

STI Global Update

Newsletter of the International Union against Sexually Transmitted Infections

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President's Letter

Our most recent IUSTI-World Congress, held in collaboration with the International Society for STD Research (ISSTD) in Brisbane on 13-16 September 2015, was a great success. I would like to thank a number of groups and people for their various roles that contributed to a vibrant and scientifically stimulating Congress. Firstly, I would like to thank the staff of the Australasian Society for HIV, Viral Hepatitis and Sexual Health Medicine (ASHM) for their sterling assistance as the Congress organizers. Secondly, IUSTI is very appreciative of the hard work undertaken by the scientific track teams and committee, led by Nicola Low and Jeffery Klausner. I worked closely with Basil Donovan, the ISSTD President, and would like to publically acknowledge his sterling efforts to raise funds for the meeting and provide the necessary strategic vision to ensure everything went to plan. Finally, I would like to thank those IUSTI members who travelled variable distances to Brisbane to participate as delegates in our Congress. The World STI and HIV Conference was opened with a 'Welcome to Country' by Auntie Carol Currie, a Southeast Queensland Elder, and the Welcome Ceremony featured aboriginal dancing and music.



The World STI and HIV Conference was opened with a 'Welcome to Country' by Auntie Carol Currie

At the closing ceremony, we were able to present the First Secretary of the Cuban Embassy in Australia, Mrs. Veronica Cartaya Rodrigues, with a certificate to recognize the great achievement of Cuba to be the first country to have been validated by WHO criteria to have eliminated congenital

syphilis and HIV. This is indeed a remarkable achievement.



ISSTD/IUSTI honour the Cuban achievement of eliminating congenital syphilis and HIV. Right to left: Mary Kamb (CDC speaker), Veronica Cartaya Rodrigues (First Secretary, Cuban Embassy in Australia), David Lewis (IUSTI President), Basil Donovan (ISSTD President), Jeffery Klausner (Co-Chair of the Congress' Scientific Committee)

We also had the opportunity to award prizes for research excellence in keeping with the Congress' theme of 'Up and Coming'. The best oral presentation prize was awarded to Carolien Wind from Amsterdam in The Netherlands with Samuel Turner (Darwin, Australia) as runner-up.



Basil Donovan presenting the Best Oral Presentation Prize to Carolien Wind (Amsterdam, The Netherlands)

The best poster prize was awarded to Smrittee Dabee from Cape Town, South Africa (Figure 3) with Lin Khine Soe (Pathumthani, Thailand) as runner-up.



David Lewis presenting the Best Poster Prize to Smrittee Dabee in Brisbane

(Photograph credits: The four photographs were taken by Amanda James, official photographer for the World STI and HIV Conference)

We held our IUSTI-World Executive meeting a day before the Congress was officially opened and a General Assembly during the Congress. An

important decision made at the meeting was to move from the Paypal system to HSBC Global Payments as a means for IUSTI members upgrade to full membership or renew their full membership with our organization. We hope that this change will make it much easier for members in some countries to pay their membership dues. Membership remains an important area for IUSTI and we are keen to see out membership grow in 2016. I would like to take this opportunity to encourage every IUSTI member to discuss IUSTI with their colleagues and encourage them to become part of the IUSTI family. Another important decision was to hold the 2018 World IUSTI Congress in Dublin. We are very excited about this collaboration with our IUSTI European branch and wish Dr. Derek Freedman and our teams well with the preparations. The venture was endorsed by the IUSTI Europe council at their recent IUSTI-Europe Congress in Sitges (Barcelona), Spain.

As I write, registration for the 2016 IUSTI-World Congress is about to open and we anticipate abstract submission will begin in mid-November with a deadline in January 2016. This will be the first IUSTI-World Congress in North Africa and the programme will have a unique flavour of both sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) scientific matters in addition to the usual global topics of importance that are always discussed at our World Congresses. The Congress Chairperson, Amina Hançali, and her team, along with our scientific programme steering committee led by Jo-Anne Dillon, are working hard to ensure our delegates will experience a Congress characterized by a unique blend of scientific quality, Moroccan hospitality and wonderful cultural experiences. Please do register and join us in the imperial city of Marrakech.

Partly in my role as IUSTI President, I attended the 2nd Meeting of the STI Guideline Development Group meeting at the World Health Organization headquarters in Geneva. We made significant progress in the grading of evidence produced through a number of systematic reviews undertaken by colleagues working at McMaster University in Canada. Our meeting focused on making treatment recommendations for chlamydia, gonorrhoea, syphilis and herpes simplex virus infections.

Finally, some news for those members working the Asia Pacific region. ASHM have just announced that they are hosting the 1st Assembly of the Regional Network of Societies working in the fields of HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections on 15-17 January 2016. If any members in the Asia-Pacific region would like to find out more details, please access the following link: <http://www.regionalsocietiesassembly.com/ehome/index.php?eventid=134205&tabid=305320&>. The

aim of the Assembly is to foster networking and support within the Asia-Pacific region. IUSTI will be represented by our IUSTI-Asia Pacific Regional Director, Sunil Sethi and I. IUSTI Associate and Full Members in the region are welcome to participate as well.

David Lewis, IUSTI President

Regional Reports

Asia Pacific

Minutes of Exco of IUSTI AP held on at Brisbane , Australia

IUSTI-AP executive committee met alongside of 2015 World Congress of STI & HIV at Convention and Exhibition Centre, Brisbane, Australia on 14th September, 2015. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Xiang sheng Chen. The committee comprises Somesh Gupta (India), Xiang sheng Chen (China), Kaushal Verma (India), Sunil Sethi (India) Pachara Sirivongrangson (Thailand), Brian Mulhall (Australia), Christopher K Fairley (Australia), Chavalit Mangkalaviraj (Thailand), Ryoichi Hamasuna (Japan), Catherine O Connor (Australia), Wrest Indriatmi (Indonesia), and Kamal Four (UAE). IUSTI-AP is not an independently registered society and Dr. Catherine O Connor was asked to investigate this further.

19th IUSTI Asia-Pacific Conference will be held at Okayama Convention Center, Okayama, Japan from December 1 - 3, 2016. Toshio Kishimoto, M.D., Ph.D. will be the Congress Chairman, Ryoichi Hamasuna will be Secretary General, and Kit Fairley will be Scientific Committee Chair and Roy Chan, Co-Chair. The home-page for 19th IUSTI-AP: <http://www.med-gakkai.org/19iusti/>.

Australasian sexual health medicine is organizing the 1st assembly of the Regional societies network of HIV, viral hepatitis & sexual health from 15-17 January 2017. The Network represents 42 national professional societies, associations and organisations across Asia and the Pacific that support HIV, viral hepatitis and sexual health care work force development and providers. The Regional Network supports the skills and needs of professionals, in order to provide state of the art advice to national HIV, viral hepatitis and sexual health bodies and best practice care to people affected by, and living with, HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmissible infections across Asia and the Pacific. The website for the assembly is <http://www.regionalsocietiesassembly.com/ehome/index.php?eventid=134205&tabid=305320&>.

IUSTI-AP representatives, Somesh Gupta and Sunil Sethi will be attending the assembly.

Somesh Gupta

Europe

29th IUSTI Europe Conference on Sexually Transmitted Infections in Sitges

For the first time, the European branch of the International Union against Sexually Transmitted Infections (IUSTI-Europe) held its annual conference in Spain, this time in collaboration with the British Association for Sexual Health and HIV (BASHH). Both organizations represent the two leading European bodies in the field. With the theme "Focus on men's sexual health" the congress took place in Sitges (Barcelona) on 24-26 September 2015 with the participation of 450 delegates. The host scientific societies were the Catalan Society of Infectious Diseases and Clinical Microbiology and the Catalan Society of Dermatology and Venereology with the scientific support of the respective Spanish societies in both specialties. The European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology (EADV) also gave support to the event by granting full bursaries to 10 international delegates.

The special focus of this conference on the sexual health of men was motivated by the recognized problem at European level of the increases in sexually transmitted infections and HIV especially in men who have sex with men (MSM). However, the scientific programme was carefully balanced in order to address and update issues related to STI and sexual health of both sexes. The conference was accredited by the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME) with 14 credits.

There were two pre-conference activities: a symposium with local and European public health and NGO experts on preventive strategies for MSM and a full day session related with an online STI course from BASHH taken by 40 infectologists and dermatologists from the Catalan host societies. There were 8 symposia organized on the following subjects: resistance and typing of STI pathogens, male sexual dysfunction, update on HIV infection, the emergence and resurgence of STI, anogenital syndromes in men, STI challenges beyond 2015, HPV infection and vaccination and sexual health of specific groups. It is noteworthy the symposia organized by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) on the promotion of sexual health among MSM and that organized by the World Health Organization (WHO) on the opportunities offered by new technologies for the prevention of STI. Also for the first time in an IUSTI congress the European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ESCMID) sponsored a symposium. Some of the presentations of the speakers at symposia and plenaries are available on the website of the congress: www.iusti2015.com. Besides the three oral sessions for the presentation of 30 communications, 190 abstracts

were accepted to be presented in poster format. All communications are published online in a Supplement to the International Journal of STD and AIDS and are accessible through the Internet at: <http://std.sagepub.com/content/by/year/2015>.

IUSTI Europe Council Meeting

Firstly, Airi Pöder, the regional director, presented the Regional Director's Report highlighting the successful implementation of the new council structure with additional officers with responsibility for guidelines, scientific committee, communications and International development. She informed the council that she had attended the UEMS meeting in April in Cyprus as a representative of IUSTI.

At the recent IUSTI-World it had been agreed that the 2018 meeting would be in Europe so that the 2018 meeting will be a World IUSTI meeting incorporating a IUSTI-Europe Meeting. Two proposals were received: one from Dublin, Ireland presented by Derek Freedman and one from Bochum, Germany presented by Judith Coenenberg. The Dublin proposal was accepted for 2018 and we will be happy to receive a fresh bid for 2019 from Germany.

Angelika Stary and Marco Cusini chaired the first STI Masterclass which took place in June 2015 in Vienna and it was very successful. IUSTI-Europe provided five scholarships for young European scientists to attend and some National societies also provided funding.

A draft of Memorandum of Understanding for future IUSTI-Europe congresses was presented and discussed at length.

European STI Project

The European STI Project is led by Keith Radcliffe. Work is ongoing on updating guidelines which all need to be revised at least every 5 years. The activity is reliant on people doing a large amount of work in their own time. All the guidelines are published on the IUSTI website, and completed guidelines published in journals. Keith was congratulated on all his work developing the guidelines. Judith Coenenberg presented a summary card of the German treatment guidelines.

ECCG Survey

The ECCG survey was led by Raj Patel. He explained it was founded 3 meetings ago: members are the IUSTI Council members. Since then has sent short questionnaires of controversial areas to national representatives and are only measures of different practice in Europe. The 2 most recent surveys will be presented this meeting on management of HVS in pregnancy and management of NGU.

Memorandum of Understanding

In general, there was support for the principles outlined, which present a framework in which

conferences should be delivered. There was some debate as to the responsibility of the local organiser and the scientific chair, but agreed that the final responsibility for the scientific content is with the Scientific committee chair, as the team leader. It was agreed that it will not be possible to have this fully implemented for Budapest, but the conference organisers were encouraged to adopt as much as possible. Eija Hiltunen-Back accepted the general principles for Helsinki, 2017. The council approved the introduction of a Memorandum of Understanding, and it was agreed to circulate the draft document for comments with the minutes. Once agreed the Memorandum of Understanding will be sent to all countries bidding to host future IUSTI-Europe congresses.

International Development

Mihael Skerlev has been appointed the Vice-Chair for the international development at the last IUSTI Europe Conference in Malta 2014. IUSTI Azerbaijan has been founded and inaugurated. The first IUSTI Azerbaijan Conference was held in Baku in December 2014, and, apart of the STIs health professionals from Azerbaijan and the Region, the IUSTI Europe Council members have actively participated, as well. Credit goes mainly to Vugar and Gulya Evazov, the national representative(s) and the persons in charge for STIs in Azerbaijan and, particularly to Prof. Mikhail Gomberg.

The "liaison" between IUSTI Europe and other international societies has been strengthened, including with the European Dermatology Forum (EDF). Prof. Skerlev has put in a lot of effort to get IUSTI Europe's activities on the agenda for the Annual Dermatology Forum meeting to be held in 2016

Scientific Policy

The Scientific Committee, led by Derek Freedman, can help co-ordinate meetings and act as a resource for future meetings, producing a non-prescriptive guidelines for the structure of future IUSTI-Europe Congresses. Dr. Freedman has initiated the formation of a scientific council of 1 or 2 specialists with one or 2 "juniors" per STI topic area. Their remit will be to produce a single page annual report on the area and to suggest topics for future meetings. Currently there are 12 nominated "specialists". Use of the database of congress topics has been poor and it was suggested that it may not be effective to continue with this in its current format.

Communication

David Barlow, the Chair for Communications, says that since Malta a number of work streams are in progress with variable success, with special thanks to Andy Winter, Peter Greenhouse, Timea Tisza and Marti Vall Mayans for their input. A LinkedIn group has been established. A Twitter account has

been set up, with little activity to date, but it is planned to use it actively during the conference. The BASHH social media behaviour policy will be followed. A Hungarian Facebook account is being set up, but a Europe Facebook page has been put on hold as there are concerns about inappropriate usage. Communication with Dermatological Societies to promote IUSTI-Europe events has been largely unsuccessful

IUSTI-World Congress of 2018

Following a successful bid for Dublin to host the IUSTI World Congress in 2018, IUSTI Europe also accepted the invitation to come to Dublin.

The conjoint IUSTI Europe and IUSTI World congress will be held in Dublin in late August – early September 2018

The Congress Chair shall be Dr. Derek Freedman, and the Vice-Chair shall be Prof. Charlotte Gaydos. The Scientific Committee will be chaired by Prof. Jonathan Ross and the Scientific Programme will extend to three days and cover Basic and Laboratory Science, Epidemiology and Social Sciences.

There will be an extensive clinical track with a focus on clinical care. The theme of the congress will be 'The Appliance of Science – Putting the Patient First'

Dublin IUSTI 2018 - End August/September 2018.

This time of year also provides a useful opportunity for those contemplating a vacation in Ireland – see www.wildatlanticway.com.

Future Events

- **IUSTI Europe Budapest 2016** – The meeting will take place on 15th – 17th September 2016 at the Hilton Hotel which has the capacity for 600 persons with several break out rooms. A site visit had been undertaken in April 2015 and a scientific committee established under the chair of Marco Cusini, the congress president is Viktória Várkonyi and the congress vice –president Karoly Nagy. The theme will be "past experience, future lessons".
- **IUSTI Europe conference in Helsinki 2017** – The meeting will be held from 31st August – 2nd September in central Helsinki. Stefan Lautenschlager has been appointed as chair of the scientific committee, the congress president is Eija Hiltunen-Back.
- **IUSTI Europe and IUSTI World joint congress in Dublin 2018** – The meeting will be held in August/September 2018 in Dublin. The Congress President shall be Dr. Derek Freedman, the Vice-President shall be Prof. Charlotte Gaydos. and the scientific committee will be chaired by Prof. Jonathan Ross.

Airi Pöder

Conference Update

IUSTI Events:

2016 World IUSTI Congress

Dates: May 9-12, 2016

Location: Morocco

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

IUSTI Europe 2016

Dates: September 15-17, 2016

Location: Budapest, Hungary

Website: iustimarrakesh2016.com

World STI & HIV Congress 2017

Dates: TBA

Location: Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Website: <http://www.isstdr.org/future-meetings.php>

Other STI or Related Meetings/Congresses/Courses:

2015 National HIV Prevention Conference

Dates: December 6-9, 2015

Location: Atlanta, USA

Website: www.cdc.gov/nhpc

21st International AIDS Conference

Dates: July 17-22, 2016

Location: Durban, South Africa

Website: <http://www.aids2016.org/>

Somesh Gupta

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