vaginalis* and syphilis among 15–24-year-olds in Lusaka, Zambia, and to understand pathways to care for STIs and STI-like symptoms. Chongetsa is a Nyanja phrase meaning 'check it.' In this context, it urged young people to check their STI status. 'Ziba' means 'know,' while 'Zisunge' means 'take care.'

A cross-sectional population-based survey was conducted in a high-density urban setting in Zambia, to measure the prevalence of the four curable STIs, as well as HIV among 15–24-year-olds using self-collected vaginal and urine samples. Bacterial vaginosis (BV) was also tested for using self-collected vaginal samples. The study also included self-collected cervico-vaginal and penile meatal samples for Metagenomic next generation sequencing (mNGS). Qualitative data were collected to understand STI care-seeking pathways and community perceptions on the importance of STIs among adolescents and young people (AYP). Data generated through this study will fill a critical information gap on the burden of and response to STIs among young people. Although this population group has increased vulnerability to STIs, it faces inequitable access to available STI testing and treatment services. Identifying these gaps will provide corroborative information towards strengthening STI control strategies in Zambia.

This study will also explore the clinical and public health applications of STI pathogen genomic information from the self-collected cervico-vaginal/penile-meatal samples, to develop future integrated platforms for clinical microbiology, real-time epidemiology, and intervention research to fight multiple STIs and emerging pathogens in lower resource settings. mNGS provides an opportunity to identify multiple organisms, consolidating numerous different individual tests/assay platforms, and potentially deliver vital information on drug resistance mutations.

Preliminary study findings show a high burden of STI's especially among adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) a high burden of BV among AGYW. The qualitative findings revealed that AYP had limited knowledge about STIs and few sources of information for STIs. The choice of care

pathways was found to be determined by the socio-demographics, institutional, socio-cultural and individual factors. In addition, STI testing services were said to be largely inaccessible to AYP, with AYP suggesting STI testing services be available at the health facility and the community to increase access to services.

E. Focus Country – South Africa **Integrated awareness campaign to raise awareness about STIs and family planning**



Purpose and Theme

In line with South Africa's Reproductive Health Month, the campaign "Sexual Health Matters: Get Tested. Stay Protected." was designed to raise awareness about STIs and family planning through community-based outreach and service delivery.

Dates: 11, 13, 14, and 19 February 2025.

Scope: Part of an annual, once-off awareness initiative, with ongoing education maintained in clinic waiting areas.

Integrated Services Offered (Free of Charge)

- STI screening
- HIV testing and PrEP initiations
- Cervical cancer screening
- Tuberculosis (TB) screening & X-rays
- Family planning services
- Diabetes & blood pressure checks
- Routine child health immunisation
- ARV missed-appointment "back to care" support
- Condom distribution

Locations Supported by FPD, the Foundation at which a member of IUSTI (Mandisi Mdingi) is based, within the Buffalo City Metro Health District, included the following.

- Nompumelelo Community Hall, Beacon Bay
 - NU 13 Mdantsane Clinic
 - Machibi Location, Mount Coke
 - University of Fort Hare, East London
- (Additional district-wide events occurred separately.)

Community Engagement & Reach

- Participants:
 - 24 in Beacon Bay
 - 18 in Mdantsane
 - 26 in Mount Coke
 - 21 at the University of Fort Hare
- Audience: Community members of all ages — youth, elderly, and university students
- Pamphlets Distributed: Over 100 educational pamphlets
- Sustaining Awareness

While this was a once-off event in February, FPD team continues to support clinic-based awareness events ensuring long-term impact beyond campaign days.

Francis Ndowa

Latin America



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

Latin American Congress on STIs/AIDS

From June 3 to 6, 2025, the Brazilian Society of Sexually Transmitted Diseases held its congress alongside the Latin American Congress on STIs/AIDS in the city of Rio de Janeiro. The event featured the participation of distinguished speakers representing IUSTI, including Dr. David Lewis, Dr. Janet Wilson, and Dr. Magnus Unemo. A total of 1,204 attendees took part in the congress, representing a wide range of professional categories. The opening ceremony was attended by Brazil's Minister of Health, who on that occasion handed over to the Pan American Health Organization representative the national report requesting certification of the elimination of vertical transmission of HIV as a public health problem in Brazil.



Source: SB-DST



Source: SB-DST



Source: SB-DST



Source: SB-DST

During the Brazilian Congress on STIs/AIDS, a symposium of the IUSTI Latin America and Caribbean regional branch was held, where the syphilis situation in the region was discussed, and experiences from Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay were presented.



Source: Pamela Gaspar

King Holmes tribute

Another very emotional moment of the opening was the tribute to Dr. King Holmes for his lifelong work and dedication to the STI cause. Dr. David Lewis received the Walter Belda Medal on behalf of Dr. King's family. Walter Belda was a renowned Brazilian dermatologist, widely recognized for his contributions to dermatology and the study and treatment of sexually transmitted infections in Brazil. He held a prominent academic and clinical career, particularly associated with the University of São Paulo (USP), where he served as a professor and mentor to generations of dermatologists. Walter Belda Medal is awarded in his honor, typically recognizing individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the field of STIs and dermatology in Brazil and internationally.



Source: SB-DST



Source: SB-DST

Brazil and Paraguay partnership

The two countries will exchange experiences with the aim of improving care and surveillance services for STI and mother-to-child transmission (MTCT). The representatives from Paraguay visited the city of Vila Velha in Brazil in June to exchange experiences about the availability and implementation of prevention, care, and surveillance services. During the visit, they toured primary care clinics, laboratories, and hospitals to observe the organization and delivery of these services in practice. In a second phase, a Brazilian delegation will visit Paraguay to carry out a similar approach, promoting the exchange of experiences and strengthening bilateral collaboration in STI and vertical transmission control.



Source: Pamela Gaspar



Source: Pamela Gaspar

Argentina

In Argentina, the National Ministry of Health has been working with the mother-to-child transmission (MTCT) approach since 2010. In 2014, the development of the framework for the elimination of MTCT of HIV, syphilis, and Chagas disease was formalized. In 2025, an updated version of the elimination strategy was published, with a focus on the subnational approach both for the design of actions and for monitoring progress toward programmatic goals. The ETMI-Plus initiative aims not only to achieve but also to sustain the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, syphilis, Chagas disease, and perinatal infection with the hepatitis B virus (HBV) as public health problems.



Source: Ministry of Health

The congress of the Argentine Society of Infectious Diseases (SADI 2025) served as the venue for the presentation of the new national guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of Sexually Transmitted Infections in the country. Dr Patricia Galarza was present in the discussion. The document is available at the IUST page - LAC Region.

<https://www.sadi.org.ar/publicaciones/1871-recomendaciones-de-diagnostico-y-tratamiento-de-las-infecciones-de-transmision-sexual-2025>.



Source: SADI

A symposium to discuss sexually transmitted infections in the scientific congress of the lower genital tract infections. This meeting brought together specialists and students interested in lower genital tract infections and including STIs in the program helped to give visibility and encourage joint work among specialists.



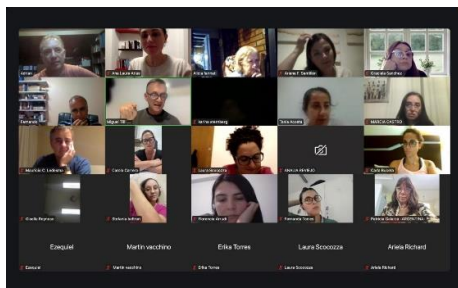
Source: TPGI



Source: TPGI

The Argentinian annual actualization course on infections in gynecology and obstetrics and sexually transmitted infections began in April 2025 in a virtual format. The course is a great opportunity for professionals to update their knowledge on the topic.





Source: ASAIGO

Angelica Espinosa Miranda

Europe



Dr. Claudia Heller-Vitouch – Regional Director of IUSTI-Europe
38th IUSTI Europe Congress:
Athens, Greece 9-11 October 2025



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

The scientific program is ready and more than 100 global experts have agreed to participate as Chairs/Speakers in what it is expected to be a great event in the area of STIs and Sexual Health. The Congress features themes such as “the Use of AI in Sexual Health Consultations”, “STI POCT in Clinical Care”, “Antimicrobial resistance in STIs”, “Revolutionizing STI care: The Impact of AI”, “Providing equitable sexual health care in a digital world”, “EuroTEST: How to organize a testing campaign”. And on Thursday 9/10/2025 morning, the legendary “Advanced Course” of the congress will focus on the new developments in the management of STIs, with prominent speakers

addressing all treatment dilemmas and considerations in the area of STIs.

Athens is a vibrant city with thousands of years of history, an 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. And we do not forget the Gala Dinner on the last night of the congress (Saturday 11/10/2025) in a restaurant by the sea, to celebrate the IUSTI Athens 2025 Experience!

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!

Scholarships

It is our great pleasure to announce that IUSTI Europe will provide seven scholarships to cover attendance at the course and the congress in Athens (combination ticket) and support transport or accommodation during the Congress - total amount of each scholarship of 600 EUR. Moreover, as every year we expect scholarships from the European national STD-societies for the support of young congress participants.

IUSTI-Europe STI-courses:

The IUSTI Advanced Course on Sexually Transmitted Infections 2025 “STI Treatment: Tricky problems; best answers” will be held on October 9, 2025, as a day pre-meeting course of the IUSTI Europe Congress, organized by Angelika Stary and Marco Cusini.

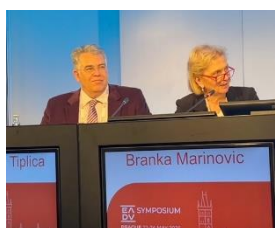
The course is especially designed for early-career clinicians and healthcare providers (HCPs) who are developing an interest in sexually transmitted infections (STIs). However, all colleagues with an interest in STIs are warmly invited to participate. Leading experts will provide the latest updates on STIs, introduce new diagnostic technologies, and review the most recent recommendations for treatment and prevention. The course features interactive case discussions with active participant involvement.

Report: IUSTI-Eu – EADV Session at the 2025 EADV Spring Symposium

George-Sorin Tiplica (Romania)

The 2025 EADV Spring Symposium was held in Prague on Saturday, 24 May 2025. Under the “What’s New” track, the IUSTI-Eu – EADV session was organized following a Memorandum of Understanding between the two associations. The session was co-chaired by Professor Branka Marinovic, President of the EADV, and Professor George-Sorin Tiplica, Chair of the IUSTI-Eu

Council, and was attended by over 150 participants.



Prof. Branka Marinovic - President of the EADV (right) and Prof. George-Sorin Tiplica - Chair of the IUSTI-Eu Council (left) – photo kindly provided by Dr. Peter Greenhouse

The session began with the distinguished Professor Vladimir Vasku from the Czech Republic, who presented “Challenging Genital Dermatoses” with clarity and insight, providing a comprehensive overview of identifying and managing common skin diseases with genital manifestations. Following him, the dynamic Andrew Winter of the United Kingdom, Co-Chair of the International Scientific Committee for the 2026 IUSTI Congress, delivered an engaging presentation on “Early Diagnosis of Genital Ulcers.” His talk was enriched by video interviews that showcased current laboratory techniques for STI detection.



Dr. Andrew Winter (UK) – photo kindly provided by Dr. Peter Greenhouse

Professor Electra Nicolaidou from Greece, who will be the President of the 38th IUSTI-Eu Congress in Athens (09–11 October 2025), methodically reviewed “Non-Infectious Genital Ulcers”. Her talk abounded in clinical cases that illustrated the complexities of diagnosis and management.



Prof. Electra Nicolaidou – the President of the 38th IUSTI-Eu Congress – photo kindly provided by Dr. Peter Greenhouse

The session concluded with an insightful contribution from the experienced clinician Dr. Derek Freedman of Ireland. In his presentation, “The Dilemmas of Doxy PEP,” he drew on his extensive clinical knowledge to weigh the advantages and limitations of doxycycline post-exposure prophylaxis while emphasizing its appropriate use in selected populations. From his dual capacity of Chair for Congress Management IUSTI-Eu and founder signatory of the EADV, Dr. Derek Freedman gave a clear example of the

needed combined efforts from the both associations in joining efforts to create the scientific grounds for excellency in dermatovenereology.



Derek Freedman- founder signatory of the EADV and Chair for Congress Management IUSTI-Eu – photo kindly provided by Dr.. Peter Greenhouse

Overall, the session seamlessly integrated innovative clinical insights, state-of-the-art laboratory advancements, and refined therapeutic strategies, illustrating the collaborative spirit and high standards of modern medical education.

IUSTI Europe Webinars 2024-2025

Derek Freedman and George Sorin Tiplica

IUSTI Eu Webinar Editors

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The 4th year of IUSTI- Europe Webinars, 2024-25 concluded with the March Webinar on Genital Herpes and the April Webinar giving us a window onto aspects of STI's in France- ‘*La Vie en Rose*’. The March Webinar addressed ‘Genital Herpes - Prospects and Conundrums’. Raj Patel presented on the 2025 HSV Guidelines and the prospect for new therapeutic agents to manage HSV infection. Emily Clarke addressed HSV and Pregnancy and gave a lot of practical advice on how to manage this often-challenging situation. Christine Johnson addressed the clinically stressful and lengthy consultation involved in ‘Breaking the News’ to a patient with newly diagnosed HSV infection, and managing future implications of this diagnosis.

Our April Webinar was ‘*La Vie en Rose*’. Our French Council member, Sebastian Fouéré, presented on ‘Organisation of STI Prevention and Treatment in France’, and also organised the following presentations from France:- the French position on DoxyPEP (Dr Guillaume Conort), Mycoplasma genitalium antimicrobial resistance in mainland and overseas France, a contrasted picture (Pr Sabine Pereyre), A potentially underdiagnosed STI : Sexually Transmitted Dermatophytoses – the French experience (Dr Gentiane Monsel), and Mpox in France, where are we at in 2025 ? (Dr Mayda Rahi).

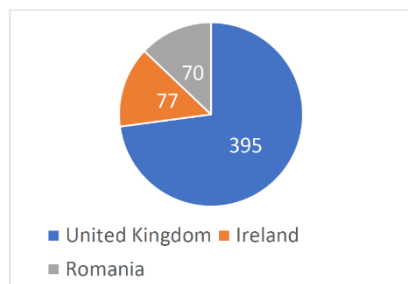
These Webinars, and all 30 Webinars to date, are available to view on:

<https://www.iusti-europe.eu/web/index.php/webinar-recordings>

For the 24-25 IUSTI EU Webinar Series, we have had almost 1000 registrations from over 60

countries. The top 3 registration countries are shown below. Each Webinar carries 2 CPD credits from the Royal College of Physicians Ireland.

3 Highest Attendees Total		
	Country	Total Attendees
1	United Kingdom	395
2	Ireland	77
3	Romania	70



Attendances are directly proportional to the promotion of the Webinars by our National Council Members through their National Societies.

We are delighted with the success of the IUSTI Europe Webinars to date and believe that they provide a valuable resource for practitioners not only in Europe, but also world-wide to keep abreast of the current and latest information and guidelines, with direct benefit to their patients.

We are again grateful to the many presenters who have given freely of their time and expertise. 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 Council members have an unique opportunity to inform the members of their National Societies of these Webinars. This can be achieved by circulating the Webinar announcements to your National Society members through the National Societies - or by sharing members contact details with us - we will be happy to add their names to our circulation list (please ensure you obtain permission to share). We are currently planning the Webinars for the 2025-6 Academic year. We hope to bring you reports from the main Congresses and address the advances and challenges faced by our specialty in the year ahead. Your suggestions for topics and speakers are always appreciated.

Country roundup

Andy Winter

DoxyPEP

Countries continue to released formal guidance around use of DoxyPEP in selected populations: [UK](#) in June 2025,. [France](#) in January 2025 and [Czech Republic](#) in November 2024.

The European AIDS Treatment Group has published a helpful [master document](#) in March 2025 that has links to professional and community guidance as well as patient information.

PrEP in Europe

ECDC published a [monitoring update](#) on the Dublin Declaration for HIV prevention on 05 May 2025. This showed 38 out of 52 countries now have national guidance on HIV PrEP. At least 284,846 people are known to have received PrEP at least once in 2023, some way short of the estimated 500,000 needed to address HIV elimination. Countries report continued inequalities in PrEP access by key populations.

Added to this it's now clear that Europe is not on track to reach the [2030 Sustainable Development Goal targets](#) for HIV, TB, viral hepatitis B and C and STIs. Mortality from viral hepatitis B and C continues unabated, and exceeds that due to HIV and TB. HIV incidence in EU/EEA did decline by 35% from 2010 to 2023, but data show increased incidence of viral hepatitis B.

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

Claudia Heller-Vitouch

Asia Pacific



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

The 2nd Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao STI Research Seminar was hosted in Guangzhou, China

The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA), a highly dynamic economic region, faces significant challenges in sexually transmitted infection (STI) prevention and control. Strengthening regional collaboration is critical to addressing cross-border STI transmission and promoting integrated public health strategies.

From May 21 to 22, 2025, the Southern Medical University Institute for Global Health (also known as Guangdong Provincial Center for STD Prevention and Control and Dermatology Hospital of Southern Medical University) hosted the 2nd Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao STI Research Seminar in Guangzhou. Over 50 experts and professionals from Guangdong, Hong Kong, and Macao—including representatives from the Department of Health of Hong Kong, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Health Bureau of Macao, and City University of Macao—participated.

The seminar focused on current global STI challenges, including gonococcal antimicrobial resistance, HIV transmission networks, vaccine interventions, artificial intelligence applications in STI surveillance and risk prediction, and social innovation strategies for high-risk populations. Experts also conducted in-depth discussions on joint STI surveillance and response mechanisms across the GBA.

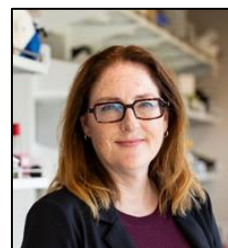
Finally, all participants reached a consensus on future areas of collaboration, including disease burden estimation, emerging STIs, integrated antimicrobial resistance surveillance, and the development of an annual cross-border collaboration framework. A draft proposal for joint STI prevention and research collaboration in the Greater Bay Area (GBA) was developed.

The seminar further strengthened trust, collaboration, and capacity building among STI professionals in the region, contributing to the long-term goal of an integrated, high-quality public health response across the GBA.



Pingyu Zhou

North America



Dr Caroline Cameron – Regional Director of IUSTI-North America

From the American STD Association (ASTDA)



- **Awards:** Congratulations to the 2025 ASTDA recognition award winners! Olivia Van Gerwen won the Early Career Award, Stephanie Cohen is the recipient of the Achievement Award, and Barbara Van Der Pol has won the Distinguished Career Award. We look forward to celebrating them in Montreal at the ASTDA Awards luncheon on July 29, 11:30-1:00 pm <https://www.astda.org/recognition-awards/>
- **Summer research fellowships:** This program is now in its fourth year. We awarded 11 summer research fellowships to emerging STI scholars. This program provides \$5,000 in research support to trainees and \$2,000 to mentors, plus up to \$2,000 to support conference travel. See more here: <https://www.astda.org/summer-fellowship-program/> Information for applying for summer 2026 will be available in autumn 2025.
- **Small projects assistance:** ASTDA continues to offer up to \$5,000 for STI related efforts such as research project assistance (e.g. buying gift cards or test kits, or paying research assistants); supporting a conference reception for early-career professionals; paying open-access publication fees; and implementing a career development workshop. See more details and reports from past projects here: <https://www.astda.org/small-project-assistance/> The next deadline is July 1, 2025.
- **Early-career workshop:** Together with IUSTI-Canada, ASTDA is hosting an Early-Career workshop in Montreal before the ISSTD conference. This session will host up to 40 early career trainees and will cover topics including thorny topics in collaborations,

effective science communication, growing your network, and community engagement: <https://stihiv2025.org/early-career-development-activities/>

From IUSTI-Canada



- The 2025 STI & HIV World Congress, which is co-hosted by ISSTD and IUSTI-World, will occur at the Palais des Congrès de Montréal/Montreal Convention Centre in Montreal, Quebec from July 26-30, 2025. Register at <https://stihiv2025.org/> and secure your spot to attend the Congress today!
- IUSTI-Canada will be at the 2025 STI & HIV World Congress! Please visit our table in the exhibitor hall at the Congress to become an IUSTI-Canada member and take home some IUSTI-Canada-branded swag.
- IUSTI-Canada is continuing its 2025 webinar series, with a series of outstanding presentations on a diverse range of topics provided by leading experts in the STI field! More information and details about how to register can be found on the [IUSTI-Canada website](https://stihiv2025.org/).

From the American Sexual Health Association (ASHA)



- ASHA supported the [2025 Contraceptive Technology Conference](https://stihiv2025.org/early-career-development-activities/) that was held in San Francisco, CA on March 28-30, 2025. The engaging and educational conference was packed with new information and guidelines in sexual and reproductive health care. The conference is available as an enduring resource and Continuing Education(CE) activity until October 2025.
- 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 [new podcast episode](#) with a sexual health advocate on talking about sexual health and STIs in relationships.
- We also released a [podcast episode](#) focused on health disparities in Native communities and reducing rates of congenital syphilis.
- During STI Awareness Week in April we released [a new video](#) on testing options and the importance of screening regardless of symptoms.
- ASHA took part in public health observations including Sexual Pleasure Month (March) and STI Awareness Month (April). For Head and Neck Awareness Month (April) we launch a [new video](#) on vaccination, screening, and treatment. ASHA/NCCC are active on social media with each observation and offer relevant resources on our websites.
- ASHA communications staff assisted Medscape with two articles in May and June: [Don't Forget These Infectious, Risk-based Screenings in Primary Care](#) and [What is Chancroid?](#) For both articles we provided background information and connected the writers with experts to interview.

From the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)



- <https://www.cdc.gov/sti-statistics/syphilis-supplement/index.html> - This surveillance supplement provide trends in surveillance data on selected behaviors reported among P&S syphilis cases in the United States during 2019–2023. The resources are best viewed as a companion to the most recent [annual data for STIs](#).
- <https://www.cdc.gov/sti/prevention/doxy-pep.html> - This content for consumers about Doxy PEP has been updated to include a dosing chart - and it's been translated into Spanish.
- <https://www.cdc.gov/sti-funding/php/spotlights/index.html> - These printable reports show STI program challenges, opportunities, investments, and relevant policies in each jurisdiction. They were recently updated with 2023 data.

Caroline Cameron

9-11 October 2025

Athens, Greece

<https://www.erasmus.gr/microsites/1301>

Conference Update

IUSTI Events:

2025 ISSTD IUSTI Congress

24-27 July 2025

Montreal, Canada

<https://stihiv2025.org>

38th IUSTI Europe Congress

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

Prof. Jonathan Ross, Editor

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Further information on the activities of IUSTI available at

www.iusti.org