President’s Letter

I am very happy to report that World IUSTI is doing very well. Our upcoming World meetings and the Regional meetings are progressing with much excitement. I would like to thank all of our IUSTI members, Regional Organizations, and the IUSTI-Executive Committee for their continual support to IUSTI. Our members are the backbone of our worldwide Union.

As most of you know our next IUSTI World meeting will be Dublin, Ireland at Trinity College 27-30 June 2018. Derek Freedman is the Chair of the meeting and we thank him for his tremendous effort along with Kees Rietmeijer, Chair of the Scientific Committee, and Prof Henry De Vries, Co-Chair. “The Appliance of Science” is the theme of this World Congress. The website is https://www.iustidublin2018.com/ Trinity is Ireland's oldest university. It is not too late to submit an abstract and register. Abstract deadline and early registration are due March 15. We promise that “Dublin will be different”. A great and memorable Congress is planned and Ireland is a magnet for pre and post meeting holidays. Come see the Trinity Library and the Book of Kells. When was it written?

Reminder from our last World meeting in Rio: Dr. Francis Ndowa became the Regional Director Africa. Other new members elected to the Executive committee 2107-2021 were: Dr Maria Eugenia Escobar, Argentina; Dr Patricia Galarza, Argentina; Dr Gloria Aguilar, Paraguay; Dr Ranmini Kularatne, South Africa; Dr Sara Lowe, Zimbabwe. Those re-elected for a second term 2017-2021 include: Dr Keith Radcliffe, UK; Dr Edward W Hook, USA; Dr J. Dennis Fortenberry, USA; Dr Sunil Sethi, India.

Upcoming World Meetings:

20th IUSTI World Congress with ISSTDR in Vancouver, Canada, 2019
http://stihiv2019vancouver.com/

The 20th IUSTI World Congress will be held as a joint meeting with the 23rd Meeting of the ISSTDR in Vancouver, Canada. The meeting will take place at the Vancouver Convention Centre on July 14-17, 2019. The Co-Chairs of the event are Professor Caroline Cameron (ISSTDR President-Elect, University of Victoria) and Professor Charlotte Gaydos (IUSTI-World President, Johns Hopkins University. Scientific Co-Chairs of the Joint Meeting are Prof David Lewis, Western Sydney Sexual Health Centre/University of Sydney and Prof James Blanchard, University of Manitoba. Registration & Housing Opens September 2018; Abstract Submission Opens September 2018; Abstract Submission Deadline January 18, 2019.

21st IUSTI World Congress in Bangkok, Thailand, 2020

The Consortium of Thai Training Institutes for STDs and AIDS (COTTISA) and the Thai Medical Society for the Study of Sexually Transmitted Diseases (TMSSTD) will be the local hosts. The Congress will be organised by TMS-STD, COTTISA, and Ministry of Public Health of Thailand. The TMS-STD has experience of
organising the IUVDT-A-P meeting in 1993 and TMS-STD and COTTISA have organised the annual International STDs/AIDS Diploma Course since 1991. The venue will be the Bangkok Convention Centre & Centara Grand Hotel which has over 500 guestrooms. There are also more than 10 hotels with at least 400 rooms within a close vicinity of the congress venue. The date will be beginning of November 2020.

Upcoming Regional Meeting:

IUSTI AP Sexual Health Congress 2018. A Joint Meeting of the International Union for Sexually Transmitted Infections – IUSTI Asia Pacific, the NZ Sexual Health Society and the Australasian Sexual Health Alliance) to be held in Auckland, New Zealand
Thursday 1 - Saturday 3 November 2018, Pullman Hotel, Auckland, New Zealand
Deadlines: Abstract Submission 1 July 2018; Earlybird Registration 2 September 2018; Accommodation 23 September 2018; Final Registration 14 October 2018

Other upcoming meetings:
14th International Symposium on Human Chlamydial Infections
Woudschoten in Zeist, Netherlands, July 1st – 6th 2018

STD Prevention Conference
August 27 – 30, 2018, Washington, DC
Omni Shoreham Hotel
Conference homepage: https://www.cdc.gov/stdconference/
We hope to see many of you soon!
Charlotte Gaydos, IUSTI-World President

Regional Reports

Europe

Co-operation with ECDC
European Centre for Disease Control (ECDC) convened an expert scientific panel on 5-7 Feb 2018 in Stockholm to discuss proposed EU/EEA public health guidance on integrated HIV, HBV and HCV testing. Raj Patel and Andrew Winter represented IUSTI Europe as editors respectively of IUSTI Europe guidance on HIV testing and Hepatitis B/C.

The key aim of this work is to ensure countries develop local public health guidance for testing which are evidence-based, values-based and patient-centred, and as far as possible integrated to avoid missing infection. It drew on two large commissioned evidence reviews and a call for case studies which were scored by the panel and the best of which will appear alongside the formal guidance. ECDC intends to have the final guidance published in time for European HIV and Hepatitis Testing week in November 2018.

European STI Guidelines Project
The European STI Guidelines Project Editorial Board of IUSTI-Europe is producing a summary guideline of the treatments and procedures called “The 2018 STI Treatment Pocket European Guidelines”. The purpose of this summary is to produce an attractive pocket version of those main guidelines which is user friendly for health care professionals. The 2018 STI Treatment Pocket European Guidelines will be available on the IUSTI website

www.iusti.org
during the second quarter of this year and a printed version of it will be distributed to all delegates attending the STI World and European Congress in Dublin, 23-24 June this year.

The clinical and public health problems posed by continued and re-emerging STI epidemics facing us today will be addressed in a multi-track programme, comprised of plenaries, symposia, workshops, and abstract-driven sessions, while a series of clinical case presentations will round out the programme. It is intended that each session will cover perspectives from a variety of disciplines, including the clinical, epidemiologic and basic science aspects that form the foundation of our practice. A preliminary programme is available on the Congress website.

The social programme will include the traditional Networking Reception after the Opening Ceremony, which will be hosted in the Dining Hall of Trinity College, a cornerstone of the original 400-year-old campus. The ninth century "Book of Kells", a glorious hand illuminated manuscript will be open to private viewing at this time, a memorable experience.

The Gala evening will take place in the historic Round Room of Dublin's Mansion House. This is a spectacular room and we hope to make this a glittering occasion. Dublin has a myriad of attractions, theatre, cinema, dining and pubs, and many will want to savour these, as well as attend the Congress functions.

The scientific programme is the cornerstone of the Congress. The scientific chairs, Kees Rietmeijer and Henry de Vries, with important contributions of an expert scientific committee and advisory group, have prepared a programme that reflects the theme of the Congress "The Appliance of Science". It will cover the most recent developments in our field, and bring contributions from all parts of the world, where we can learn from the experience of others, and be aware of the dynamics of STI's and their care systems around the globe.
and to Bologna. The location is an old castle with modern facilities used by the University of Bologna for several events. The aim of the course is to provide basic knowledge about the management of patients with STIs under several points of view: from diagnostic process to the lab and back to the patient for correct treatment. Furthermore it will provide a European overview about management of STIs with an insight to epidemiology, epidemiological tools and public health interventions.
For registration and information: http://www.ceub.it
mmichelacci@ceub.it (rpartisani@ceub.it)

News from Member Countries

Turkey
The National HIV/AIDS Congress was held from 16-19 November 2017 in Antalya Turkey. The congress hosted 185 participants. The Scientific program included 2 lectures, 5 panel discussions, 3 satellite symposia, 3 case discussion sessions and one forum as well as 18 oral and 45 poster presentations.
The Society for AIDS and STI held a meeting to train counsellors to give peer support for people living with HIV in Istanbul on November 25-26th 2017. A declaration was signed by 11 civil society organizations on December 1st 2017. The declaration included information on the new approach of undetectable-untransmittable, a list of interventions requested to clear the obstacles to testing and a call for action to stop the stigma against HIV/AIDS.
An exhibition titled Reflections of HIV/AIDS was held from 1-5 December 2017 at the Ege University Hospital, Izmir. The aim of the exhibition was to reflect the emotions, opinions, requests on HIV and AIDS of people who are living with HIV, doctors and medical staff.

Germany
There are several meetings and conferences in Germany, including “German STI Congress 2018” in Bochum, 7th-9th June 2018; “Leopoldina-Symposium” in Bochum, 6th June 2018 and Symposium “Interdisciplinary Networking for the Millennials” in Bochum, 7th June, 2018.
There already have been a few meetings and conferences, including the 7th Congress “HIV & Psyche” in Bochum, January 2018; “STI-research and research on sexwork” in Cologne, 24th/25th November, 2017.
In 2018, the DSTIG continues the training program "Sexual Health and STI" in cooperation with the Federal Centre for Health Education (Bundeszentrale für gesundheitliche Aufklärung – BzgA) and the Medical Association of Westphalia-Lippe (Ärztekammer Westfalen-Lippe). This curriculum is unique in Germany and is meant to be an interdisciplinary training unit for medical employees and people working in healthcare.
The following guidelines are to be released in 2018:

- S1 Guideline on STI/STD – Consulting, diagnostics, therapy (2015, published in German, nearly finished)
- S2k Guideline on Gonorrhea in adults and adolescents (2014, published in German, nearly finished)

United Kingdom
For the first time in 30 years there has been a decline in HIV transmission among MSM in the UK of the order of 21% in 2016. London claims to have met the 90:90:90 UNAIDS targets and these were nearly met for the whole of England (88%, 96%, 97%). The falls are thought to be due to: much more frequent testing, earlier treatment start and widespread use of self-obtained pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP). Despite that over 5000 people were newly diagnosed with HIV in 2016 in the UK. The specialty of genitourinary medicine and sexual health service provision in general remains under immense pressure in England in particular due to significant changes in commissioning and damaging cuts to the public health budget. The specialty’s professional organisation (BASHH) has undertaken an innovative media campaign to draw attention to this with a public petition to ‘Save our Sexual Health Services’

In England the PrEP IMPACT trial (https://www.prepimpacttrial.org.uk/) started recruiting in Sep 2017 in over 200 sites and many centres report that their ‘MSM’ places were filled by November. Many centres are supporting free monitoring for self-purchased PrEP, and one centre has started supporting co-payments for generic tenofovir/emtricitabine. PrEP has been freely available in NHS Scotland since July 2017 for those meeting eligibility criteria.

Lithuania
The 14th Congress of Baltic Association of Dermatovenereologists (BADV) was held in conjunction with the 2nd Vilnius Summit on Communicable Diseases, Vilnius, Lithuania, October 5-7, 2017.
The key topics of the 2nd Vilnius Summit on Communicable Diseases “From political consensus to implementation” were challenges of the European Vaccine Action Plan implementation, creation of new vaccines, challenges of...
antimicrobial resistance, health care and veterinary related infection, social determinants of health and interrelated infections: HIV infection, viral hepatitis, sexually transmitted diseases and tuberculosis. During the STI session Dr Airi Põder from Estonia, Regional Director of IUSTI Europe, spoke about the trends of STIs in Europe. Dr. Marius Domeika from Sweden discussed “STI management - evidence based international approaches and international collaborative projects”. Prof. Saulius Caplinskas, Director of Centre for Communicable Diseases and AIDS in Lithuania, discussed STI challenge in epidemiological transition. Assoc. Prof. Vesta Kucinskiene from Lithuanian University of Health Sciences, Kaunas, Lithuania, and Dr Silvestrs Rubins, Latvia, presented syphilis clinical manifestations in children and adults. The conference brought together 375 participants: 287 from Lithuania and 88 foreigners (73 of them made oral presentations).

From left to right: Prof. Skaidra Valiukeviciene (Lithuania), Prof. Saulius Caplinskas (Lithuania), assoc. prof. Vesta Kucinskiene (Lithuania), Prof. Jacek Szepietowski (Poland), Dr. Marius Domeika (Sweden)

Airi Põder

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North America

Great news from ASTDA/IUSTI North America! First, we have completed and initiated the harmonization of ASTDA and IUSTI memberships, resulting in over 150 new IUSTI members from our region. A lot of credit goes to former ASTDA president and current IUSTI Membership Secretary, Bradley Stoner who has made this transition happen – please see his report below. Kudos also to Lynn Barclay of the American Sexual Health Association who, on behalf of ASTDA, administers the membership process. ASTDA’s part of this newsletter also includes reports on a recently held workshop organized by ASTDA to foster collaborations between young STI investigators and the industry; the ASTDA annual Executive Committee meeting; and ASTDA’s involvement with the upcoming IUSTI World Congress in Dublin.

Integration of ASTDA and IUSTI Memberships

At last long, ASTDA is pleased to announce the successful implementation of a fully integrated ASTDA-IUSTI membership platform. This new approach to membership builds upon the close relationship of ASTDA and IUSTI, and capitalizes upon ASTDA’s role as the administrative arm of IUSTI-North America. IUSTI Full Membership is now a benefit of ASTDA membership. The membership integration project has been a long-time in the making. The ASTDA Executive Committee initially approved the membership plan, which allows for all ASTDA members who reside in North America to be enrolled as IUSTI Full Members as a benefit of their ASTDA membership. The integrated membership costs will be covered by an increased dues structure for ASTDA membership. ASTDA members will automatically receive IUSTI Full Membership unless they specifically “opt out” of this benefit. The membership plan was officially approved by the IUSTI World Executive Committee in Rio, and arrangements were made to implement the plan. In January 2018, the plan was fully implemented by officially enrolling all ASTDA members as IUSTI Full Members for a two-year period (through December 2019). Those persons who were already IUSTI members had their IUSTI Full Membership extended (through December 2019) courtesy of ASTDA. One important exception are ASTDA members who reside outside of North America, since they are not eligible for membership in IUSTI-North America and will have to pursue IUSTI membership through their own IUSTI region.

So far, the impact of membership integration has been dramatic: in January, 155 ASTDA members who had not previously been IUSTI Full Members were added to the membership list, and an additional 35 members had their IUSTI Full Membership extended. This has resulted in a whopping 212% increase in IUSTI Full Members from the North American region.

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Bradley Stoner

ASTDA Young Investigators – Industry Workshop

As part of its mission, ASTDA has a strong commitment to the development of young STI investigators, including its long-standing, 2-year, young investigator grant process and its support for the “Surviving and Thriving” workshops at

www.iusti.org
international STI meetings. ASTDA President-Elect Bobbie Van Der Pol and President Dennis Fortenberry have worked hard this past year to establish a new initiative in this area, i.e., a stand-alone young investigators workshop to explore and foster relationships with industry colleagues, particularly in the field of STI diagnostics. These efforts have culminated in the “Navigating the Intersections of Public Health, Academic Research, and Industry” workshop that was held February 26-27 in Scottsdale, Arizona. The workshop was attended by 9 young investigators, 11 industry scientists, and 10 ASTDA members representing a variety of academic institutions, STI organizations, and Public Health agencies. The workshop touched on a number of issues, including industry-sponsored clinical trials, investigator-initiated studies, public health involvement, publishing, and ethical considerations and conflict of interest resolution. Overall, the interactions were very engaging and dynamic and participants came away with a better appreciation of the possibilities for academic-industry collaborations, especially for young investigators. At the conclusion of the meeting, there was general consensus that follow-up, perhaps annual meetings would be useful to see how some collaborations may have come to fruition and what lessons can be learned to help future generations of STI researchers in developing an industry-sponsored portfolio.

Annual Meeting of the ASTDA Executive Committee
The 2018 annual meeting of the ASTDA Executive Committee was held February 28 in Scottsdale, AZ. Highlights of the meeting include the following:

STD Journal
Under the leadership of Bill Miller, the journal continues to grow. For 2017, the journal had 469 submitted articles up from the previous record of 439. Page count increased to 75, equivalent to about 1.5 additional issues per year. In addition, there are now 50 pages for online only content, including errata, letters to the editor, case reports and commentaries. The journal is now using the original submitted manuscripts (with a watermark) for publication ahead of print, rather than typeset articles. As a result, articles are available online within 3-5 days of acceptance.

In recognition of the efforts of the journal’s Editorial Board and reviewers, the Journal is now offering CME credits to reviewers. Certificates will be managed by the Journal’s publisher, Lippincott. The journal has also expanded its reach on social media with its Facebook (Sexually Transmitted Diseases Journal) and Twitter (@STD_journals) accounts thanks to ASTDA members Ina Park and Christine Johnston. Echoing ASTDA’s focus on young investigators, the journal has been very active in soliciting manuscripts from this up and coming group of researchers, resulting in 83 submitted articles since February 2016 of which 34 have been published. A special “Young Investigator” award for best journal submission will be presented at the annual STD Awards Luncheon at the National STD Prevention Meeting in August. For 2018, the journal is preparing a supplement, “Syphilis in the United States: Patterns, Trends and Prevention.”

Finally, 2017 saw the departure of our esteemed colleague Sevgi Aral who has been an Associate Editor of the journal for many years. We thank her for her invaluable contributions during this period and we welcome Kyle Bernstein as her replacement.

Elections and Awards
The biennial ASTDA Executive Committee elections are upon us. A request for nominations will go out to the membership shortly; the elections will be held late spring and new EC members will be appointed by the time of our next meeting at the National STD Prevention Conference in August.

The nomination process for the 2018 ASTDA recognition awards (Distinguished Career Award, Achievement, and Young Investigators awards) is now closed and the Awards Committee will select winners shortly. The awards will be presented during the ASTDA Award Luncheon, also at the National STD Prevention Conference this August.

Conferences
For 2018, ASTDA/IUSTI North America has been closely involved in the preparations for the IUSTI World Congress in June (see below) as well as the National STD Prevention Conference in August; the latter in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the American Sexual Health Association, the National Coalition of STD Directors, the Public Health Agency of Canada and the Pan American Health Organization. ASTDA President, Dennis Fortenberry will co-chair the Conference with CDC STD Division Chief Dr. Gail Bolan and ASTDA EC member Ned Hook will co-chair the Scientific Committee with Dr. Sevgi Aral, also from the CDC STD Division. More information on the conference is available elsewhere in this newsletter. ASTDA is also involved as an organizing partner with the 2019 HIV Diagnostics Conference, March 25-28, 2019 in Atlanta Georgia; more information available at the conference website.

IUSTI World and European Congress – Dublin, June 27-30, 2018

As the ASTDA past-president and current Director of IUSTI North America, it has been my pleasure to serve as the Chair of the Scientific Committee for the 2018 IUSTI World Congress on behalf of our organization. More information on the Congress can be found elsewhere in this newsletter, however, I wanted to use this place to specially thank Henry de Vries of the Academic Medical Center in Amsterdam as my co-chair and the members of the International Scientific Committee and Advisory Board that have committed countless hours to the development of the scientific program. Hope to see you all at the Congress!

Kees Rietmeijer

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Asia Pacific

The IUSTI Asia Pacific Sexual Health Congress 2018 will be held jointly with the NZ Sexual Health Society and the Australasian Sexual Health Alliance in Auckland, New Zealand Thursday 1 – Saturday 3 November at the Pullman Hotel. The scientific convener is Prof. Kit Fairley and the programme will offer multidisciplinary streams in Basic science / Clinical / Laboratory Science, Epidemiology Public Health and Programme Science, and Behavioural Research and Advocacy. The focus will be on multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary collaboration at a time when maintaining sustainable sexual health service delivery has become challenging. Programme updates will be made available at http://www.iustiap18.com/.

Come and join us in the City of Sails, the gateway to Aotearoa New Zealand, in late Spring and see for yourself why NZ is one of the world’s top tourist destinations.

Dr. Somesh Gupta, the Regional Director for IUSTI-AP has been elected as President Elect of the Indian Association for the Study of STD and AIDS, one of the oldest organizations in the field of STI in Asia. The following picture is of the first conference of the IAS STD held at Madras (now Chennai) from June 12 to 13, 1976. Many renowned experts attended the meeting including Dr. Wilcox, Dr. Rangiah and Dr. Thin. Sitting on chairs are (from left to right) Dr. Kunhilakshmi, Dr. Sarasa Barathi, Dr. Logasundari, Dr. Nichani, Dr. Pierra Vejjabul, Dr. Verma, Dr. Thin, Dr. Sowmini, Dr. Hill, Dr. Wilcox, Dr. Onoda, Dr. Rangiah, Dr. Causse, Mrs. Siboulet, Dr. Siboulet, Dr. Padmodiwirjo, Mr. Matsubara, Dr. Vasudeva Rao, Dr. Dharampal, Dr. Vijaylakshmi, Dr. Yogeswari.
Conference Update

IUSTI Events:

19th IUSTI 2018 World and Europe Congress  
Dates: June 27-30, 2018  
Location: Dublin, Ireland  
Website: https://www.iustidublin2018.com

IUSTI-Asia-Pacific Sexual Health Congress 2018  
Dates: November 1-3, 2018  
Location: Auckland, New Zealand  
Website: http://iustiap18.com/

23rd ISSTD/20th IUSTI World Congress  
Dates: July 14-17, 2019  
Location: Vancouver, Canada  
Website: www.STIHIV2019vancouver.com

21st IUSTI World Congress  
Dates: November 2020  
Location: Bangkok, Thailand  
Website: TBA

Other STI or Related Meetings/Congresses/Courses:

15th EADV Spring Symposium  
Dates: May 3-6, 2018  
Location: Budva, Montenegro  
Website: https://www.eadv.org/calendar/show/38

14th International Workshop on Co-Infection – HIV & Hepatitis  
Dates: May 16-18, 2018  
Location: Seville, Spain  
Website: http://www.virology-education.com/event/upcoming/14th-co-infection-workshop-2018/

11th World Congress on Virology and Infectious Diseases  
Dates: May 17-18, 2018  
Location: Tokyo, Japan  
Website: https://virology.conferenceseries.com/asiapacific/

16th European Meeting on HIV & Hepatitis: Treatment Strategies & Antiviral Drug Resistance  
Dates: May 30- June 01, 2018  
Location: Rome, Italy  

7th Asian Conference on Hepatitis and AIDS (ACHA)
Viral Hepatitis and Co-Infection with HIV
Dates: October 11-12, 2018
Location: Prague, Czech Republic
Website: http://www.virology-education.com/event/upcoming/4th-central-eastern-european-meeting-viral-hepatitis-co-infection-hiv/

47th National Conference of Indian Association of Dermatologists, Venereologists & Leprologists and the first DERMACON
Dates: January 17-20, 2019
Location: Bangaluru, India
Website: http://www.dermaconinternational2019.com/index.php

National HIV Prevention Conference
Dates: March 18-21, 2019

Location: Atlanta, GA, USA
Website: https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/training/index.html

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.

Prof. Jonathan Ross, Editor
jonathan.ross@uhb.nhs.uk

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