Second Joint BHIVA/BASHH Conference
Manchester 20-23 April 2010

A record number of delegates made it through the volcanic ash cloud to attend the second joint BHIVA/BASHH meeting held at the Manchester Central Convention Complex; with 1052 registered delegates it was the largest HIV/STI meeting ever held in the UK. Plenary sessions included HIV and swine flu; testing for STIs and new perspectives in HIV treatment. Dr James Bingham gave the Harrison Lecture on ‘Fear, prostitution, comfort and rape’.

Over 400 abstracts were submitted for consideration and of these 48 were chosen as oral presentations and 302 were chosen for poster presentation. The prize for the best oral presentation was awarded to Dr Derval Harte from the Mortimer Market Centre for her presentation ‘Recall of men who have sex with men diagnosed with bacterial STIs for retesting: a feasible and effective strategy?’. The best poster presentation prize was awarded to Dr Bhanu Williams from Imperial College for her poster ‘Pregnancy outcomes in women growing up with HIV acquired perinatally or in early childhood’.

The best SpR case presentations prize was awarded jointly to Dr Rachael Neale from Cardiff Royal Infirmary ‘Chronic hepatitis in HIV and Dr Vanessa Apea from Barts and the London for ‘Cirrhosis: a revealer of truths’. Dr Gary Brook from the Central Middlesex Hospital was awarded the Maggie Godley Memorial Prize for 2 posters ‘The effect of EPR on the time taken to treat patients with genital Chlamydia infection and ‘The influence of different versions of the Roche Taqman TM assay on the rates of HIV viral load >50 copies/ml on patients on ART’.

As well as the educational programme one of the highlights of the social programme was the Gala Dinner held in the magnificent Cathedral where 380 delegates enjoyed dinner and dancing.

Next year’s BASHH Spring Meeting will be held in Newcastle between 11-13 May 2011.