

# IUSTI Europe News

April 2020

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## Introduction

by **Claudia Heller, Chair of IUSTI Europe**

Dear friends,

We live in demanding times of the COVID-19 crisis and I would like to express my deep sympathy for all of you across Europe. I hope that you and your dearest stay well because this is what counts.

Organizing a scientific conference is always a challenge. The IUSTI-executive committee is completely aware of the additional difficulties in the present situation. Hence, we are extremely thankful that George Sorin Tiplica and his team decided **to go ahead as planned** with the organization of the 34<sup>th</sup> IUSTI-Europe conference to be held in Bucharest, Romania, September 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>, 2020, being optimistic that the crisis will be overcome by then and people will be able and happy to travel and to attend the congress. Please be sure that the congress organizers will act responsibly and take all necessary precautions to protect the participants. I would like to appeal to all of you to support this conference by registering early and by expressing your intention to attend the meeting. Please help us to keep the IUSTI-spirit alive.

Unfortunately, the “Permanent Training Course on STI Diagnostic Pathways and Management of Sexually Transmitted Infections” which should have taken place in Bertinoro, Italy in the

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beginning of June 2020 had to be **cancelled due to the COVID-19 Pandemic**. The course is postponed to **June 1<sup>st</sup> -4<sup>th</sup> 2021**.

Doctors all over the world are challenged a lot in these days, please take care and stay well. We'll meet again.

All the best,

Claudia Heller

(Chair of IUSTI-Europe)

## Membership

IUSTI Europe membership has to be renewed every calendar year. It costs £40 for which you get discounted registrations to IUSTI World meetings, a 40% discount for the International Journal of STD&AIDS, and regular updates from IUSTI Europe and the STI Global Update.


The IUSTI World website has been down for some time due to maintenance but is now accessible . Please renew now at <https://iusti.org/members/default.htm>

## Guidelines

by **Andrew Winter**

All current and draft guidelines are published on <https://www.iusti.org/regions/Europe/euroguidelines.htm>

The draft gonorrhoea guideline was released on 15 April and will be uploaded shortly for comments.



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The draft [syphilis](#) guideline is open for comments until 17 April

The guideline on [molluscum contagiosum](#) was recently finalised.

The STI Treatment Pocket European Guidelines – new updated version – can be found on the following link: <https://www.iusti.org/regions/Europe/pdf/2019/PocketGuideline2019.pdf> .

Through our partnership with EADV we now have patient information leaflets available in 10 languages (Bulgarian, English, French, German, Italian, Polish, Romanian, Russian, Spanish, Serbian). More translations are underway.

<https://www.iusti.org/regions/Europe/PatientInfo/PatientInfo.html>

## Sexual Health, STD and HIV Updates

by **Tomislav Mestrovic**

### **Achieving high HPV vaccination coverage rates across the whole Europe**

A first comprehensive overview of HPV vaccination coverage rates across 30 European Union/European Economic Area Member States and Switzerland (since the VENICE2 report in 2010) has been [recently published](#). The results showed that structured vaccination programmes targeting females early in adolescence and free of charge vaccine administration are pivotal factors for achieving high vaccination uptake, but also school delivery within structured programmes and timely use of reminders.

### **Sexual dengue transmission in men who have sex with men (MSM)**

Spanish authorities have [recently reported](#) the sexual transmission of dengue between two men. This report represents the first sexual transmission of the virus between men who have sex with men (MSM), but also the first case of dengue reported in an area without the presence of vector mosquitoes that has been ascribed to sexual transmission. Clinicians should be

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informed that sexual transmission of dengue is a potential, but apparently rare mode of infection.

## **HIV epidemiology in Europe**

ECDC continues to pursue **HIV/AIDS surveillance** in Europe. The most recent 2019 report, published jointly by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and the WHO Regional Office for Europe, can be found [here](#).

HIV **transmission among women** remains an important issue in the WHO European Region, with nearly 50,000 women diagnosed in 2018 and over half of them (54%) diagnosed late – the question is why? A [recent study](#) shows how late diagnosis among women is pervasive across all European sub-regions – therefore, proper understanding of the characteristics of women diagnosed with HIV can inform gender-sensitive prevention services such as pre-exposure prophylaxis, early testing and linkage to care.

In an attempt to reach under-served populations in Portugal and anyone else who remains undiagnosed, the sale of **HIV self-testing kits** across the country was been introduced in October 2019. A [Lancet article](#) describes the Portuguese HIV Programme which hopes that HIV self-testing helps the country in reaching the UNAIDS 95-95-95 targets ahead of the 2030 deadline.

Another [recent study](#) in the Lancet highlighted the important link between **herpes simplex type 2** (HSV-2) and HIV infections and showed that the contribution of HSV-2 infection to HIV acquisition could be substantial, suggesting that HSV-2 prevention measures could be an important additional tool in the fight against HIV.

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# Policy

by **Andrew Winter**

## National Strategies for prevention and control of STIs

ECDC published a [technical report](#) September 2019 outlining three critical components required for STI control: national co-ordination, clinical services and public health activities.

ECDC is also developing a document on minimum standards for service delivery and monitoring for PrEP services. The scientific panel (with IUSTI Europe input from Raj Patel and Andy Winter) met on 12-13 Feb 2020. Further work has been taken over by the COVID-19 response.

NAM AIDSMAP's **Sexual Health & HIV Policy EUROBulletin** published four times a year contains useful articles and country round-ups relevant for IUSTI Europe members. You can sign up at <http://www.aidsmap.com/EUROBulletin>

## Get involved in IUSTI Europe

Join the IUSTI Europe [Linkedin](#) group

There are a number of committees which always welcome enthusiastic members.

*International development* - contact Mihael Skerlev: [mskerlev@kbc-zagreb.hr](mailto:mskerlev@kbc-zagreb.hr)

*Communication* - contact Andy Winter: [andrew.Winter@nhs.net](mailto:andrew.Winter@nhs.net)

*Scientific Policy* - contact Derek Freedman: [df@freedman.ie](mailto:df@freedman.ie)



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*Education* - contact Angelika Stary and Marco Cusini: [angelika.stary@meduniwien.ac.at](mailto:angelika.stary@meduniwien.ac.at),  
[m.cusini@policlinico.mi.it](mailto:m.cusini@policlinico.mi.it)

[Read more on our website](#)

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## GDPR

IUSTI Europe controls your personal data in line with the new GDPR requirements in Europe. Your personal data are held on the main IUSTI World membership database which is held in Australia. If you wish to amend your communication preferences or change your contact details please contact the membership secretary [iustieuropesecretary@gmail.com](mailto:iustieuropesecretary@gmail.com) .