

IUSTI Europe News

April 2021

Welcome to the Spring Webinars

COVID-19 continues to dominate much of our thinking as we have to respond both professionally and personally while also running services for sexually transmitted infections. With that in mind the Scientific Committee of IUSTI Europe have put together an exciting series of webinars with internationally renowned speakers to keep you up to date.



IUSTI
INTERNATIONAL UNION AGAINST
SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS
EUROPE

**IUSTI Europe 2021
SPRING WEBINARS**

April 28th, May 26th, June 30th
(last Wednesday of the month)

17.00 BST / 18.00 CEST / 19.00 EEST & Moscow time

Wednesday April 28th
17.00 BST | 18.00 CEST | 19.00 EEST & Moscow Time

Webinar 2. Chronic Viral STI's: How to ease the Psychological Burden

- **Questions you would rather your patient did not ask!** / *Raj Patel* UK
- **Restoration** / *John Green & Agnes Kocsis* UK
- **HSV and HPV in MSM** / *Henry de Vries* NL
- **"Soiled" by Warts** / *Claudia Heller- Vitouch* A
- **Challenging Warts** / *Mihael Skerlev* HR

REGISTER NOW!
https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_utNgj6NkTT6r9Y8Feo_eyQ
or
<https://iusti.org/events/>

IUSTI Europe Webinar One - March 2021

by **Andrew Winter, Chair of the Communication Group**

What else to do during the long, cold weekends of lockdown across Europe than meet to plan a series of exciting webinars on all aspects of sexually transmitted infections? We were delighted then to have over 230 live attendees from 31 countries for our first Zoom webinar on Weds March 31st.

Andrew Winter and Daniel Simões introduced the work of the EuroTEST Covid-19 Impact Assessment Consortium and gave some of the background to their [survey](#) done in Autumn 2020 which showed significant impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on STI and HIV testing rates, particularly affecting services provided by charities and NGOs. It was not all bad news as some services looked to have responded with creative changes and in some cases even increased testing activity.

We then heard a series of snapshots from across Europe. **Electra Nicolaidu** from **Greece** considered the effect of curfews on sexual behaviour, noting even an increase in service use among some populations. **Marco Cusini** from Milan, **Italy** shared the personal impact of being at the epicentre of the European first wave, with colleagues infected. Home and self-testing is nearly impossible in Italy and asymptomatic testing almost completely stopped. In **Russia** **Mikhail Gomberg** shared how colleagues had been redeployed to manage COVID-19, and discussed ways of tackling vaccine hesitancy. **Marti Vall Mayans** in **Spain** had been heavily involved in COVID-19 trials of new therapeutics, and with the redeployment affecting services had seen up to an 80% drop in diagnosed STIs. **Sweden** already had established systems for web-based testing which **Arne Wikström** said allowed genital chlamydia testing only, with obvious gaps for men who have sex with men. In Sweden syphilis and gonorrhoea tend to be imported infections so had fallen. He was expecting a strong STI rebound and lots of unmet need as the pandemic improved. Finally **John McSorley** explained some of the **United Kingdom** response with strong teams, and regular surveys of the clinics to get information to help

political engagement. There had been a strong uptake of postal on-line STI testing and medication can also be posted in the UK.

Pr. Nicolas Dupin from **Hôpital Cochin, Paris** then led participants through the classifications of different COVID-19 skin presentations, some of which such as chilblains seemed linked to a better outcome. An important point was that the respiratory tract PCR is often negative by the time the skin manifestations are apparent.

Claudia Heller-Vitouch, IUSTI Europe Chair, closed the session reflecting on the many new skills colleagues had learned during these difficult pandemic times.

The organising group (Derek Freedman, Claudia Heller-Vitouch, Eija Hiltunen-Back, Airi Pöder, George-Sorin Tiplica, Andrew Winter) would like to thank all those that took time to record their talks and those that gave up their evenings to take part. We really look forward to the remaining sessions.

IUSTI Europe Spring Series - Webinar Two

Wednesday April 28th 17:00 BST | 18:00 CEST | 19:00 EEST & Moscow time

Chronic Viral STIs and psychological burden.

Lockdown has closed many services to all but those with acute symptoms and people living with chronic viral STIs will have found it harder than ever to access care. As services reopen we can expect to see the additional strain of mental health decline from the pandemic combined with worsening chronic viral STI symptoms. This seminar shares learning and experience from colleagues in Austria, Croatia, Netherlands and the UK.

Register now!

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_utNgj6NkTT6r9Y8Feo_eyQ

FUTURE WEBINARS

The 2021 CDC STI Guidelines

May 26th

Kim Workowski from the CDC in discussion with IUSTI-Europe Guideline Editors

***N. gonorrhoeae* and *M. genitalium* – Treatment Challenges**

June 30th

An expert view on our aims for managing these infections, antibiotic strategy and why drugs become orphaned

STI & HIV 2021 World Congress 14-17 July

Early bird registrations have now closed but plenty of time to register for this imaginative meeting with true on-line first digital approach.



[STI & HIV 2021 World Congress: Homepage](#)

Spring European Testing Week: 14th to 21st May 2021



IUSTI Europe is pleased to support EuroTEST's European Testing Week initiative #EuroTestWeek. More information available at [Testing Week](#) @EuroTestWeek or hashtag #EuroTestWeek

All materials to support testing week are available [here](#)

IUSTI Europe Guidelines

All current and draft guidelines are published here [Treatment Guidelines \(Europe\)](#)

The guidelines group is chaired by Dr Keith Radcliffe. Under review are guidelines on partner management, HIV testing, non-gonococcal urethritis, chlamydia, balanoposthitis

No new guidelines have been published since the last newsletter in November 2020.

One guideline is currently out for **consultation** :

- [Mycoplasma genitalium](#) (comments by 30 Jun to [Jørgen Skov Jensen](#))

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

Communication - contact Andy Winter: andrew.winter@ggc.scot.nhs.uk

Scientific Policy - contact Derek Freedman: df@freedman.ie

Education - contact Angelika Stary and Marco Cusini: angelika.stary@meduniwien.ac.at ,
m.cusini@policlinico.mi.it

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 membership site has moved address following the IUSTI World site update and can be found [here](#).

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.

