



Message from the Regional Director

Mary Sullivan

Remembrance: 1961-2008

Mary, our IUSTI newsletter editor was tragically killed August 12 by a truck which crashed into her bedroom.

Mary was a kind, intelligent, hard working, and caring person who always did more than asked for in her friendship and in her job. She was totally dedicated to her girls and their successes represent her love and guidance.

Mary always represented the Johns Hopkins University as an ideal employee. She certainly exemplified this work ethic in her job performance, always willing and volunteering to do

more than what her job required. She always jumped at the chance to help others in our group whether in the laboratory or in administrative areas, which were extra work for her. She was an outstanding teacher and organizer of her work. She took pride in the work we did and totally dedicated herself to doing an outstanding job.

Many Johns Hopkins employees will sorely miss her as both a friend and fellow employee. Mary was called too early, but surely will join God's legion of angels.



Mary Sullivan, MSc
Editor

Greetings from North America IUSTI. Features in this issue include: The BASHH/ASTDA meeting held in Brooklyn New York May 7-10, 2008 ("Converging Approaches in STI control and Reproductive Health"); news from the European chlamydia Meeting in Aarhus, Denmark July 1-4, 2008; updates from the American Social Health Association (ASHA); the American Sexually Transmitted Diseases Association (ASTDA); and some exciting new websites. As well, we feature a new on line organization from the Internet and STD Center of Excellence of Excellence, Denver Colorado, STD Prevention Online, STDpreventiononline.org, where members can discuss STD-related issues, read about new STI information and exchange views, as well as contact collaborators in the field of STDs.

It is a web-based work space, which provides a communication interface for STI/HIV prevention program, policy, and research. You are welcome to join.

Board Meeting. IUSTI-North America held a board meeting while in New York at the BASHH meeting and plans were made for a new program for workshop training sessions to be held immediately before future International meetings. The intent will be to help develop young researchers, as well as investigators from less developed countries, by offering skills-building, networking and collaborative opportunities. The program is in development and we will keep everyone apprised of our progress. *(continued on page 2)*



Charlotte Gaydos, DrPH
Regional Director &
Editor-in-Chief
www.hopkinsmedicine.org/medicine/std

Update from the BASHH-ASTDA Joint Conference

The ASTDA hosted the 3rd Bi-lateral ASTDA/BASHH meeting titled "Converging Approaches in STI Control & Reproductive Health" and was held in New York City, NY on May 7-10, 2008. This meeting was co sponsored by IUSTI. Over 450 delegates attended an extensive program which included 8 plenary sessions, 28 oral abstracts and over 150 posters. In particular, there was substantial attention paid to the interactions between STIs and HIV. Highlights of the meeting included a large session

on bacterial STDs within the context of HIV infection, and focusing on outreach approaches to gay men. We were honored by the presence of Baroness Joyce Gould, who is a member of the House of Lords, and who has been largely responsible for implementation of the UK Chlamydia control program as well as its funding. The meeting concluded with the traditional BASHH gala, which occurred in a stunning venue overlooking the sun setting behind the New York

City skyline. One unique aspect of this conference was the involvement and attention of local public health officials and line-public health workers. Through grants from the ASTDA, over 50 employees from the New York City Health Department and affiliated agencies were able to attend, enabling exposure to top level translational science in a unique venue. *(from Jonathan Zenilman, MD, PhD; Director, The Internet & STD Center of Excellence)*

(continued on page 2)



Immy Ahmed, president of BASHH; Jonathan Zenilman, ASTDA past president; Jeanne Marazzo, ASTDA president; Janet Wilson, BASHH conference officer; Lynn Barclay, ASHA, CEO





Johns Hopkins University STD Center
855 North Wolfe Street
Rangos 530
Baltimore, MD 21205

Mary P. Sullivan, Editor
Phone: 410-614-0924
Fax: 410-614-9775
Email: msulli40@jhmi.edu

Helen Won, Assistant Editor
Phone: 410-614-0933
Fax: 410-614-9775
Email: hwon1@jhu.edu

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We're on the WEB!!

www.iusti.org

(Gaydos; continued from page 1) In the interim, there are some websites that offer opportunities for education and training. The first mentioned here is Open Courseware at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, <http://ocw.jhsph.edu/courses/stiprevention/lectureNotes.cfm>. The slide sets from the course topics in Dr. Jonathan Zenilman's STI class offer background in the epidemiology of STIs, especially in the United States. There are no continuing education units offered, however, the faculty who prepared the slides represent recognized experts in the field of STI. Also, there is another website, www.nnptc.org, the home page for the National Network of STD/HIV Prevention Training Centers. This site offers some free continuing education training in the field along with information about other continuing education training programs offered in the United States.

Sexual Activity in Teens. The new data from the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS, 2007, MMWR 57: 2008) published by the CDC indicates many high school adolescents are sexually active in the U.S. and many practice high risk sexual behavior. A three-stage cluster sample design was used to produce a nationally representative sample of students in grades 9-12. Data from 14,041 students from 157 schools with a student response rate of 84% indicated 47.8% students have had sexual intercourse [9th grade: 32.8%; 10th grade: 43.8%; 11th grade: 55.5%; 12th grade: 64.6%] [Males: 49.8%; Females 45.9%]. Of 35.0% of sexually active students, 14.9% had ≥ 4 lifetime partners; of currently sexually active (3 mo), 61.5% reported condom use at last sex. Of 35.0% currently sexually active, 22.5% had drunk alcohol or used drugs before last sex.

STIs in Teens. A presentation from the 2008 National STD Prevention Conference, Chicago IL, which was sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) last March that received wide news coverage in the United States, demonstrated that about one in four adolescent girls have an STI. It was presented by Sara Forhan et al. and was entitled "Prevalence of STIs and Bacterial Vaginosis among Female Adolescents in the United States: Data from the National Health and Nutrition Survey (NHANES) 2003-2004". From 838 female participants, 14-19 years of age, who were part of the representative National Survey, 404 reported ever having sex. The weighted prevalence of "any STI" for all females was 25.7% (95% CI 20.1-32.9). Among those reporting sex, the prevalence was 39.5% (95% CI 31.1-50.3). Among all adolescents, specific prevalences were HPV-High Risk/6/11 18.3%, chlamydia 3.9%, trichomonas 2.5% and HSV-2 1.9%. Specific prevalences for those reporting having had sex included: HPV-High Risk 29.5%, chlamydia 7.1%, trichomonas 3.6%, and HSV-2 3.4%. Almost 25% of all females had BV. For those with any STI, 15% had more than one STI. The authors concluded that public health efforts should be increased to prevent STIs among adolescents.

New STI Book. The new edition of the widely used reference book for STIs was published in the spring of this past year: *Sexually Transmitted Diseases, 4th Edition*, eds. KK Holmes, PF Sparling, WE Stamm, P Piot, JW Wasserheit, L Corey, MS Cohen and HD Watts, (McGraw-Hill, New York, 2008) This book has been heralded as bringing STDs and associated social and population-level issues up-to-date and has created an excellent resource for clinicians world-wide. Earlier this year, the textbook received a 5 star rating from *Doody's Journal*, a resource journal for librarians. This 2,166 page edition is highly recommended for all STI researchers, public health officials, and clinicians.

Update from the ASTDA (from Jeanne Marrazzo, MD, MPH, ASTDA President)

In April, the ASTDA announced its first round of **ASTDA Developmental Award** recipients. Congratulations to **Alia Al-Tayyib, PhD**, of Denver Public Health, Denver, Colorado, and **Loida Bonney, MD**, of Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, Georgia! Dr. Al-Tayyib's proposal is entitled, "Detecting chlamydial and gonococcal infections using respondent-driven sampling," and she will be mentored by Kees Rietmeijer, MD, PhD. Dr. Bonney's proposal is entitled, "Identifying barriers and facilitators of HPV vaccination among minority women," and she will be mentored by Carlos del Rio, MD, PhD. The ASTDA Developmental Awards are intended to encourage new investigators to pursue careers in research related to STI, and will fund up to two years of activities at the post-doctoral level. The intent is that they will be used to generate data that young investigators can use as the basis for seeking future independent funding from the NIH or other sources. We anticipate offering these awards on an annual basis. For details, see www.astda.org.

ASTDA will also sponsor an interactive session entitled "**HIV, STDs and the Global AIDS Pandemic: Lethal Synergy 2008**" at the 48th Annual Interscience Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy and the Infectious Diseases Society of America (ICAAC/IDSA) to be held in Washington, D.C., from October 25-28, 2008. This session will be moderated by Jeanne Marrazzo, MD, MPH, and Myron Cohen, MD, and will feature an international group of panelists discussing challenging scenarios that illustrate the perilous intersection of HIV and STI care and policy. We hope to see you there!

18th ISSTD

International Society for STD Research



in conjunction with BASHH
British Association for Sexual Health & HIV



It is my privilege to be the current President of ISSTD and to invite you to join us in London at the end of June 2009 to participate in ISSTD 2009. Over the last 30 years, ISSTD has become the most important forum for presentation and discussion of recent findings in this field. The most successful aspect has been the interaction between healthcare scientists from a range of disciplines including clinicians, epidemiologists, microbiologists, and social scientists. ISSTD has always encouraged young scientists in the field and this will be a particular focus for our meeting.

ISSTD 2009 in London will be co-organised with BASHH (British Association of Sexual Health and HIV) and we will strive to provide a stimulating and memorable scientific and social environment. The Scientific Programme will include keynote and plenary lectures, parallel special sessions, all with invited speakers, oral papers, poster sessions and scientific symposia. There will be four themes; Biology & Detection, Treatment & Care, Transmission Dynamics and Population Interventions.

The organising committee hopes you will join us and I look forward to meeting you all in London. For further information www.isstdlondon2009.com

Carolyn Dean



"STD PREVENTION ONLINE": A WEB-BASED WORK SPACE FOR STI/HIV PREVENTION PROGRAM & RESEARCH

An important challenge in the translation of research findings and programmatic innovations into STI/HIV prevention practice is the effective communication amongst the different prevention disciplines, including program, policy, and research. Rather than being unidirectional, a communication platform for this purpose should acknowledge the expertise existing at multiple levels and should thus focus more on *exchange* than transfer of information.

To meet this need, the Internet and STD Center of Excellence has developed an online platform to encourage multi-disciplinary STI/HIV prevention collaboration, creativity, and sharing of information.

STDPreventionOnline is an interactive, user-driven website that uses a variety of media, including text, image, video, and audio files, as well as blogs and forums to facilitate communication among its users. In addition, users can develop working groups that may have limited (invitation-only) or open membership. The site also posts jobs in the fields of STI and HIV Prevention. Membership to the site is free.

STDPreventionOnline went live on November 5, 2007 and currently (July 2008) has close to 1,250 members, including 1,200 individual members and 50 organizations. Members have uploaded over 400 and downloaded over 2,500 resources, job postings, events, and blogs. Most members are based in the U.S., but there is increasing interest from members residing abroad, including Europe, Africa, and Asia. The majority of members (52%) work in STI and/or HIV programs in state/local health departments, 15% in a university setting, 11% in clinics, 10% in federal government, and 9% in community-based organizations.

In the short time of its existence, STDPreventionOnline has attracted a wide and varied audience in the areas of STI and HIV prevention. Given the disciplines represented by the site's current membership, STDPreventionOnline is on track to become an attractive communication interface for STI/HIV prevention program, policy, and research. (from **Cornelis A. Rietmeijer, MD, PhD; Director, The Internet & STD Center of Excellence**)



In the News

Effect of a Brief Video Intervention on Incident Infection among Patients Attending Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinics. Warner L, et.al. *PLoS Medicine*, June 2008, Vol. 5, Issue 6, e135, p. 1-9.
An inventive intervention was developed by the authors to create videos about risk reduction and condom use and showed it on alternating months to patients in STD clinics in the US. The control group were the patients who visited the clinics during the months when the video was not shown. Over 38,000 people were involved in the study, which was conducted over 20 months in 3 clinics. Incident infections of sexually transmitted diseases were reduced by 10% in those that saw the videos versus those that did not.

Upcoming Events

48th ICAAC— 46th IDSA Annual Meeting
October 25-28, 2008 Washington, DC

11th IUSTI World Congress
November 9-12, 2009 Spier Wine Estate, Cape Town, S.Africa

2010 National STD Prevention Conference
March 8-11, 2010 Atlanta, Georgia

19th ISSTD Meeting 2011 July 10-13, 2011 Quebec City, Canada

STD Point of Care Test Funding Opportunity; for information see http://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/Medicine/std/funding_announcements/
Anticipated Release Date Sept 5, 2008

Websites Worth Checking Out!



The Midwest Teen Sex Show <http://midwestteensexshow.com>

STD Prevention Online <http://stdpreventiononline.org>

The STD Wizard Risk Assessment <http://www.stdwizard.org>

Update from the American Social Health Association (ASHA)

ASHA continues responding to requests from journalists and news organizations in need of expert insight as they report on STI issues. So far in 2008 ASHA has responded to requests for assistance from media outlets including the *Cosmopolitan* (STI's and risk reduction in young women), *Playboy* (STI testing for men when embarking on a new relationship), *National Journal* (HPV vaccines), and the *New York Post* (condom label update). In fall of 2008, ASHA staff are scheduled to be interviewed on the subject of HPV and men for the PBS show *To the Contrary*.

ASHA promoted *STI Awareness Month* in April. The STI Awareness efforts included teaming up with the New York P.R. firm Duval Guillaume to highlight the dangers of chlamydia to young people. Working with a team from the Stanford Graduate School of Business and Carleton University's School of Engineering, the team devised an application on the popular social networking site Facebook, where users were invited to "make a love child" by morphing pictures of their own faces with that of their friends. The humor then takes a different turn. The infected user is notified that they have caught the infection from their friend and is prompted to discover more on the ASHA website: www.ASHAstd.org.

Recent Publications

Levett, PN, et. al. Evaluation of Three Automated Nucleic Acid Amplification Systems for Detection of *Chlamydia trachomatis* and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* in First-Void Urine Specimens. **JCM**: 2008 Jun; 46(6); p. 2109-2111.

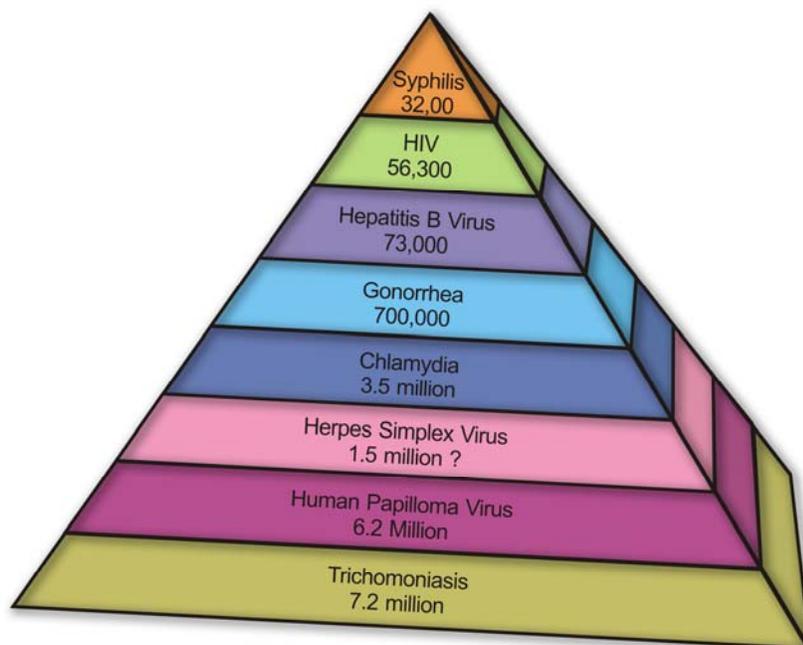
Ghanem, K, et.al. Antiretroviral Therapy is Associated with Reduced Serologic Failure Rates for Syphilis among HIV-Infected Patients. **CID**: 2008 Jul; 47; p. 258-265.

LeGoff, J, et.al. Performance of HerpeSelect and Kalon Assays in Detection of Antibodies to Herpes Simplex Virus Type 2. **JCM**: 2008 Jun; 46(6); p. 1914-1918.

Blake, D, et.al. Cost-Effectiveness of Screening Strategies for *Chlamydia trachomatis* using Cervical Swabs, Urine, and Self-Obtained Vaginal Swabs in a Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic Setting. **STD**: 2008 Jul;35(7); p.649-655.

Schachter, J, et.al. Nucleic Acid Amplification Tests in the Diagnosis of Chlamydial and Gonococcal Infections of the Oropharynx and Rectum in Men who have Sex with Men. **STD**: 2008 Jul; 35(7); p. 637-642.

Latest Estimates of Sexually Transmitted Infections in the US



We welcome new members from North America. Please log onto www.IUSTI.org and join our unique international colleagues who work in the STI field. Other Regions which play an integral part of Worldwide-IUSTI include: IUSTI-Europe, IUSTI-Latin America, IUSTI-Africa, and IUSTI-Asia Pacific. Associate membership is free and full membership is inexpensive. Membership is open to individuals with a professional interest STIs. You can see that we have a lot of work to do in diagnosing, treating, and preventing STIs in North America.