STI Global Update

Newsletter of the International Union against Sexually Transmitted Infections

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President’s Letter

It is a great pleasure, and a privilege, to have become the President of IUSTI at the General Assembly on 15th July 2019 in Vancouver. I would like to start by thanking Charlotte Gaydos for her extensive work for IUSTI over the past twelve years; eight years as Regional Director of North America, two as President-Elect and two as President. She has contributed a great deal to IUSTI in her various roles. In recognition of this, and as the outgoing President, she was awarded the World IUSTI gold medal at the closing ceremony of the 2019 Joint Meeting of IUSTI and ISSTDR World Congress. She was also honoured in the annual ASDTA awards as described in the North America Regional Director’s report.

Hopefully many of you will have already met me, but for those who haven’t I am a physician working in sexually transmitted infection and HIV clinical services in Leeds, United Kingdom. I have been a member of the World IUSTI Executive Committee since 2007. Initially I was Assistant Secretary General, becoming Secretary General in 2009, then President-Elect in 2017.

There were a number of changes to the World Executive Committee at the General Assembly in Vancouver. Marco Cusini from Italy and Mihael Skerlev from Croatia completed their two-terms of office. Ryoichi Hamasuna from Japan is sadly unable to continue for a second term due to work commitments. I thank them for all their contributions to IUSTI. Jo-Anne Dillon from Canada completed her two-terms of office and has now been elected as the new President-Elect. Kit Fairley, our webmaster, had indicated that he would like to relinquish his co-opted position of Assistant Secretary General. Jackie Sherrard from the United Kingdom was elected to this post. Jorgen Jensen from Denmark and Stephen Lautenschlager from Switzerland become the new elected members for Europe. Pingyu Zhou from China becomes the new elected member for the Asia-Pacific region and Irene Martin from Canada becomes the new elected member for North America. Laith Abu-Raddad was co-opted as the elected member for the Africa-MENA region in 2018 and his position was officially approved. Now that Charlotte Gaydos is Past-President, David Lewis was appointed as a Senior Counsellor. Henry de Vries, as the new ISSTDR President, is now the ISSTDR representative on the committee. I welcome them all to their new roles and look forward to working with them.
An IUSTI Silver medal was awarded to Anne Robertson for organising the excellent IUSTI Asia-Pacific Sexual Health Congress 2018 in Auckland, New Zealand, in November 2018.

The STI & HIV 2019 Joint Meeting of the 20th IUSTI and 23rd ISSTDR World Congress at the Vancouver Convention Centre, from 14-17 July 2019, was Co-Chaired by Caroline Cameron (ISSTDR President, University of Victoria) and Charlotte Gaydos. There were 1346 registrants from 72 countries. The Scientific Co-Chairs were David Lewis and James Blanchard (University of Manitoba). The scientific programme was outstanding and comprised 15 Plenary Lectures, a debate, 21 Symposia with 78 speakers, 16 Pre-Congress Symposia, 113 Oral Presentations, 9 Clinical Case Presentations, and 683 posters. There were 21 full scholarships and 7 partial scholarships awarded thanks to the generous donations of IUSTI, ISSTDR, ASTDA, BASHH and the STI & HIV 2019 World Congress.

The best oral and poster presentations were:

**First Prize Oral Presentation:** Charlotte Peters, South Limburg Public Health Services, The Netherlands, for Reaching home-based female sex workers with preventive sexual health care services in The Netherlands.

**First Prize Oral Presentation – Young Investigator:** Karen Lithgow, University of Victoria, Canada, for Basic science aids syphilis vaccine development: bloodstream spreading by the syphilis spirochete *Treponema pallidum*.

**Highly Commended Oral Presentation:** Jennifer Edwards, The Research Institute at Nationwide Children’s Hospital and The Ohio State University, USA, for Targeting complement receptor 3 on primary human cervical cells has the potential to cure *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* infection.

**Highly Commended Oral Presentation – Young Investigator:** Liza Coyer, Public Health Service of Amsterdam, The Netherlands, for Frequency and determinants of switching between daily or event-driven PrEP and discontinuing each regimen in Amsterdam MSM.

**First Prize Poster:** Siobhan Thomas-Smith, Seattle Children’s Hospital/University of Washington School of Medicine, USA, for Using electronic screening and feedback with adolescents to decrease sexual health risks in the emergency department.

**First Prize Poster – Young Investigator:** Erica Plummer, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia, for *Gardnerella vaginalis* clade distribution is associated with behaviours and Nugent score in women who have sex with women.

**Highly Commended Poster:** Jennifer Balkus, University of Washington, Seattle, USA, for A multi-site comparative study to understand sources of variability in studies of the vaginal microbiota.

**Highly Commended Poster – Young Investigator:** Maarten Reitsema, RIVM, The Netherlands, for Cost-effectiveness of pre-exposure prophylaxis in MSM with event-driven and daily regimens.

Congratulations to them all.

We were welcomed each day by Elders of the Coast Salish Nations and Ginette Petitpas Taylor, the Minister of Health, participated in the Closing Ceremony.

Jorgen Jensen gave the 2019 IUSTI Prestigious Lecture on ‘Revising STI treatment guidelines in times of rapidly evolving antimicrobial resistant STIs’, and IUSTI also held a symposium on the ‘Regional responses to global HIV/STI trends’ with speakers from the Asia-Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Europe branches.
The new World Executive Committee met at the end of the Congress to discuss our strategic directions. These include closer collaborative working with WHO as well as maintaining our close relationship with ISSTDR to enable the two societies to work together so we continue to provide very successful joint meetings. We also considered other issues such as potential ways of increasing our membership, both in numbers and geographical spread. I will expand on these in future Newsletters.

Lastly I would like to thank Jonathan Ross who continues to produce the IUSTI Global Newsletters regularly as well as performing the duties of Treasurer. These Newsletters are of great importance as they are the main way of communicating the activities of the World Executive Committee and our regions to all of you, our members.

Janet Wilson, IUSTI-World President

New appointments to the IUSTI Executive Committee 2019

New appointments to the IUSTI Executive committe have been made at the General Assembly in Vancouver in July 2019.

Officers
President Dr Janet Wilson
President-elect Prof Jo-Anne Dillon
Past President Prof Charlotte Gaydos

Elected executive members
Africa -MENA Region Dr Laith Abu-Raddah
AP Region Prof. Ping Yu Zhou
NA Region Ms Irene Martin

Regional Reports

Europe
Organizational matters
For the last eight years, IUSTI-Europe was represented on the IUSTI World Executive Committee (EXCO) by Mihael Skerlev and Marco Cusini. They have served as a perfect link between the parent society and the European branch and have put much effort into this position. As their term will end this year, a nominations committee of IUSTI-Europe decided to nominate Jörgen Skov Jensen and Stephan Lautenschlager for this function due to their dedication to IUSTI-Europe and their extraordinary reputation in the STI-world. Both of them kindly accepted the invitation. This was confirmed by the EXCO and both candidates were elected members of the EXCO by the General Assembly at the IUSTI World Congress in Vancouver.

Preparations for the 33rd IUSTI-Europe Congress on Sexually Transmitted Infections in Tallinn, Estonia

A great deal of effort has gone into publicising the Congress, as well as finding sponsors and supporters. Starting with one year before the Congress, a twice-monthly update via brief Congress newsletters has been sent out to well over a thousand subscribers. In September 2018, a IUSTI-Europe booth was set up at the EADV Congress in Paris – a first in IUSTI-Europe history. Similar booths were later set up at a number of
other STI-related international conferences, and Congress materials have been distributed at even more events. The Congress has 20 supporters, among them two Platinum-level sponsors.

As early as the beginning of May 2019, one month before the Early Bird registration deadline, the Scientific Programme was finalised, with all speakers and their topics fully confirmed.

The 1st of June marked the deadline for free communication abstract submissions. The review committee of 9 members – Rajul Patel (Head), Elizabeth Foley, Daniel Richardson, Mikhail Gomberg, Matti Maimets, George Sorin Tipica, Marco Cusini, Stephan Lautenschlager, and Andrew Winter – carefully sifted through the nearly 120 submissions covering a wide range of topics from basic science, fascinating case reports, detailed epidemiology to the latest research into novel technologies and therapies.

In view of the extraordinarily high quality of the submissions, it was decided to arrange oral presentation opportunities for as many as 45 free communications – which makes for 6 full free communication sessions. Submissions accepted for presentation in the form of printed posters number 64. In sum, the free communications part of the Congress Scientific Programme is more than worth looking forward to. The review committee made special mention of the number and high quality of submissions from Eastern Europe.

In all, the Scientific Committee, under the dedicated leadership of Rajul Patel, has managed to put together an impressive programme, where both the clinical and the specialist tracks are well represented. The key themes are prevention and control of STIs & HIV, syphilis, XDR gonorrhoea, PrEP 2019, appropriate use of diagnostics, novel testing strategies, near patient testing, which pathogens/in whom/how often should be tested, evolving STI epidemics, the future of screening, access to public-funded STI services, e-health, and putting research into practice.

The final Scientific Programme includes 24 main symposia as well as two lunch symposia (organised by our Platinum sponsors), and two pre-Congress symposia. There will be 8 plenary presentations, a plenary debate on an extremely hot-button issue, and a summary session, where Georg Strary and Andrew Winter will review the main conclusions reached at the Congress from the point of view of basic sciences and clinical implications, respectively. The keynote speech – “A Journal of the Plague Years” – at the Opening Ceremony will be given by Keith Radcliffe. All other keynote speakers are, likewise, highly recognised experts in their fields: Marcus Chen (Responding to the re-emergence of bacterial STIs), Daniel Richardson (Emerging enteric infections), Henry de Vries & Anne Rompalo (Putting research into practice), Janet Wilson (Extragenial STI – is it important and should we be looking for it?), Laura Waters (HIV 2020 – just another STD?), Jan van Bergen (Can we control chlamydia?) and John White (Can we integrate new tests and testing strategies into practice?).

The Scientific Programme will introduce two new traditions: the Distinguished Speaker tradition for speakers specifically selected for support by sponsors, and the President’s Symposium. This year, the President’s Symposium, entitled “My Lifetime Experience in Treating/Managing STIs”, chaired by Airi Pöder and co-chaired by Mihael Skerlev, will feature veritable STI legends: David Barlow (Nullius in verba: Lies, damned lies and STI statistics), Michael Waugh (Travels, learning, teaching and luck: Being in the right place at the right time), Andreas Katsambas (Looking back on my lifetime in dermatovenereology: What would I do differently?), and James Bingham (Something of the early life of a bog Irishman). The Distinguished Speaker will be John White, selected for support by Abbott to give a plenary as well as chairing the Abbott Symposium. Another first this year will be the Russian track, featuring a symposium and a round-table (in Russian) by members of IUSTI-Russia.

In early June the organisers received glad tidings from the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME®) that the Congress has been granted 11 European CME credits (ECMECs).

The social programme has, likewise, been finalised. The Opening Ceremony will include a gala by the Estonian National Opera, one of the highlights of which will be the participation of the world-renowned Estonian-born opera singer Ain Anger, widely considered one of the foremost basses of our time. Ain Anger will also be singing at the IUSTI-Europe Ball, for which the organisers have also planned a number of other surprises. Sight-seeing tours will give participants a chance to see the UNESCO World Heritage Site – Tallinn Old Town, the best-preserved mediaeval city in Europe, and discover why Estonia’s untamed nature leaves visitors breathless. For theatre-lovers, tickets have been reserved for the ballet “A...
Streetcar Named Desire", a bold new take on Tennessee Williams’ legendary play.

As of the 25th of July, with well over a month left till the beginning of the Congress, 580 participants have already registered, and more are being added daily. The pre-meeting of the Congress, i.e. the Advanced STI Course, also has 60 registrants (and counting). The social programme is, likewise, proving very popular, with a great number of bookings for both the Tallinn Sight-Seeing Tour and the Day Trip to Lahemaa National Park, and 115 ballet tickets already bought.

Estonia is ready and looking forward to welcoming you!

IUSTI-Europe members’ impressive participation in the 24th World Congress of Dermatology

The Italian Society of Dermatology hosted the 24th World Congress of Dermatology in Milan from June 10-15, 2019. The Congress was held under the auspices of the International League of Dermatological Societies. There were 16,447 registrations; 200 sessions and 1133 awarded scholarships.

Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) sessions were present in many courses, free communications and fellow forums. A special forum about Migrant Health chaired by Aldo Morrone (Italy) described skin diseases in human mobile population, imported skin diseases in migrants, STIs and HIV in migrants. A forum about STIs chaired by Michel Janier (France) was dedicated to what’s new in STIs in 2019, clinical spectrum of early syphilis, urethritis and antimicrobial resistance of Neisseria gonorrhoeae, HSV, PrEP (pro and contra session) as well as a session about STIs in transgender individuals. Igor Toskin (WHO Europe) presented the global strategy for control and prevention of STIs. Another forum was dedicated for STIs, specifically “HPV: warts, vaccines and cancer”. Chaired by Mihael Skerlev (Croatia), this forum discussed the global burden of HPV infections and related diseases, anal and oral HPV infection in the male at risk, updates on HPV-associated dysplastic lesions, HPV treatments, and HPV prophylaxis. HIV and AIDS was present in one forum chaired by Roy Chan (Singapore) and updated the audience about the global epidemiology, the treatments and their adverse cutaneous reactions, the prevention, Kaposi sarcoma and the biology of HIV. Miscellaneous sessions reviewed STIs in childhood, HIV in rural Africa, HIV in the Eastern Mediterranean Region, and syphilis and leprosy co-infection. For the first time in a World Dermatology Congress, a special forum was dedicated for LGBT health (chaired by Victoria Werth, United Stated) where topics such as eliciting a sexual history and gender identity history in a dermatology setting were presented.

Preparations underway for the next IUSTI-Europe Congress in Bucharest, 03 – 05 September 2020

The Congress website is already up and running: https://www.iustibucharest2020.com

There were several excellent bids for the 2020 IUSTI-Europe Congress. The Council of IUSTI-Europe, via secret balloting, selected Bucharest, Romania, as the venue. George Sorin Tiplica, Professor of Carol Davila University of Medicine and Pharmacy, will be Congress President. The Scientific Committee will be chaired by Marti Vall Mayans.

The Site Inspection Visit by IUSTI-Europe Officers to Bucharest took place from 4th to 6th of May 2019. Airi Põder (Regional Director of IUSTI-Europe), Claudia Heller-Vitouch (Chair of IUSTI-Europe), Derek Freedman (Chair of the Committee of Scientific Policy and Conference Management), and Mihael Skerlev (Chair of the Committee of International Development) were graciously hosted by Professor Tiplica, Dr Alexandra Butacu and PCO representative Mihaela Agaficioaie.
The programme of the visit was focused on the venue of the Congress and on the accommodation of participants. On Sunday, the 5th of May, a visit was organised to the Palace of the Parliament. The rooms and halls dedicated to conferences were considered fully suitable for the IUSTI-Europe Congress.

![Palace of the Parliament, Balcescu Room](image)

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The pharma exhibition will have an impressive space available just near the lecture rooms ready to welcome more than 1500 participants. The venue is in the close vicinity of big hotels and is well connected to the public transportation network. The Bucharest main touristic attractions – Old Town, city center, and art museums – are within easy reach.

On Monday, the 6th of May, time was set aside for a visit to the secondary location – a cozy Hotel and Congress Center in the North of the city. The rooms and halls available for the Congress are versatile and perfectly arranged for an event of 500 participants.

The IUSTI-Europe team decided to recommend as venue the Palace of the Parliament, which, apart from being the largest building in Europe with a unique architectural style, also has top-notch conference facilities.

![Meeting with Deputy Health Minister Mrs. Rodica Nassar](image)

Participants of the Site Inspection Visit not only confirmed the venue of the Congress, but also discussed options for the Congress’s Social Programme. Of the number of fascinating events suggested by the organisers, the very best were selected.

Bucharest is a nice location with friendly people, surprising architecture and enjoyable surroundings. Congress participants will be most welcome to extend their stay in order to explore more of the Romanian splendors – from the quiet churches in the North to the Southern spectacular Danube Delta and from the Western medieval castles in Transylvania to the Eastern vineries of Vrancea County.

Since the Site Visit, preparations for the Bucharest Congress have really got underway. The Congress website [https://www.iustibucharest2020.com](https://www.iustibucharest2020.com) is up and running, welcoming all visitors.

Save the date!

*Airi Põder*

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**North America**

The American Sexually Transmitted Diseases Association (ASTDA) is a membership organization representing the North American (NA) Region of IUSTI, that includes the IUSTI Canadian Branch.

ASTDA members are automatically enrolled as IUSTI members unless they opt out, and ASTDA and IUSTI membership administration has now been streamlined. ASTDA/IUSTI-NA members are eligible to serve on Association committees and have the right to vote for committee members and the Association’s official documents, including bylaw changes and policy statements. Other
benefits include a free subscription to the Association’s journal, *Sexually Transmitted Diseases*, and substantial discounts to IUSTI and combined IUSTI/ISSTDR conferences. More information on ASTDA membership can be found on the newly-designed ASTDA website: www.astda.org.

**Quarterly Report**
This quarter has seen numerous activities leading up to the STI and HIV 2019 World Congress organized by ISSTDR and IUSTI in Vancouver (July 14-17) and the preceding National Sexual Health Conference in Chicago (July 10-12, 2019). Furthermore, the ASTDA Executive Committee held a one-day meeting at the conclusion of the Vancouver meeting to have in-depth discussions on its mission and bylaws.

**2019 National Sexual Health Conference**

The 4th biennial National Sexual Health Conference (NSHC) was held in Chicago, July 10-12, drawing approximately 850 delegates from a variety of disciplines, including sex researchers, reproductive health and STI/HIV prevention providers, and advocates for GLTBQ health, sexual rights, and sexual violence prevention. ASTDA/IUSTI-NA was involved as an organizing partner and the IUSTI-NA Director was invited to be one of this year’s co-chairs. ASTDA/IUSTI-NA was specifically involved in a well-attended plenary session on “STI’s, Sex Positivity, and Sexual Health” involving IUSTI EXCO members Dr. Ned Hook and Dr. Dennis Fortenberry as speakers. NSHC draws an audience distinctly different but complimentary to IUSTI and ISSTDR meetings, prompting ASTDA to propose a conjunct meeting with NSHC in their bid to host the 2023 ISSTDR/IUSTI-World congress (more on this at the end of the report).

**ASTDA Recognition Awards**
At the annual ASTDA Luncheon on Wednesday July 17, ASTDA President Dr. Bobbie Van Der Pol announced and honored this year’s winners of the annual ASTDA Recognition Awards: Dr. Charlotte Gaydos (Distinguished Career Award), Dr. Patty Kissinger (Achievement Award), and Dr. Jonatan Grad (Young Investigator Award). Congratulations to all!
two population-based data sources, New York City, 2006-2015”). Access the papers by clicking on the recipient’s name. Congratulations!

**ASTDA/IUSTI-NA Updates Mission and Values Statements**

At their Executive Committee meeting in Vancouver on July 18, ASTDA/IUSTI-NA reached consensus on a new draft mission and associated values statements. After finalizing these drafts in the near future and adjusting the Association’s bylaws accordingly, a new draft of the bylaws will be voted on by the membership and, if approved, disseminated to the public. Updates will appear in this newsletter.

**ASTDA/IUSTI-NA to Host 2023 ISSTDR/IUSTI World Congress**

ASTDA/IUSTI-NA submitted a successful bid to host the 2023 combined ISSTDR/IUSTI World Congress. The Congress will be held in Chicago, July 22-26, 2023 in conjunction with the National Sexual Health Conference. More information on the bid can be found here and an introductory video can be accessed here.

July 22-26, 2023
25th ISSTDR and 24th IUSTI Joint Meeting
Chicago, IL, USA

Kees Rietmeijer

Conference Update

**IUSTI Events:**

33rd Conference of IUSTI-Europe on Sexually Transmitted Infections
September 5-7, 2019
Location: Tallinn, Estonia
Website: www.iusti2019.eu

XII Brazilian STI Congress and the III IUSTI Latino American Congress - IUSTI Latin America
Dates: September 22-25, 2019
Location: Foz do Iguaçu – Brazil
IUSTI Asia Pacific  
Shanghai, China  
October 23-26, 2019  

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

Other STI or Related Meetings/Congresses/Courses:

17th European AIDS Conference  
Dates: November 6-8, 2019

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