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Regional Reports

North America

The 2014 National Coalition of STD Directors (NCSD) Annual Meeting was held in the Washington DC Capital Area Oct 28-31. The NCSD is a partnership of public health professionals, including CDC, ASTDA, and State public health officials, and is dedicated to promoting sexual health through the prevention of STDs. NCSD provides dynamic leadership that strengthens STD programs by advocating for effective policies, strategies, and sufficient resources and by increasing awareness of their medical and social impact. Two recent resources available on their website include:
1. The NCSD and ASTDA Webinar - Point of Care Testing: Where are we going?
2. Factsheet - STD Programs: Increasing HPV Disease Awareness through Collaboration and Innovation

The meeting underscored the evolving landscape of challenge and success for STD programs seen currently and in the near future. Pre-meeting workshops included: Training for Policymaker Education; Implementation of Extra-genital GC and CT Screening in Health Departments; Surveillance Matters; and Capital Hill Visits.

Bill Smith, CEO of NCSD and Beth Butler from Pennsylvania Department of Health


CHEMBIO Diagnostics, INC. announced Oct 30, 2014 that their DPP® HIV 1/2 point-of-care (POC) assay received CLIA Waiver from the FDA. The CLIA waiver will allow expansion to new channels close to patient care including physician-office-lab (POL) facilities, clinics and other community healthcare providers.

News from the CDC

New treatment guidelines are expected to be available in early 2015, but they are available on line for public comment. http://www.cdc.gov/std/treatment/update.htm

CDC is highlighting the importance of early detection of HIV by issuing new recommendations on the approach U.S. laboratories should use for HIV testing. Capitalizing on the latest available testing technologies, this new approach can diagnose HIV infection several weeks earlier than previous practice. Early diagnosis is important because people in the earliest ("acute") stage of infection have high levels of virus in their bodies and are most likely to transmit HIV. By putting the latest testing technology to work, CDC’s new recommendations help address a critical gap in the nation’s HIV prevention efforts.

New CDC Recommendations for HIV Testing in Laboratories: A step-by-step account of the approach

http://www.ncsddc.org/tags/ncsd

www.iusti.org
News from the American Sexual Health Association (ASHA)

Person2Person is a premium service offered by ASHA. As one of the nation’s authorities on sexual health, ASHA has 100 years of experience in sexual health communication. Person2Person allows ASHA to provide you with that experience via direct communication over the phone or secure chat. This paid service enables you to bypass the long waits experienced on ASHA’s free STI Line. It puts you in control of when you speak to ASHA’s Health Communication Specialist (HCS) and for how long.

The service is being offered at a price of $20.00 for 20 minutes. If you need more than 20 minutes, you can purchase more time. To learn more about the service and how it works, check out http://www.ashasexualhealth.org/person2person-2/.

News from the National Chlamydia Coalition

The US Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) recently released a final recommendation statement on screening for chlamydia and gonorrhea, and a final recommendation statement on behavioral counseling interventions to prevent sexually transmitted infections (STIs). http://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/Page/Name/home.

The USPSTF statement recommends screening for both chlamydia and gonorrhea in sexually active women age 24 years and younger and in older women who are at increased risk for STIs (B recommendation).

The USPSTF also recommends intensive behavioral counseling for all sexually active adolescents and for adults who are at increased risk for STIs (grade "B" recommendation).

News from the American Sexually Transmitted Diseases Association (ASTDA) (www.astda.org) [Our North American IUSTI Organization]

STD Prevention Science Series - ASTDA has partnered with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Division of STD Prevention (DSTDP) to bring you the latest research and best practices for STD prevention with the STD Prevention Science Series. This quarterly series presents lectures on cutting edge issues by scientists and program experts of world renown to all persons interested in the prevention of STI including HIV.

On September 25, 2014, Edward W. Hook III, M.D. presented: Reconceptualizing Screening for Chlamydia Control: Process Considerations, Targets and Outcomes. His presentation on chlamydia control efforts used a sexually transmitted infection (STI) cascade perspective to demonstrate opportunities for improving current chlamydia screening efforts. In addition, he considered whether chlamydia rates represent the appropriate metric for assessing the impact of current chlamydia control efforts.

Edward W. Hook III, M.D.

This presentation and other archived presentations in the series are available at http://www.astda.org/std-prevention-science-series/.

Charlotte Gaydos

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Europe

IUSTI Europe Conference in Malta

As the clock struck 6 in the evening of 18 September, the love songs of Sir Paolo Tosti performed by top Maltese soprano Gillian Zammit with the acclaimed Lucia Micalef on the piano heralded the start of the XXVIII IUSTI Europe Annual Congress. After welcome addresses by Congress President Joseph Pace, IUSTI Europe Regional Director Airi Poder, BASHH President Jan Clarke, and EADV President Jana Hercogova,
the Hon Parliamentary Secretary for Health, Chris Fearne declared the Congress open. The first Plenary Session followed with two talks that would augur well for the quality of the academic programme to come: a fascinating historical presentation on sexual mores in Malta in the Middle Ages, followed by a superb and highly informative talk on Migration and Sexual Health as this affects migrants from sub Saharan Africa to the Mediterranean countries. Finally the IUSTI Gold Medal was awarded to Keith Radcliffe for his outstanding contribution to IUSTI over many years, after an introduction by Raj Patel.

The academic programme that followed over the next 48 hours was widely acclaimed and a direct result of the incredible effort put in by Scientific Committee Chair, Jackie Sherrard and her committee. For the first time a national association, BASHH in this case, joined forces with IUSTI and the host society MADV as part of the organizing group.

Scientific programme
- Core sessions addressed Sexual health and travel: irregular immigrants, tourists, alcohol and sex, HIV/AIDS, Viral infections, Cutting edge diagnostic advances
- 6 state of the art Plenary Lectures
- 2 Workshops by WHO and ECDC addressing new information on antibiotic resistance
- History of Medicine seminar
- 6 hour formal STD management course run by teachers from BASHH and addressed to non STD specialists

The results
Excellent attendance at all sessions and highly positive feedback from many participants; Interest from future Congress Presidents to incorporate some of the innovations introduced; Prospect of establishing a wider agreement with EADV on future collaboration and support; Successful pilot of making a regional issue a core topic

Attendance
Near 400 participants from 43 countries including 21 nurses and 10 undergraduate students. Abstracts from 180 participants with 126 posters.

General Assembly IUSTI Europe - 20 September 2014

IUSTI Europe Declaration of Malta
Proposed by Prof Pace (Malta)
Seconded by Dr Jan Clarke (UK)
This Assembly notes:
The European Centre for Disease Control 2012 - a review of access to HIV prevention, treatment and care among migrants in the EU conducted between May and September 2008 and
The 2008 WHO Europe and UNAIDS progress report on the Dublin Declaration commitments and
strongly supports these measures especially the vital necessity to pool information among destination countries with the setting up of an expert panel to agree on a Best Practice Guidelines document for management of health needs of migrants, with special attention to STI, and to obtain the necessary support in both human and financial resources to achieve the quality of care envisaged in such guidelines.
notes that little or no action has been taken to address a situation that imperils human rights, health status of both immigrants and local populations,
and
agrees completely with what has been expressed repeatedly but seemingly ineffectively with regard to Migrant health and calls on the EU Health Commissioner and the Commissioner for Migrants to act decisively and to implement these actions as a matter of urgency
Passed unanimously on 20 September 2014

Council Meeting of IUSTI Europe – 17-18 September 2014
Discussion about the rules and regulations of IUSTI Europe, the roles and responsibilities of Council of IUSTI Europe and stages of preparation for the IUSTI Europe conferences were the main topics in the IUSTI Europe Council meetings in Malta.
A decision to establish 4 new committees was made:
- Committee for international development (Chair: Mihael Skerlev)

www.iusti.org
Since the last report the following guidelines have been updated, posted on the website and information is being produced about that condition.

- Commenced on producing a new guideline on the management of genital mycoplasmas. As each guideline is updated or developed patients...

Preparation of the next IUSTI Europe Conferences was discussed:

IUSTI Europe 24-26 September 2015 Sitges (President Marti Vall Mayans, Chair of the Scientific Board Keith Radcliffe)

IUSTI Europe 15-17 September 2016 Budapest (President Viktoria Varkony, Karoly Nagy, Chair of The Scientific Board Marco Cusini)

IUSTI Europe September 2017 Helsinki (President Eija Hiltunen)

The following guidelines are currently being updated: non-gonococal urethritis; genital herpes; chlamydia.
In addition, two new guidelines are in the process of development: a guideline on partner management is nearing completion and work has commenced on producing a new guideline on the management of genital mycoplasmas. As each guideline is updated or developed patient information is being produced about that condition. Since the last report the following guidelines have been updated, posted on the website and published in journals as:


The guideline on gonorrhoea has been translated into Polish and a link to this version is available from the website.

All the guidelines can be accessed at www.iusti.org/regions/Europe/euroguidelines.htm and the patient information at www.iusti.org/regions/Europe/PatientInformation.htm. Any comments or suggestions on the work of the European STI Guidelines Project would be gladly received by the Editor-in-Chief, Dr Keith Radcliffe (email: k.radcliffe@virgin.net).

Airi Põder

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Latin America

ALACITS members contributing to HIV Research in Women in Latin America

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) Office of AIDS Research (OAR) invited members of ALACITS to participate in the HIV in Women in the Latin America Think Tank Planning Meeting which happened in October 9-10, 2014. Participants were representatives of the Latin American and Caribbean Association for Prevention and Control of STIs such as Dr. Patricia J. Garcia from Peru, Dr. Angelica Espinoza from Brazil and Dr. Freddy Tinajeros from Bolivia. Other countries participating were Mexico with representatives from both the University and the Ministry of Health, Puerto Rico as well as US researchers working on HIV/STD issues in Latino populations.

During the meeting, the discussion was centered on HIV in women in Latin America: how it has the potential to expand too.
The group debated about the potential for effective focal prevention and the need to raise the profile of this hidden issue, the need for research to better understand the women’s HIV epidemic in Latin America in order to inform prevention and clinical management efforts and how to develop collaborative relationships between U.S. and Latin American investigators, leveraging existing research resources and efforts.

Other topics analysed were the gaps in research and access to HIV services for prevention, testing and management for women and what the research priorities should be.

The group identified that there are still gaps in information and actions to improve access to HIV/STI testing for young women who are not pregnant, and that there are still problems with HIV screening coverage in antenatal care. It was mentioned that in some countries there have recently been identified populations with high HIV burden, such as the “Garifunas” native women in Honduras. Other groups that will need to be addressed are sex workers and women with HIV who may be stigmatized by society and re-victimized by their own partners.

A directory of key people working on the issue of HIV/STIs in Latin America in different countries was drafted and the plan is to have a follow up workshop in Panama in the months to come. A written summary of the meeting is being prepared Freddy Tinajeros & Patty Garcia

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**Asia Pacific**

IUSTI-AP is in the final stages of signing a Memorandum-of-Understanding with The Australasian Society for HIV Medicine (ASHM). ASHM is a multidisciplinary society which initially represented physicians working in HIV. Over time it has progressively expanded its membership to include all in the health workforce and it has, in response to members’ and sector requests, broadened its interest to include viral hepatitis and sexual health. It works collaboratively to prevent HIV viral hepatitis and sexually transmissible infections (STI) and to preserve and protect the health of those infected. Its goals are close to IUSTI goals and activities, therefore this collaboration will help both organizations.

This was discussed at ASHA Executive face-to-face meeting, at the 2014 Sexual Health Conference in Sydney on the Friday, 10th October, 2014. This will be further discussed during Exco meeting at 18th IUSTI-AP congress at Bangkok from November 11-14, 2014.

IUSTI-AP is in the process of opening another channel of cooperation. Recently, International Planned Parenthood Federation’s regional office approached IUSTI-AP for collaboration. Both the organizations are working on this.

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The Scientific Program of 18th IUSTI-AP Congress is ready. It is a comprehensive program, which covers regional issues extensively. There will be three pre-congress workshops, one opening Key Note address, six plenary lectures, thirteen oral sessions, fifteen symposia, and 77 posters.

Other good news for the Region is that IUSTI-World President, David Lewis has moved to Australia from South Africa. His presence in the Region will not only help IUSTI-AP in advancing its effort in controlling STI, but also boost STI research in the Region.

**South China-UNC STD Research Training Center**

The 1st South China-UNC Advanced STI Clinical and Research Training Course. Syphilis has become the most commonly reported communicable disease in most major cities of South China. This unique region has experienced massive rural-to-urban migration and poverty. Drawing on a long history of collaborative US-China STD training and research, the UNC Chapel Hill School and Guangdong Provincial Dermatology Hospital has formalized the UNC-South China STD Research Training Center in 2012. The Training Center is chaired by Dr Bin Yang, the Director of the Guangdong Provincial Center for Skin Diseases and STI Control, and Dr. Myron Cohen, Associate Vice Chancellor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Training at this center focuses on classical STDs (syphilis, gonorrhea, chlamydia, HIV, human papillomavirus). The Training Center is supported by a unique five-year D43 US National Institutes of Health grant alongside substantial Chinese co-funding. The center brings together medicine, public health, implementation science, social science, and policy experts not only to improve research capacity, but also to address the broader policy and development issues that must be part of any successful US-China collaboration. After two years of construction, this training course has greatly improved execution, organization, harmonization and management. The 1st South China-UNC Advanced STI Clinical and Research Training Course was held in July 2014. There were about 40 renowned international and local STD experts who attended the training course and gave great lectures. In addition, approximately 100 STD medical staff joined the training course. This training course was focused on the new methods and theories of STD clinical treatment and current pressing topics of STD research. The training course has engaged exceptional junior STD research scholars for high-quality research in South China.

Our South China-UNC STD Research Training Center has recruited three postdocs who are doing research on tertiary syphilis, HIV cure and HIV phylogeny research, respectively. Furthermore, another four STD and HIV researchers from
Guangdong Provincial Dermatology Hospital, Guangzhou Eighth People’s Hospital and Sun Yat-sen University have been supported to undertake mentored research at UNC Chapel Hill or partner institutions. Our trainees have already been highly productive, resulting in first-author publications in The Lancet and Clinical Infectious Diseases. Our goal is to build capacity among junior researchers and lay the foundation for continued successful STD/HIV research collaboration in this important region. The UNC South China STI Research Training Center was officially opened in Guangdong Provincial Dermatology Hospital and 1st UNC-South China STD Research Training Conference in 2012.

38th Annual Conference of Indian Association for the Study of STD & AIDS
This was organized by Dr. Sunil Sethi (IUSTI-AP Secretary General) and his colleagues in Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research at Chandigarh, India from 31st October to 2nd November 2014. The conference was highly successful and was attended by over 300 delegates and faculty including many IUSTI office bearers and Exco members. From this year, IAS STD AIDS started three scholarships in the name of IUSTI-IAS STD AIDS scholarship, which comprises of INR 20000 each. This is given from the funds provided by IUSTI-World Congress held in New Delhi in 2011. The Conference was inaugurated by Prof. Yogesh Chawla, Director, PGIMER, Chandigarh, India Somesh Gupta, Xiang-Sheng Chen, Joseph Tucker

Conference Update

IUSTI Events:

IUSTI-AP congress 2014
Dates: November 11-14, 2014.
Location: Bangkok, Thailand
Website: http://iusti2014bangkok.com/cms/

World STI & HIV Congress 2015
Dates: September 13-16, 2015
Location: Brisbane, Australia
Website: http://www.isstdr.org/future-meetings.php

IUSTI Europe 2015
Dates: September 22-24, 2015
Location: Barcelona
Website: http://www.iusti.org/events/default.htm

2016 World IUSTI Congress
Dates: To be announced
Location: Morocco

Website: http://www.iusti.org/events/default.htm

IUSTI Europe 2016
Dates: September 15-17, 2016
Location: Budapest, Hungary
Website: http://www.iusti.org/events/default.htm

World STI & HIV Congress 2017
Location: Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Dates: TBA
Website: http://www.isstdr.org/future-meetings.php

Other STI or Related Meetings / Congresses / Courses:

EUROGIN 2015 Congress
Dates: February 4-7, 2015
Location: Seville, Spain
Website: http://www.eurogin.com/2015/

43rd National Conference of Indian Association of Dermatologists, Venereologist and Leprologists
Location: Mangalore, India
Website: http://dermacon2015.com/

International Society for the Study of Women’s Sexual Health 2015 annual Meeting
Dates: February 19-22, 2015
Location: Austin, TX - USA
Website: http://www.isswh.org/pdf/2014Meeting.pdf

XII International Workshop of Lower Genital Tract Pathology
Dates: March 5-7, 2015
Location: Rome, Italy
Website: www.hpv2015rome.com

12th EADV Spring Symposium
Dates: March 5-8, 2015
Location: Valencia, Spain
Website: http://www.eadvvalencia2015.org/

Adolescent Sexuality Conference
Dates: April 13-14, 2015
Location: Portland, USA
Website: http://oregon-asc.org/

HIV Drug Therapy in the Americas 2015
Dates: April 16-18, 2015
Location: Mexico City, Mexico
Website: http://www.hivamericas.org/

Mechanisms of HIV Persistence: Implications for a Cure
Dates: April 26—May 1, 2015
Location: Boston, Massachusetts, USA
Website: http://www.keystonesymposia.org/15E1
BASHH Spring Conference 2015  
Dates: June 1-3, 2015  
Location: Glasgow, Scotland  
Website: http://www.bashh.org/BASHH/Education/BASHH_Spring_Conference/BASHH_Spring_Conference_2015/  
BASHH/Education/BASHH_Spring_Conference/BASHH_Spring_Conference_Glasgow_2015.aspx

23rd World Congress of Dermatology  
Dates: June 8-13, 2015  
Location: Vancouver, Canada  
Website: http://derm2015.org/

8th IAS Conference on HIV Pathogenesis, Treatment and Prevention  
Dates: July 19-22, 2015  
Location: Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada  
Website: http://www.ias2015.org/

Australasian HIV&AIDS Conference  
Dates: September 16-18 2015  
Location: Brisbane, Australia  
Website: www.hivaidsconference.com.au

HPV 2015--30th International Papillomavirus Conference & Clinical and Public Health Workshops  
Dates: September 17-21, 2015

24th EADV Congress  
Dates: October 7-11, 2015  
Location: Copenhagen, Denmark  
Website: http://www.eadv.org/nc/news/article/24th-eadv-congress/6/e0b4035c5e9ed551c9532520bf4a4035/

21st International AIDS Conference  
Dates: July 17-22, 2016  
Location: Durban, South Africa  
Website: http://www.aids2016.org/

Somesh Gupta

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STI Global Update is published by the International Union against Sexually Transmitted Infections. Its aims are to provide an international perspective on the management and control of sexually acquired infections. Regular contributions from the regional directors of IUSTI and feedback from conferences is supplemented by short reviews of relevant topics and input from the Center for Disease Control (US), Health Protection Agency (UK), European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, and the World Health Organisation.

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