

## **BACTERIAL SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP**

### **Annual report to end of July 2008.**

#### **Membership**

Catherine Ison (London, Chair), Caroline Carder (London), Catherine Lowndes (London), Elizabeth Claydon (Barnstaple), Arnold Fernandes (Bath), Justin Gaffney (London), Beng Goh (London), Phillip Hay (London), Patrick Horner (Bristol), Eva Jungmann (London), Frances Keane (Truro), Angela Robinson (London), Jonathan Ross (Birmingham), and S. Uthayakumar (Stevenage). Mohsen Shahmanesh (Birmingham) retired at the end of the year

#### **Activities**

- The BSIG organised the afternoon OGM on 11 April 2008 on Basic Science for Genitourinary Medicine, which again was hugely successful and attracted a large audience and much discussion. The session was primarily dedicated to talks on vaginitis and we were delighted that Jeanne Marrasso from Seattle, USA could join us to speak on 'New Frontiers in Vaginal Flora: Implications for Clinical and Epidemiologic Understanding of Vaginitis' and Rhona Hughes from Bristol who spoke on 'Group B streptococci- does it matter in women with vaginal discharge'. Mohsen Shahmanesh, Birmingham, who has been a long-standing member of the BSIG, started the session by giving a lecture as a New Honorary Life Fellow on 'HIV, antiviral drugs, lipids and the adipocyte'.
- During this meeting the BSIG launched the DVD on Microscopy for STIs. This project has been a major undertaking and Frances Keane, Truro, described the content and gave an entertaining insight into its production. The DVD is now available from [www.bsig-resources.org.uk](http://www.bsig-resources.org.uk)
- The Dark-field microscopy course, organised by Dr Beng Goh, ran in October 2007 and January 2008, and the Microscopy course was held in October 2007 and March 2008.
- The BSIG held a steering group meetings in April 2008.