

STI Global Update

Newsletter of the International Union against Sexually Transmitted Infections

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President's Letter



It is with much excitement I report to you that the 2018 World Congress in Dublin was a terrific meeting. The Trinity College venue was amazing and the science was outstanding. Congratulations go to Derek Freedman, Chairman of the Congress and to Kees Rietmeijer and Henri De Vries, the Scientific Chairs. We hope that the many of you (700), who attended, enjoyed the scientific program, interacting, with colleagues, and visiting the wonderful city of Dublin. The opening ceremony of the Congress featured lovely harp music, Irish music and songs, as well as a video of "Undressing my Mother" by Ken Wardrop. We heard about Sex and Irish Literature from David Norris. The official opening was by King Holmes about the "Application of Science", our theme. The opening keynote featured Teodora Wi from WHO on "Celebrating Good Sex".



Our science covered global STI topics such as syphilis epidemics, gonococcal resistance, viral

STIs, PreP, the vaginal/genital microbiome, LGV, Program and Implementation Science, transmission dynamics, treatment, clinical case studies, recent advances, rapid diagnostics, epidemiology, sexual health, and sexual rights, sexual stigma and intimacy, partner services and vulnerable populations.

World IUSTI honored Dr. Marleen Temmerman to present the IUSTI World Prestigious Lecture entitled "Sexual Health, Sexual Rights, and HIV/STI among Women in Nairobi, Kenya". Recent previous Prestigious Lectures have been in 2016 (Morocco) - Professor Glenda Gray 'HIV: How to get to zero infections?' and in 2017 (Brazil) - Dr. Jeanne Marrazzo 'Update on vaginal microbiome research'.



Also in this same Sexual Rights Plenary 4, we heard from Dr. Farideh Farahani and her amazing work in Iran entitled "Sexual Health and HIV/STIs Among Young People in Iran".



At the IUSTI Executive Committee meeting this year the name of "IUSTI Africa" was changed to "IUSTI Africa MENA" (Middle East and North Africa) in order to welcome the many countries in North Africa into World IUSTI and strengthen our relationship in this area of the Global Union.

As per World IUSTI tradition, awards were presented to Highly Commended and Best Posters and Oral Presentations. This year's recipients included Highly Commended Poster, Allison

Waters, "Incidence of *Trichomonas vaginalis* in Ireland: Are we testing the right population? Best Poster, Iryna Boiko, "High Antimicrobial Susceptibility in *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* Isolates in Ternopil and Dnipropetrovsk Regions of Ukraine During 2013-2017". Highly Commended Oral, Alaina Vaisey, "Does a Chlamydia Testing Intervention Impact General Practitioners' Partner Notification Attitudes and Practices?" Best Oral, Christian Hoebe, "Treatment Effectiveness of Azithromycin and Doxycycline in Uncomplicated Anorectal and Vaginal *Chlamydia trachomatis* in Women: a Multicenter Observational Study (FemCure)".



Our last plenary was about HIV and STI in the era of PrEP and featured Fiona Mulcahy and Adele Schwartz-Benzaken.



Lastly, at our closing ceremony, World IUST Silver medals were presented to Angelica Espinosa Miranda from the last World meeting in Rio, Brazil and to Derek Freedman for this World meeting in Dublin. Our sincere gratitude goes to each of them for outstanding service to World IUSTI. We hope to see many of you at future World IUSTI meetings, as well as Regional IUSTI meetings.



Charlotte Gaydos, IUSTI-World President

News

Spring Continental Congress of Dermatology

This was held from 25-27 April 2018 in Tehran Iran. The congress hosted 719 participants (excluding speakers): 650 Iranians and 69 non-Iranians. Speakers from Iran, Middle East, Europe, Australia, USA, and Asia joined this meeting to share experiences and updates in Dermatology and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs). Among a busy 3-days schedule, the scientific program included 3 lectures, 1 case discussion session and 3 poster presentations in terms of STIs. Doctors Seyd Naser Emadi (Iran); Anthony Gaspari (USA); Ismaël Maatouk (Lebanon); Aldo Morrone (Italy); Noufal Raboobee (South Africa) and Shyam Verma (India) among others shared their experiences in clinical STIs challenging cases, "what's new" in general and key populations, vaccines in STIs, community consultations for vulnerable people, and epidemiology HIV and STIs papers from MENA region. More conferences and researches from MENA region are prompted to better understand what is going on in terms of HIV and STIs in this area of the world.

Ismaël Maatouk

Regional Reports

Europe

IUSTI World & Europe Conference in Dublin

The IUSTI 2018 World + European Congress has come, and gone. The IUSTI World + Europe Congress "*The Appliance of Science*" took place in Dublin, Ireland, June 27-30, 2018.

The exceptionally sunny weather did not deter the 658 delegates from 58 countries from thronging the lectures, oral and poster sessions. Trinity College campus, however, was favoured with a welcome cool breeze. Congress attendees traversed Front Square deep in conversation with colleagues, on the way between Sessions and the Trinity Dining Hall, where the electronic posters were eagerly perused.



Front square, Trinity College Dublin

The Opening Ceremony broke with tradition by 'Celebrating Sex'. Dr Derek Freedman, Congress president, gave the welcoming address.



Dr Derek Freedman, Congress President IUSTI World + Europe Congress 2018, Dublin

This was followed by Prof Charlotte Gaydos, who gave the IUSTI World Presidential address, and Dr Airi Poder who gave the IUSTI Europe Regional Director address. Prof Cornelis "Kees" Rietmeijer presented the scientific programme on behalf of himself and his Co-Chair Prof Henry de Vries.



Prof Charlotte Gaydos IUSTI World Presidential Address, IUSTI 2018 World + European Congress



Dr. Airi Poder, European Director's address, IUSTI 2018 World + European Congress

The Congress was officially opened by Prof King Holmes who explained the Congress theme "The Appliance of Science" and put it into the context of STI research.



Prof King Holmes, Official Opening Address, Opening Ceremony, IUSTI 2018 World + European Congress

These addresses were interspersed with a number of musical, literary and film presentations.

- Traditional harpist, Geraldine O'Doherty
- Sex in Irish literature, Senator David Norris
- Traditional Irish music (Sean Nos), Doireann Glackin
- Short film "Undressing my Mother" directed by Ken Wardrop and produced by Andrew Freedman.



Senator David Norris, Opening Ceremony, IUSTI 2018 World + European Congress



Doireann Glackin, Opening Ceremony, IUSTI 2018 World + European Congress

The common theme was to be open and inclusive about sex and its capacity to enhance relationships. The ceremony concluded with Dr Teodora Wi, WHO, who spoke on 'Celebrating Good Sex' and the importance of speaking openly about sex, free of stigma, to combat the persistent barriers to a good healthy sex life and good relationships.



Dr Teodora Wi, WHO, 'Celebrating Good Sex' Opening Ceremony, IUSTI 2018 World + European Congress

The Scientific Programme Chairs, Profs Kees Rietmeijer and Henry De Vries had worked hard and diligently to assemble an excellent Scientific

Programme. Many emails, phone calls, and constant checking!



Prof. Kees Rietmeijer, Scientific Chair, IUSTI 2018 World + European Congress



Prof Henry De Vries, Scientific Chair, IUSTI 2018 World + European Congress

The Programme itself was comprised of 6 Plenary Sessions, with 18 Plenary Lectures, and 12 Symposia with 44 speakers, together with 4 Sponsored Symposia. The Topics and Chairs were selected by the Scientific Board, and the Chairs excelled in finding 'Best in Field' to speak. It is hoped to cover some of the important 'Take Home' messages from the Congress in a future Newsletter. The presentations will be available as webcasts shortly. In the meantime, check *Twitter* and search for IUSTI2018.

All the Scientific sessions were well attended, even overcrowded, including the final morning. There was a wonderful atmosphere and a great 'buzz' about the Congress.

No detail was overlooked to accommodate 75 Oral Presentations and 260 Poster Presentations from the nearly 400 submitted. An innovation was to include a few selected Oral Presentations in Symposia of relevant topics. The Poster abstracts were displayed electronically, and the electronic posters gave great flexibility for selecting and viewing posters, as well as the ability to download them by email

The Congress App "IUSTI 2018" proved a great success. Downloaded by 550 of the 658 registrants, it allowed an instant and easy access to the timetable, the presenters, the slides and the abstracts. Perhaps future congresses using it might consider foregoing a printed programme with consequent savings in time and resources for the Congress organisers.



Electronic Posters, IUSTI 2018 World + European Congress

The social events were a runaway success – the Networking evening after the Opening Ceremony was packed and there was a constant hum of conversation. The President's dinner was held in the Royal St George Yacht Club at the beautiful Dun Laoghaire Harbour. The European tradition of 'Tamada' was ably conducted by Prof Mikhail Gomberg, and the chosen ones were involuntarily called to their feet to make a toast.

The Congress Gala Dinner was held in the Round Room of the Mansion House, the Lord Mayor's residence in Dublin. The star-speckled ceiling was, in its day, witness to many historic scenes in Irish history including the first sitting of the Dail (Lower House of the Irish Parliament) in 1919.

The celebratory tone of the evening was heralded by drummers on our arrival to this spectacular setting. After dinner, the guests joined with gusto in dancing, en masse, Ag Baint an Fheir (Haymaking), led by the Liffey Valley Band and the Mansion House Dancers.



Irish Dancers, Gala Evening, IUSTI2018 World +European Congress



The audience join in! Gala Evening, IUSTI2018 World +European Congress

The Congress President, Dr Derek Freedman, was taken unawares to be awarded the IUSTI Europe Gold Medal.



Drs Airi Poder and Keith Radcliffe present the IUSTI Europe Gold Medal to Dr. Derek Freedman for outstanding contribution to the field of STI Care

The Congress finished at Saturday lunchtime with reports and key messages from the Regional Directors. Awards for the best oral presentations was made to Prof Christian Hoebe, Public Health Service South Limburg for 'Treatment effectiveness of azithromycin and doxycycline in uncomplicated anorectal and vaginal Chlamydia trachomatis infections in women; a multicenter observational study (FemCure)' and the runner-up was Alaina Vaisey - Melbourne School of Population and Global Health, Australia for 'Does A Chlamydia Testing Intervention Impact General Practitioners' Partner Notification Attitudes And Practices?' The award for best poster was made to Iryna Boiko for 'High antimicrobial susceptibility in Neisseria gonorrhoeae isolates in the Ternopil and Dnipropetrovsk regions of Ukraine during 2013-2017, and the runner-up was Alison Waters, National Virus Reference Laboratory, Ireland for 'Incidence of Trichomonas Vaginalis in Ireland: Are we testing the right target population?'

The IUSTI World Silver medal was awarded to Dr. Angelica Espinosa Miranda, Brazil and to Dr Derek Freedman for hosting IUSTI World Congresses.

As the sun sets on one Congress, it rises on another. The IUSTI Europe Congress in Tallinn, September 2019, is fully in preparation and promises to continue the IUSTI Europe tradition of lively and scientifically pertinent meetings. The ISSTD + IUSTI World Congress in Vancouver 2019 will present great opportunities for researchers and clinicians alike. The 2020 World Congress will be held in Bangkok. The IUSTI Europe 2020 Congress in Bochum Germany will continue the march of IUSTI in combatting the scourge of STIs throughout the world.



The Team – Henry DeVries, Charlotte Gaydos, Derek Freedman, Airi Poder, Kees Rietmeijer

For all of you who came to IUSTI 2018 Dublin, thank you for coming and making it such a great Congress.

IUSTI-Europe STI Course in Bertinoro

The 4th edition of the IUSTI course on STIs took place in Bertinoro (Italy) from 12 to 15 June 2018. The course was a basic course, run together with the Italian Society of Clinical Microbiology (AMCLI) and the Italian Society against Sexually Transmitted Infections (SIMAST). The course was organised by Angelika Stary and Marco Cusini, Chairs of the Committee of Education of IUSTI-Europe.

There were 44 registered participants from 9 different countries. The majority of the attendees were microbiologists, but also present were infectious disease specialists, dermatologists and gynaecologists.

The faculty was composed of a number of high-level European experts, with a strong participation of IUSTI members.



The aims of the course were

- To provide a European overview of the management of STIs with an insight into epidemiology, epidemiological tools, and policies of public health intervention
- To give an updated clinical overview of the main STIs and describe the diagnostic process from the patient to the lab and back to the patient for a correct treatment
- To interactively discuss with participants clinical cases, as well as examine clinical, diagnostic, and psychological aspects in the context of public health intervention directed to prevent disease complications and diffusion.

The atmosphere at the course was exceptionally friendly. There was constant close interaction between the audience and the teachers in discussing the latest evidence and comparing different approaches in different geographical areas.

The social programme was, likewise, excellent. The unique atmosphere of Bertinoro contributed to its success, and the success of the course as a whole.



The next IUSTI course will be an advanced course, scheduled for September 2019 in Tallinn, in conjunction with the 33rd IUSTI European conference. Bertinoro as a venue will hopefully be back in 2020.

Preparations for the 2019 IUSTI-Europe Conference in Tallinn

Preparations for the 33rd IUSTI-Europe Conference to be held in Tallinn, Estonia, in 2019, are fully under way. On May 31 2018 the first meeting of the Conference's Organizing Committee took place in Tallinn. The meeting was attended by Airi Põder, Raj Patel, Daniel Richardson, Mikhail Gomberg, Pille Konno and the local PCO as represented by Kadri Jõerüüt. On June 1 2018 and on June 2 2018 the first meeting of the Conference's Scientific Committee was held (in two parts). The meeting gave thorough consideration to all aspects of the scientific programme of the conference. The attendees included Raj Patel, Airi Põder, Andrew Winter, Mikhail Gomberg, Marco Cusini, Daniel Richardson, Matti Maimets, Margus Punab, and Arne Wikström. The second meeting of the Scientific Committee took place in Dublin, after the General Assembly of the IUSTI World and Europe Conference.

International Cooperation Activities of IUSTI-Europe

International cooperation activities of IUSTI-Europe are coordinated by the organization's Chair of the Committee of International Development, Mihael Skerlev.

Cooperation with EDF During the meeting of the European Dermatology Forum in Montreux, January 2017, a joint meeting of IUSTI-Europe, EDF and the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology (EADV) was held. Present from IUSTI-Europe were Michel Janier and Mihael Skerlev, while EDF was represented by Harald Gollnick and Alexander Nast and EADV by Olle Larkö and Branka Marinović. A common strategy for the STI Guidelines was decided upon and an agreement was reached to include a report on IUSTI-Europe activities in the agenda of the Annual Dermatology Forum. Pursuant to the agreement, IUSTI-Europe activities were reported on as part of the official agenda at the next EDF meeting, held in St Gallen, Switzerland in January 2018.

Cooperation with EADV The EADV HPV Task Force has been reapproved by the EADV Board (chaired by Mihael Skerlev, co-chaired by Arne

Wikström, with Marco Cusini, Mikhail Gomberg, Claudia Heller-Vitouch and Marko Potočnik as members – all of them also members of the IUSTI-Europe Council). The EADV STIs Task Force has also been approved, and comprises, likewise, many IUSTI-Europe members. IUSTI Europe Council members have been increasingly represented in the scientific programmes of EADV events.

Mikhael Skerlev, in his capacity as member of the EADV Media Committee, has been active in promoting an HPV vaccination campaign proposed by the committee for support and budget.

Cooperation with UEMS Mihael Skerlev and Airi Põder have been appointed the UEMS representatives to the Multidisciplinary Joint Committee for Infections Control. The kick-off meeting took place in Rome, in April 2018. Mihael Skerlev attended and was appointed member of the Executive Committee.

Other activities The list of IUSTI Europe Council members who wish to participate in the activities in the field of the International development has been updated. Several other activities are under way, though at incipient stages, e.g. a renewal of the membership of the IUSTI-Europe Council to include National Representatives from member countries that are at present lacking them.

News from Member Countries

Estonia

From 1 to 2 June 2018, the Estonian Society against Sexually Transmitted Infections – IUSTI-Estonia – celebrated its 20th anniversary by holding its 20th annual conference in Strand Hotel, Pärnu, Estonia.

The Estonian Union against Sexually Transmitted Infections – EUSTI, i.e., IUSTI-Estonia – was founded on 16 January 1999, with the aim of bringing together Estonian physicians of all areas of medicine who in their professional life face a need to deal with the diagnosis and treatment of sexually transmitted infections. The founders felt that more harmonization was called for in the views of Estonian physicians on the diagnostic and treatment methods of STIs. Since the very beginning of IUSTI-Estonia, Airi Põder has served as President of the organization. IUSTI-Estonia has throughout its existence actively and successfully pursued three main objectives: publishing Estonian STI Management and Treatment Guidelines (four editions so far), organizing annual conferences for its members (20 annual conferences so far), and holding conferences and other events for all Estonian physicians with a view to familiarizing them with state-of-the-art scientific approaches to STIs, their evidence-based diagnostics and treatment (16 events so far, most with large audiences).



This year, the annual conference was primarily dedicated to topics related to the prostate (prostatitis, prostate cancer, etc.), though recent developments in other central STI-related areas were not neglected, either. Altogether, 18 plenary presentations were made by 10 top-level Estonian specialists as well as 8 guest speakers from abroad. The latter included Raj Patel, Daniel Richardson, Andrew Winter, Henry de Vries, Vitaly Smelov, Arjan Hogenwoning, Stephan Lautenschlager, Kari Varkila, and Antti Kaipia. The audience, comprised of leading Estonian physicians of various areas of medicine as well as more than a dozen guests from other countries, numbered 162. The social programme, in particular the costume party "*La Dolce Vita*", was highly appreciated by all participants.

Airi Põder

North America



2018 IUSTI World Congress

This past quarter has kept us all very busy with the preparation for the 2018 IUSTI World and European Congress in Dublin, Ireland culminating in a well-attended event during a glorious week at Trinity College, June 27-30.

On behalf of IUSTI North America / American STD Association, it was my privilege to serve as the Congress scientific co-chair together with Prof. Henry de Vries from the Academic Medical Center in Amsterdam.

A lot more can be said about the Congress, but I will leave that to the Congress Organizers Dr. Derek Freedman and Dr. Charlotte Gaydos who report on the Congress elsewhere in this newsletter.

However, in my role as the IUSTI North America regional director, I was very pleased that the Congress was attended by such a large delegation

from the ASTDA membership, and that all members of our Executive Committee played important roles in the Congress program. I am tempted to list the ASTDA members who played a significant role in the development of the program by name, but doing so would overlook the contribution of non-ASTDA members who were equally responsible for the success of the program. Suffice it to say that I am very grateful to all our members who participated as plenary and symposia conveners, session chairs, and presenters. You know who you are! However, I like to make an exception for ASTDA President-Elect Dr. Bobbie Van Der Pol and IUSTI Canada member Dr. Jo-Anne Dillon who co-chaired the Congress Scholarship Committee and for Ms. Lynn Barclay who diligently disbursed the funds to our scholars. Thank you all - It truly "takes a village"!

2018 STD Prevention Conference – Washington DC



One conference behind us and another one at the horizon! The 2018 U.S. STD Prevention Conference will be held this coming August 27-30 in Washington DC. The Conference will be co-chaired by Dr. Gail Bolan, Director of the STD Division of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and ASTDA's President, Dr. Dennis Fortenberry. Scientific co-chairs are CDC's Dr. Sevgi Aral and ASTDA's Dr. Ned Hook. The program is being finalized and updates can be viewed at the Conference website: <https://www.cdc.gov/stdconference>

Career Development Symposium

ASTDA is hosting the "Career Development Symposium for Emerging Investigators and Program Leaders" before the 2018 National STD Prevention Conference. Attendees are post-graduate trainees and junior faculty in diverse academic disciplines who are interested in STD-focused research or public health leadership careers. The Symposium is designed to foster communication and mentorship – and to build opportunities for collaboration – between emerging scholars and more senior leaders in our field, with sessions focused on career development, career track options (academics, public health, industry, and government), funding, publishing and other topics.

Kees Rietmeijer

TI case rate per 100,000 adult populations

Asia Pacific

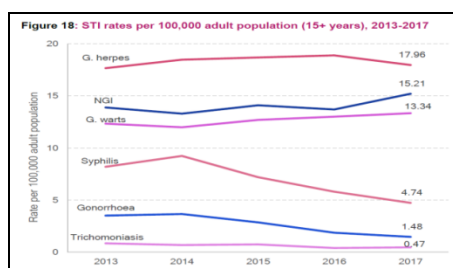
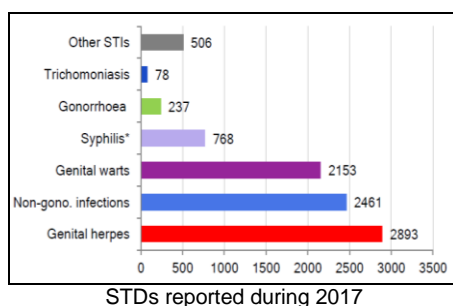
Report from Sri Lanka

The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka is an island country (65,610 km²) situated close to the southern tip of India. The estimated mid-year population was 21.4 million (2017) with a population growth of 1.1%. Sri Lanka is a multi-lingual and multi-cultural country. The human development index (HDI) of Sri Lanka was 0.766 (2015). Average life expectancy was 75 years and literacy rate was 93.2% (male 94.1%, females 92.4%) in 2015. Sri Lanka has 9 administrative provinces and 25 districts.



District map of Sri Lanka

National STD/AIDS Control Programme (NSACP), Ministry of Health spearheaded the STI control including HIV in the country. NSACP headquarters links with 34 fulltime clinics and 23 branch STD clinics. Of these, 22 clinics have the capacity to provide antiretroviral treatment (ART) services. Strategic information management (SIM) unit of the NSACP is responsible for the compilation of data related to STIs and HIV in the country.

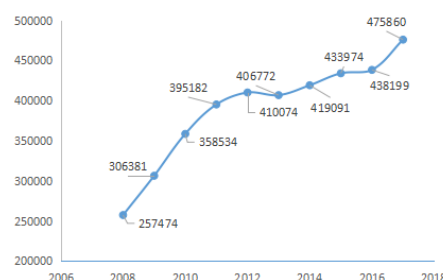


STI rates per 100,000 adult population (15+ years) is shown in the Graph by year. It shows that Genital Herpes, Non gonococcal inflammations and Genital warts reported as relatively common STDs while Syphilis, Gonorrhoea and Trichomoniasis were reported as uncommon diseases.

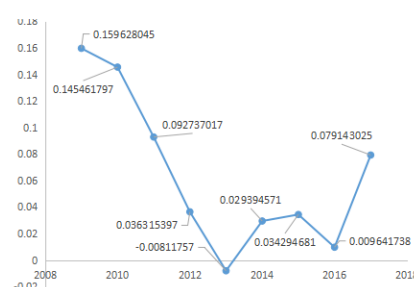
The estimated number of people living with HIV (PLHIV) as of end 2017 is 3500(3000-4200). This is a slight reduction from the 2016 estimation figure of 4000. Cumulative number of people reported with HIV up to end of 2017 was 2842 (from the first case in 1987). Out of the total 1355 PLHIV who are currently linked with HIV treatment and care services, 1299 have been started on antiretroviral treatment (ART).

The members of the Sri Lanka College of Sexual Health and HIV Medicine, take the overall responsibility of prevention, treatment and care services for STIs including HIV as an integrated programme.

Report from China



The number of syphilis cases reported in China from 2008 to 2017

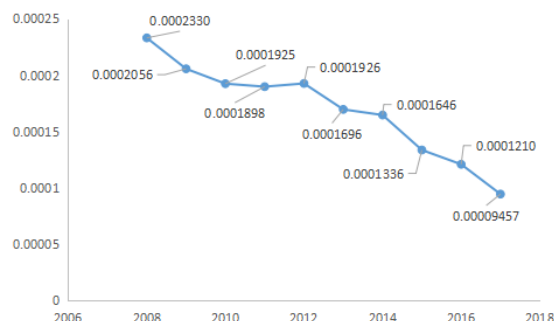


The annual growth rate of syphilis cases reported in China from 2008 to 2017

The number of syphilis cases were generally increase from 2008 to 2017 in China, with an average annual growth rate of 7.06%. It increased dramatically from 257,474 in 2008 to 406,772 in 2012. And, there was a slightly decline between 2012 and 2013. And there after, a continuous upward trend from 2013 to 2017 was reported. Especially from 438,199 in 2016 to 475,860 in 2017, with an annual growth rate of 7.91%. In the meantime, there was generally stable with an increasing trend from 2013 to 2016.

Years	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Number of reported cases of syphilis	257474	306381	358534	395182	410074	406772	419091	433974	438199	475860
The death number of syphilis	60	63	69	75	79	69	69	58	53	45

Syphilis cases in China from 2008 to 2017



Death rates of syphilis cases reported in China from 2008 to 2017

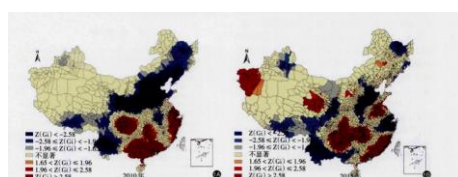
The death rate of syphilis cases reported in China was generally in decline from 2008 to 2017. There was a slightly decrease from 2.33 per 100,000 syphilis patients in 2008 to 1.93 per 100,000 syphilis patients in 2011. Subsequently, it declined dramatically from 1.93 per 100,000 syphilis patients in 2012 to 0.95 per 100,000 syphilis patients in 2017. In the meantime, there was a slightly upward trend from 2011 to 2012.

Years	The total number of counties	The total number of unreported counties	The number of reported cases					
			Mean	Standard deviation	P_{25}	P_{75}	Min	Max
2010	2928	1000	4.13	8.90	0.00	4.00	0	156
2015	2949	1042	2.46	4.02	0.00	3.00	0	53

Distribution characteristic of the number of reported congenital syphilis cases in China in 2010 and 2015

Years	Global Moran's I indices	E(I)	Z-Score	P
2010	0.4597	-0.0003	42.3853	<0.001
2015	0.3661	-0.0004	32.8742	<0.001

The global spatial autocorrelation result of congenital syphilis in China in 2010 and 2015



Hot-spot mappings of congenital syphilis in 2010 and 2015 (Z(Gi)>2.58 = hot-spot counties; Z(Gi)<-2.58 = cold-spot counties)

The local spatial autocorrelation analysis was further performed to output the hot-spot mappings

of congenital syphilis at the county level in 2010 and 2015. In 2010, 207 hot-spot counties with a high number of congenital syphilis cases (> 12 cases) were identified, and these counties were mainly distributed in 3 core areas including southwest China (Chongqing, eastern Sichuan and northern Guizhou), eastern China (southern Jiangsu, Zhejiang and northern Fujian), and southern and central China (Guangxi, Guangdong and mid-east Hunan). In 2015, 72 hot-spot counties with a high number of congenital syphilis cases (> 12 cases) were identified, and mainly distributed in 5 core areas including northwest China (western Xinjiang), mid - east Qinghai, southwest and central China (Sichuan, Chongqing, Guizhou and Hunan), eastern China (Jiangsu, Anhui), and southern China and eastern China (Guangdong and Fujian).

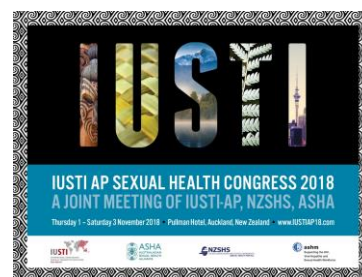
Conference Update

23rd Annual Scientific Sessions of the Sri Lanka College of Sexual Health and HIV Medicine (Sri Lanka CoSHH)

Dates: October 4-6, 2018

Location: Colombo, Sri Lanka

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



42nd National Conference of Indian Association for the Study of STD & AIDS will be organized by Dr. Somesh Gupta, the Regional Director of IUSTI-Asia-Pacific at All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi from October 11-13, 2018. This is likely to be attended by many IUSTI Colleagues from Asia and rest of the world.



References

Department of census and statistics, <http://www.statistics.gov.lk>
Economic and Social Statistics of Sri Lanka 2017, pg1

Somesh Gupta, Pingyu Zhou and Ajith Karawita

Latin America and the Caribbean

Argentina

- ASAIGO-ITS (Argentine Association for the Study of Gynecology and Obstetrics Infections and Control of Sexually Transmitted Infections) has launched and is carrying on its annual online course on infections in gynecology and obstetrics, with more than 50 classes with discussion forums and clinical cases. There were also workshops on STI prevention for adolescents in the province of Catamarca.
- In November 2017 the "Miguel Maglione" Journey for resident physicians will be held, based on the presentation of clinical cases by a team of doctors in training, including a discussion with specialists for each of the eight cases that will be presented throughout the day.
- In December 2017, the Association will offer an intracongress course in Mar del Plata, during the Obstetrics and Gynecology Society of the Province of Buenos Aires (SOGBA) Congress.

Bolivia

- July 4 and 5: First Update Course on the Integral Management of Sexually Transmitted Infections carried out in Sucre and organized by the Department of Health Service, the Royal and Pontifical University of San Francisco Xavier and the Bolivian Society of Clinical Biochemistry; 74 people participated among health professionals and students.
- July 18 and 19: Second International Seminar on Infectious Diseases, held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra and organized by the Bolivian Catholic University and the Johns Hopkins University, which addressed maternal and congenital syphilis, as a strategy to incorporate STI prevention in other events due to the lack of specific resources for STIs; 230 people participated among health professionals and students.
- September 11: STI Integral Management Update Course for health sciences students at the Gabriel René Moreno Autonomous University in Santa Cruz de la Sierra; 110 students participated.
- The Regional Center for STI-HIV Surveillance, Information and Reference (CRVIR) of the city of El Alto is implementing the Regional Plan "Towards the Elimination of Mother-Child Transmission of HIV and Congenital Syphilis" in the City of El Alto, with five lines of action adapted to the country's reality to achieve the goals set by the National STI / HIV / AIDS Program, Bolivia.

- Tuesday, October 24, 2017, the "Regional Committee for the Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission of Syphilis and HIV of the City of El Alto" will take office. The Committee is composed by the Director of the Regional Health Service of El Alto (SERES), the Coordinators of the five Health Networks of El Alto, the Director of the Health Department of El Alto (DISA), and the presidents of the STI / HIV Prevention Committees of El Alto.



Brazil

- The Ministry of Health's Department of Surveillance, Prevention and Control of STIs, HIV / AIDS and Viral Hepatitis organized a Working Group on the Strategic Actions Agenda for Reducing Congenital Syphilis in Brazil (2017/2019), involving several public and private institutions and NGOs with an interface in this area.
- In March 2017, the National Day to Combat Syphilis and Congenital Syphilis was officially established on the third Saturday of October of each year by Law No. 13,430. Several prevention and screening activities were conducted during the month of October in different parts of the country to celebrate the day. In addition to the prominence of this date, the Ministry of Health conducts awareness-raising campaigns on syphilis all over the year, through social networks and general media.
- With the goal of reducing acquired syphilis and syphilis in pregnant women, as well as eliminating congenital syphilis in Brazil, in January 2017 the Annual Budget Law No. 13,414 approved the incorporation of R\$ 200 million for rapid response actions to the disease. The specific objectives are strengthening the epidemiological surveillance of acquired syphilis and congenital syphilis; building an integrated response to syphilis, in order to articulate points of care in an inter-federative collaboration; articulating civil society and communities; and strengthening sexual and reproductive health actions, especially in primary care, by prioritizing autonomy and the right to sexuality and reproduction free from discrimination, coercion and violence.



- Last year the Ministry of Health led a major agreement between several civil society organizations, medical societies and health professionals to eliminate congenital syphilis. The initiative was considered so successful that a new agenda of actions will be launched for the next two years, with the inclusion of new partners such as the UNICEF office in Brazil, aiming at expanding the response for all types of syphilis: congenital, acquired and in pregnant women.



Chile

- The Ministry of Health, in partnership with the Public Health Institute – the national reference laboratory – has continued the training and redesigning of the national syphilis diagnosis network in the public system, which begun in 2015. This capacity building seeks to standardize the non-treponemal VDRL technique among the professionals responsible for performing it in hospitals, as well as decentralizing the implementation of the treponemal MHA-Tp technique. This redesign allowed for the decentralization of the diagnostic confirmation of syphilis, creating local networks around hospitals of greater complexity, which reduced the response time by clinical teams, with better control of pregnant women and patients, improving the process quality. In 2017, the country is looking for improving and georeferencing the communal laboratories network of the different regions, as well as training health professionals to standardize the non-treponemal technique.
- Working Table on prevention of STIs in lesbian and bisexual women: During 2016, a working group was set up to discuss the prevention of

STIs in lesbian and bisexual women, with the participation of various instances of the Ministry of Health and the “Breaking the Silence” Group. In 2017, the first national survey on sexual health and sexuality in lesbian-bisexual women was carried out, with the participation of 150 women between the ages of 17 and 57. This survey provided information on sexual practices and risks for the design of an STI prevention plan for this population and the design of a joint campaign to be held in the second half of 2017.

- Hepatitis A outbreak in MSM with risky sexual practices: Like other countries in the world, Chile has witnessed an outbreak of hepatitis A among MSM. Case studies indicated that this outbreak was attributed to oro-anal sexual practices. It was also observed that 32% of them had a history of at least one STI. This led to the development of a series of strategies to control the outbreak, such as the vaccination of contacts, including activities developed with other key populations, which allowed to resume the issue of sexual practices and risk behaviors through strengthening STI prevention.



Paraguay

- From August 21 to 25, the Scientific Writing Course "How to write an article in English and get it published" was carried out with the support of the University of California San Francisco and the IT Alliance for the Public Sector (ITAPS), with the participation of researchers from the STI and HIV area, with the aim of supporting the generation and dissemination of scientific evidence for decision-making in health.
- Presentation of the results of the Prevalence Study of HIV, syphilis, and hepatitis B in persons deprived of their liberty, developed by the Faculty of Medical Sciences, National University of Caaguazú, in the V Regional Forum “Social and territorial commitments: from Córdoba 1918 to the 2030 sustainable development objectives – balance and perspectives” of UNESCO.
- Workshop on inspection of data from the sanitary regions for the generation of

information on syphilis in general population, pregnant women and congenital syphilis.

- SOPITS Meeting with Angelica Espinosa Miranda for the planning of the Latin American Congress of STI in Paraguay, to be held in May 2018.



Events:

The next Brazilian Congress of the Brazilian Society for STI will be held in "Foz do Iguaçu" in September 2019. As Iguaçu falls is located on the triple border between Argentina, Paraguay and Brazil, the Regional decided to organize a joint IUSTI LA Congress.



Angelica Espinosa Miranda / Adele Benzaken

Africa and MENA

Office bearers

Dr Francis Ndowa was approved and confirmed as the Regional Director of IUSTI Africa Region at the Executive Committee (EXCO) Meeting in Rio de Janeiro in July 2017. During the same meeting, the EXCO approved membership of Dr Ranmini Kularatne from South Africa and Dr Sara Lowe from Zimbabwe as elected members of the EXCO. Dr. Amina Hançali continued as the Regional Chairperson. At the Executive Committee meeting in Dublin in June 2018 Dr Laith Abu-Raddad from Qatar, who is a fully paid up member of IUSTI Africa was presented and accepted as a regional member of the IUSTI Executive Committee. This completes the quota of representatives on the IUSTI Executive Committee for the Region.

Change of name for IUSTI Africa Region

A proposal was submitted and approved by the Executive Committee in Dublin that, rather than create a separate IUSTI Branch for countries in the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMRO), a structure should be put in place to combine and strengthen the participation of IUSTI members in EMRO with those in the WHO Region for Africa (AFRO) and harness the efforts of the members from the two regions to create a stronger IUSTI Africa Region.

As a number of countries in EMRO are not on the continent of Africa, a proposal was submitted at the same meeting, and accepted, that the name for IUSTI-Africa be changed to reflect the inclusion of the countries of the Middle East. The new name for this region shall be called IUSTI Africa and Middle East and North Africa (IUSTI Africa-MENA).

For this purpose, the countries constituting MENA will reflect those predominantly under the Eastern Mediterranean Region of WHO since these countries have had joint planning meetings and training sessions for a long time. The following countries, therefore, shall constitute MENA: Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

This would mean that people living in the MENA countries will have a choice to join either IUSTI Africa-MENA Region or IUSTI Asia-Pacific Region.

Proposal to host the IUSTI World Congress in Zimbabwe

IUSTI Africa-MENA will be submitting a proposal to host the 2022 IUSTI World Congress in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe.

Victoria Falls is a town in western Zimbabwe near which is found the massive waterfall of the same name. This magnificent waterfall is listed as one of the *Seven Wonders of the World*, which is situated on the Zambezi river.

Selected Reports and activities from the region Focus on South Africa

1. Genital ulcer diseases

In South Africa, aetiological surveillance of STI syndromes has been conducted by the Centre for HIV & STI, National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) since 2006, to validate and update national syndromic management guidelines. A survey of genital ulcer disease (GUD) conducted at a large community-based primary healthcare sentinel facility in Johannesburg, from 2007 through 2015, revealed that herpes simplex virus-2 is the leading cause of pathogen detectable GUD, with an overall prevalence of 60.1% (95% CI 57.2 – 64.1),

supporting the use of acyclovir in syndromic management guidelines. Primary syphilis and lymphogranuloma venereum were relatively uncommon causes of GUD in the predominantly heterosexual populations accessing clinic services. Following implementation of syndromic management for GUD in the late 1990s, chancroid (previously, responsible for up to 70% of genital ulceration in the 1980s and 1990s), is now detected on a sporadic basis only. Donovanosis has a limited geographic distribution and is rarely detected.

[Reference: RS Kularatne, EE Muller, DV Maseko et al. PLOS One 2018; 13(4): e0194125]

2. Urethritis syndrome

Sentinel surveillance of STI syndrome aetiologies in five South African provinces during the period 2014 to 2016 revealed that *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* was the predominant cause of male urethritis syndrome (MUS) with a prevalence of 82.4% (95% CI 79.6 – 84.9), followed by *Chlamydia trachomatis* (22.0%, 95% CI 19.3 – 25.0). The syndromic management for MUS in the South African public includes cover for the two leading causes – dual antimicrobial therapy with injectable ceftriaxone and oral azithromycin.

3. Vaginal discharge

Bacterial vaginosis was the leading cause of Vaginal Discharge Syndrome (VDS) and was prevalent in over 50% of females. The current VDS management algorithm has an age cut-off of 35 years and older for treatment of BV and Candida only, with exclusion of antimicrobial therapy for *N. gonorrhoeae* and *C. trachomatis* in older patients, unless they report that a sexual partner has MUS. The surveillance data revealed that there was no significant difference in median age of women infected with STI pathogens and those having BV or candidiasis. Further analyses of those infected only with *N. gonorrhoeae* or *C. trachomatis* revealed that there appears to be no appropriate age cut-off for therapy directed solely against these two infections in management guidelines. A significant proportion of women with BV were co-infected with one or more STI pathogens. These findings suggest that BV is associated with risk factors for traditional STI infections, and that the management algorithm for VDS should be reconfigured to remove non-specific variables such as age and include specific sexual risk characteristics that increase the predictive value of the algorithm for STI pathogens.

[Reference: R Kularatne. National Institute for Communicable Diseases Public Health Surveillance Bulletin 2017; 15 (3): 114 – 122]

4. Cervical cancer

According to the National Cancer Registry, cervical cancer is the second most common cancer among all South African women, and the commonest among black South African women, with an age

standardized incidence of 21.67 cases per 100 000 (95% CI: 21.06-22.27) in 2011. There are currently three available prophylactic HPV vaccines: Cervarix, Gardasil and Gardasil-9.

South Africa introduced a school-based national human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination programme in 2014, in which girls aged 9-10 years are vaccinated with Cervarix given in two doses, at least six-months apart. The vaccination strategy in South Africa requires baseline data on HPV infection in adolescent girls and young women so that the long-term impact of vaccines on circulating genotypes can be assessed.

As part of NICD STI surveillance, 437 sexually-active young females aged 18-20 years were enrolled from primary healthcare centres in four provinces for HPV testing and genotyping during the period 2015 - 2016. The overall prevalence of HPV infection was 58.4% (255/437). Prevalence of HPV types targeted by available vaccines was as follows: for the bivalent vaccine 12.6% (55/437); the quadrivalent vaccine 18.5% (81/437); and the nonavalent vaccine 30.9% (135/437). HPV infection was significantly associated with HIV infection (81.8% (54/66) in HIV-infected v 53.5% (191/357) in HIV-uninfected women; $p < 0.001$). The prevalence of multiple HPV infection was significantly higher among HIV-positive women than HIV-negative women (72.7% 48/66 vs 27.2% 97/357 respectively, $p < 0.001$).

[Reference: Z Mbulawa, R Kularatne, T Kufa-Chakezha et al. National Institute for Communicable Diseases Public Health Surveillance Bulletin 2017; 15 (2): 71-77]

5. International HPV Awareness Day

The NICD's Centre for HIV & STI commemorated International Human Papillomavirus Awareness Day (which traditionally falls on 04 March every year) by hosting educational and HPV-related awareness sessions for patients; and distributing pamphlets on frequently asked questions at sentinel STI primary healthcare facilities in Johannesburg and Cape Town. The event focuses on increasing global understanding of HPV infection and its effects. This year's theme, 'Give love not HPV', called on all to take action to protect their families, friends and partners by staying informed, being screened for cervical cancer and undergoing HPV vaccination. The goal was to inform the public on existing preventive measures to protect themselves against HPV-related diseases.

Francis Ndowa

Conference Update

IUSTI Events:

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

33rd Conference of IUSTI-Europe on Sexually Transmitted Infections

Dates: September 5-7, 2019

Location: Tallinn, Estonia

Website: <https://www.iusti.org/regions/Europe/>

21st IUSTI World Congress

Dates: November 2020

Location: Bangkok, Thailand

Website: TBA

Other STI or Related

Meetings/Congresses/Courses:

2018 STD Prevention Conference

Dates: August 27 – 30, 2018

Location: Washington, USA

Website:

<https://www.cdc.gov/stdconference/default.htm>

21st Annual United States Conference on AIDS (USCA)

Dates: September 6-9, 2018

Location: Orlando, United States

Website: <http://2018usca.org/>

27th European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology

Dates: September 12-16, 2018

Location: Paris, France

Website: <https://eadvparis2018.org/>

12th Vaccine Congress

Dates: September 16-19, 2018

Location: Budapest, Hungary

Website:

<https://www.elsevier.com/events/conferences/vaccine-congress>

Australasian HIV & AIDS Conference 2018

Dates: September 24-26, 2018

Location: Sydney, Australia

Website:

<http://www.ashm.org.au/Conferences/conferences-we-organise/the-hiv-aids-conference/>

9th HIV & Aging Workshop 2018

Dates: October 1-2, 2018

Location: New York, United States

Website: [http://www.virology-](http://www.virology-education.com/event/upcoming/9th-international-workshop-hiv-aging-2018/)

[education.com/event/upcoming/9th-international-workshop-hiv-aging-2018/](http://www.virology-education.com/event/upcoming/9th-international-workshop-hiv-aging-2018/)

The 32nd International Papillomavirus Conference in Sydney, Australia

Dates: October 1-6, 2018

Location: Sydney, Australia

Website: <http://www.ipvsoc.org/conferences>

42nd National Conference of Indian Association for the Study of STD and AIDS (ASTICON 2018)

Dates: October 11-13, 2018

Location: New Delhi, India

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

4th Central and Eastern European Meeting on Viral Hepatitis and Co-Infection with HIV

Dates: October 11-12, 2018

Location: Prague, Czech Republic

Website: [http://www.virology-](http://www.virology-education.com/event/upcoming/4th-central-eastern-european-meeting-viral-hepatitis-co-infection-hiv/)

[education.com/event/upcoming/4th-central-eastern-european-meeting-viral-hepatitis-co-infection-hiv/](http://www.virology-education.com/event/upcoming/4th-central-eastern-european-meeting-viral-hepatitis-co-infection-hiv/)

20th International Workshop on Co-morbidities and Adverse Drug Reactions in HIV

Dates: October 13-14, 2018

Location: New York, USA

Website:

<https://www.intmedpress.com/comorbidities/>

27th International Workshop on HIV Drug Resistance And Treatment Strategies

Dates: October 22-23, 2018

Location: Johannesburg, South Africa

Website: <http://www.hivresistance2018.co.za/>

47th National Conference of Indian Association of Dermatologists, Venereologists & Leprologists and the first DERMACON

Dates: January 17-20, 2019

Location: Bangalore, India

Website:

<http://www.dermaconinternational2019.com/index.php>

International Herpesvirus Workshop 2019

Dates: July 20-24, 2019

Location: Knoxville, Tennessee

Website:

<http://www.herpeshvirusworkshop.com/2019/>

17th European AIDS Conference

Dates: November 6-8, 2019

Location: Basel, Switzerland

Website: <https://eacs-conference2019.com/>

9th International Workshop on HIV Persistence
during Therapy

Dates: December 10-13, 2019

Location: Miami, USA

Website: <http://www.hiv-persistence.com/>

Somesh Gupta

STI Global Update is published by the International Union
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an international perspective on the management and control of
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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