 **British Association for Sexual Health and HIV**

*Established 2003 through the merger of MSSVD (est.1922) and AGUM (est.1992)*

**Charity Number: 1148196**

**Company Number: 07863350**

**BASHH Annual Review**

**Branches**

**Special Interest Groups**

**Other Groups of BASHH**

**1 August 2012 - 31 July 2013**

*Approved by the Trustees on 6 December 2013*

**Address registered with the Charity Commission:**

**Chester House**

**68 Chestergate**

**Macclesfield**

**Cheshire SK11 6DY**

 Website: [www.bashh.org](http://www.bashh.org)

This is a stand-alone review that allows the individual Branches and Groups to highlight their activities over the year.

It is a public document that is available on the BASHH website [www.bashh.org](http://www.bashh.org)

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**Prizes and programmes**

**BASHH Undergraduate Prize Winners**

**Undergraduate Clinical Prize**

Can an asymptomatic pathway for men who have sex with men be introduced safely at a level 3 genitourinary medicine service in the UK?

***Alexandra Collister***

***University of Southampton***

**Undergraduate Research Prize**

Sexual and Reproductive health of HIV-infected individuals who access care in an ID lead service

***Eleanor Salter***

***University of Dundee***

**Cathy Harman Award 2013**

The judges’ panel awarded the 2013 Cathy Harman Award to the **Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust.** The successful project was the development of an on-site integrated sexual health clinic for street-based female sex workers accessing drug services in Birmingham. SAFE Specialist Drug Treatment service is a low threshold prescribing service for chaotic female sex workers (FSW) in the Birmingham city area. It is the only specialist drug treatment service with onsite consumption of methadone for FSW in the UK.

##### A monthly integrated sexual health clinic was set up on the premises of this service to alleviate the need for clients to access mainstream sexual health and contraception services, which historically had very low uptake due to client lifestyle and perceived stigmatisation, and resulted in poor sexual health outcomes.

##### The other candidates for the award were:-

##### South Devon Healthcare Foundation Trust

##### The Torbay Sexual Medicine Service (tsms) includes STI management, including HIV, contraception, a Partner Notification Bureau, abortion services and outreach. A single telephone number accesses all these services, and many of the staff work across the services providing seamless care for the patients. There is a joint data set and electronic patient record system.

**Over the Rainbow Bournemouth - UK - “There’s a Doctor in the House”**

##### Over the Rainbow is an NHS health initiative offering advice, information, and support to the Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) community in Dorset.

##### The placement of a GUM consultant within a community setting supports integrated working between two GUM services, assisting in tailored provision of care amongst high-risk populations and non-gum attendees.

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**“Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Service - The West London Centre for Sexual Health in partnership with the West London African Women’s Service (WLAWS)” Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust**

Having recognised these women’s complex needs, colleagues from GU Medicine, Gynaecology and Obstetrics worked together to create an integrated service. A dedicated GU FGM service within the sexual

health setting and an on-site Gynaecology FGM service (WLAWS) were launched in October 2011. The former involves a GU physician and a health adviser; the latter, a Consultant Gynaecologist and Specialist Midwife. At the time of submission, 290 women attended our GU service; age ranged from 14 to 75. Over 95% were Somali and all underwent mutilation in childhood.

**Guy’s & St Thomas’ NHS Foundation Trust - Burrell Street Sexual Health Centre**

Improving access to sexual health services at Burrell Street: London’s first 7-day-a-week fully integrated Sexual Health Centre in the heart of the community. In December 2012, Guy’s and St Thomas NHS Foundation Trust opened the doors to Burrell Street, London’s first 7-day-a-week Sexual Health Centre, replacing Lydia Clinic at St Thomas’ Hospital.

**Scientific Programme**

**September 2012 - Afternoon OGM: STIs and the Law**

(HSV SIG)

* History of the law and STIs, how we got here
* Lessons from the Golding Case: The role of the defence and expert witness in STI prosecutions
* The role of the specialist lab in legally contested cases of the transmission of bacterial STI
* HSV transmission what works and what doesn’t work in limiting transmission?
* HSV Mystery Shopping study - what was the quality of information given concerning onward transmission?
* Debate: This house believes that GUM physicians should always advise individuals to disclose their current STI diagnoses prior to sexual intercourse
* Panel Discussion: Role of the Medical Practitioner in advising around STI transmission and legal safeguards

**September 2012 - Evening OGM: STIs and the Law**

* The Draft CPS guidance on Prosecutions for STI and HIV transmissions. An update on proposals for levels of evidence and process, managing cases of alleged transmission
* Panel discussion - around recklessness, level of harm needed to justify local investigation and prosecution, possible patient safeguards to limit risk of prosecution, HIV, prosecutions and police investigations

**January 2013 - Afternoon OGM: What does data tell us about sexual and other risk behaviours for HIV/STI transmission in MSM**

(Men who have sex with men SIG)

* Epidemiology update; HIV/HCV/STIs in MSM
* Sexual behaviour and attitudes in HIV positive MSM
* Phylogenetics, sexual networks and HIV transmission
* Alphabet City; the ABC of drug use in MSM circa 2012

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**January 2013 - Evening OGM: Increasing early diagnosis of HIV infection in MSM**

(HIV SIG)

* Repeat HIV testing and recall strategies
* New technologies and home based partner notification to identify HIV infection in MSM contacts
* Identifying primary and early HIV infection and interventions

**March 2013 - Afternoon OGM**

(Bacterial SIG)

* Outbreak of lymphogranuloma venereum in the UK
* Problems with the eradication of endemic treponematoses
* Epidemic donovanosis among the Marind-anim headhunters of the 1920s

**March 2013 - Evening OGM**

(Organised by Health Protection Agency)

* Macrolide resistance in *Treponema pallidum* in three centres in England
* Impact of HPV immunisation - early findings post-immunisation surveillance of type-specific HPV infection in young women in England
* Investigation of an outbreak of gonorrhoea among young heterosexuals in a town in North East England
* Risk monitoring of HIV negative MSM attending GUM services - results from a pilot
* Update on the *Shigella flexneri* outbreak in MSM: Findings from in-depth interviews

**June 2013 -** **Afternoon OGM: HPV**

(Human Papilloma Virus SIG)

* HPV infection in the oral cavity - transmission, significance and priorities for research
* Review of evidence on HPV in MSM and the role of vaccination
* Genital warts and HPV vaccination in the UK
* Current trends and risk factors for anal cancer
* Complex case presentations and panel discussion

**June 2013** - **Evening OGM: Mucosal manifestations of orogenital skin disease**

(Genital Dermatology SIG)

* Mucosal manifestations of HIV
* Oral lesions with genital associations
* Case presentations of orogenital conditions - A tale of two cases with orogenital lesions

**Honorary Life Fellowship Lectures**

March 2013 - Issues in the management of syphilis

Beng Goh, London

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**Overview**

**President’s review**

I am delighted to introduce the BASHH Annual Review for the year ending July 2013, which highlights the Association’s many activities and achievements.

The transition to the implementation of the Health and Social Care Act in England from April 2013 has been a busy time. BASHH facilitated clinicians to work with their local Directors of Public Health and commissioners to ensure that that sexual health remained a high priority within Local Authorities. We had input into a number of important documents produced by the Department of Health around contracts, service specifications and clinical governance.

Sadly, BASHH has been aware of a number of problems that occurred through tendering of sexual health services which resulted in destabilisation of both GUM and HIV services. BASHH continues to emphasise the importance of patient safety and quality of care and will strive to ensure that the current high standards of sexual health services continue. Where problems have arisen, BASHH has reported these to the Department of Health and Public Health England.

In view of the change in commissioning, BASHH and MEDFASH have been reviewing and updating the Standards for theManagement of Sexually Transmitted Infectionsto ensure they reflect current best practice as well as the new structures. These will be launched at the beginning of 2014. Also, BASHH, with BHIVA, successfully submitted a topic proposal to the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership for a national HIV-STI audit programme. This is expected to be procured during 2014.

The STI Regulations on confidentiality will cease to have legal effect when all the secondary legislation of the Health and Social Care Act is passed. It was unclear what if anything would replace this so BASHH undertook a national survey of views of sexual health clinic patients and the public. The results gave clear support for maintaining additional confidentiality and anonymity in sexual health services. There will now be a new statutory Code of Practice that will include guidance on confidentiality in sexual health, thereby reaffirming the recognition of its importance to service users.

In addition, BASHH has become an incorporated charity and we have moved to new support services. We have continued to develop training modules for nurses, and we had a very successful Spring Meeting in Bristol, as well as many other high quality educational events throughout the year. There is no doubt that BASHH is a very active and productive association.

It has been a great pleasure and honour to serve as President of BASHH. I would like to thank all those who have supported me in this role, particularly the Officers. I remain in awe of the enthusiasm and dedication of our members and of the quality of the work they produce on behalf of BASHH.

**Plans for the future**

During the next year BASHH will continue its normal business but in addition will focus on the following areas:-

BASHH will collect six-monthly data from Lead Clinicians in England in order to evaluate the impact of the new commissioning arrangements on quality of care.

BASHH will improve support for all nations to interface with their government and key policy makers.

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Following the launch of the updated Standards for theManagement of Sexually Transmitted Infections, the Clinical Standards Unit will extend its role to support clinics that are having problems in implementing the national standards and achieving the Quality Measures.

BASHH, with BHIVA, will be bidding for the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership national HIV-STI audit programme. The British Co-operative Clinical Group will undergo a change of name and Terms of Reference in order to focus on UK-wide service evaluations.

We will continue to develop structured accredited nurse training, and the management of the STIF portfolio will be streamlined in order to provide a high quality educational training and assessment programme on behalf of BASHH. We will continue to improve access to our educational meetings through wider webcasting of the presentations.

BASHH will introduce a UK-wide campaign to highlight the need for better STI and HIV testing and prevention services for men who have sex with men including the introduction of HPV vaccination.

**Dr Janet Wilson**

**BASHH President**

**Clinical Governance Committee Review**

The CGC comprises Chairs of the 17 Branches of BASHH providing regional representation by elected representatives from the Health Advisors, Nurses, Doctors in Training and Specialty and Associate Specialist Doctors. The National Audit Group, Clinical Effectiveness Group, British Cooperative Clinical Group and Clinical Standards Unit report to the CGC, as their functions are directly relevant to clinical governance.

Meetings are held 4 times a year to discuss issues as directed by the Board, items requested by Branches through Branch Reports and developments affecting quality and safety, service improvement and standards. A ‘Spotlight Discussion’ may be included on the agenda to focus on important issues.

The CGC acts as an advisory group and its key objectives are to:-

* Implement strategies and policies of BASHH as approved by the Governing Board
* Set and monitor standards and specifications
* Identify areas of best clinical practice and promote them for adoption where appropriate whilst recognizing local differences
* Identify regional and individual clinic difficulties
* Explore solutions to issues and suggest action plans
* Co-ordinate a peer review system as required or in response to a member's request

During the past year, communication of strategies and policies approved by the Board was effectively carried out by means of including relevant Board papers on the CGC agenda, providing a summary report of issues arising from Board meetings and attendance by BASHH President and General Secretary at CGC meetings as ex-officio members. Financial instructions have been circulated to members and the Treasurer has presided over discussions at CGC meetings. Branch Chairs have cascaded consultations and new policies, for example the new HIV Service Specification and the model Integrated Sexual Health Services Specification, to clinical leads and members of branches.

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During the past year, much discussion has focused on tendering of services and issues arising from non-NHS providers managing existing services. These issues have been discussed openly and experiences shared at committee meetings as envisaged in the CGC Remit. Important achievements include:-

* Implementation of a risk assessment tool after pilots by several Branch Chairs
* Successful national survey on patient confidentiality using Branches to collect patient responses and comments
* Implementation of the new regional business planning process and account management rules
* Re-examination of the roles of a Branch Chair through a spotlight discussion
* National survey on HIV health care in prisons with the results published as a poster at the 2013 BASHH Spring Meeting
* Enabling the consultation process for the revision of the Standards for the Management of Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) document through Branches

In the coming year to 18 months, the CGC will continue to monitor standards of care in services under new commissioning arrangements, using the revised Standards for the Management of STI document (due to be released January 2014) to provide measures of quality. The newly published Sexual Health: Clinical Governance document (Department of Health, October 2013) will be discussed and an implementation plan will be submitted to the Board. Action plans from national audits will be discussed and Branches will be supported to implement changes.

**Dr Alan Tang**

**Acting Chair, Clinical Governance Committee**

**Education Committee report**

The Education Committee (EC) has a broad remit but with particular focus on BASHH’s objectives in the field of education and training.

The EC and the groups under its banner include the special interest groups (SIGs), groups representing different professionals working in sexual health and those delivering training and courses. Over the past year the EC has continued to address key issues in sexual health education, consolidating its active and regular achievements as well as expanding into new educational activities. The EC oversees both educational and training events provided to a wide audience of healthcare professionals.

**Special interest groups (SIGs)**

The BASHH SIGs accomplish much of the work on behalf of the EC. In the last year the SIGs have conducted regular courses to their usual high standards, including the microscopy course, genital dermatology course, Surgical Techniques in GUM course, the STI & HIV Course (x 2), Diploma in HIV/GUM revision courses and 42 regional STI Foundation (STIF) courses.

In addition to providing education and training opportunities the BASHH SIGs also contribute by generating publications and research, reviewing/responding to documents and policies on behalf of SIGs/BASHH, and developing recommendations and guidelines in collaboration with other BASHH groups, committees and external organisations. Once again this year the SIGs have conducted numerous important activities in this regard and these achievements are detailed in their individual reports in this review document.

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**Ordinary General Meetings**

BASHH members look to the EC to provide a programme of four OGMs annually, including addresses from BASHH’s Honorary Life Fellows and Professorial Lectures. Five different SIGs (HIV, MSM, BSIG, HPV, Dermatology/Colposcopy) put together the meetings in 2012-13. These were well-attended and offered diverse, interesting and valuable educational sessions to attenders from whom feedback has been excellent. To try to reach as many members as possible, the EC has developed strategies to allow remote members access to OGM material more easily and the videoconferencing/streaming facilities provided by BASHH have been well-received.

**Other Meetings**

The EC oversees the staging of the Annual Spring Meeting and the 2013 Bristol meeting has been one of the most successful ever. The 2013 BASHH/FSRH joint meeting was once again very successful and has been agreed as an annual event. The **SAS SIG also held their annual conference in September 2013 in Warwick with its usual high turnout and excellent feedback.** The Sexual Dysfunction SIG’s ‘ABC of sexual dysfunction’ meeting held at the RSM in October was back by popular demand for 2013 and once again held a successful meeting. The HIV Masterclass programme held annually in February was well attended and reviewed in its new Manchester venue, and seems destined to remain there as an important part of the BASHH EC calendar. The annual HIV Focus meeting in September at the RSM was once again well received. The rollout of ‘GUM Taster Days’ designed to attract young doctors into the specialty continues to attract interested young doctors and is now held twice yearly in London and Birmingham.

**STI & HIV Course**

The STI & HIV Course remains popular and well-evaluated. Falling delegate numbers in recent years has led to a review of the course and it was agreed to reduce this to running once per year only. The course will now be split in to Modules 1,2 in Spring and Modules 3,4 in Autumn. This change to once yearly will be reviewed, with a possibility of further change to consider 4-day courses next year. We will continue to re-evaluate and improve the course content at the same time. The one day Diploma in GUM and Diploma in HIV (co-organised with BHIVA) revision courses continued to be successful and will continue to be run in their current pattern.

**The Future**

Next year’s BASHH Spring meeting to be held jointly with BHIVA (Liverpool 1-4 April 2014) is shaping up well and looks set to be a successful and well-attended event.

Glasgow has been chosen to host the 2015 stand alone BASHH Spring Meeting and Dr Rak Nandwani and team are already working to make this happen.

As the outgoing Chair of the EC I am grateful to the members of the committee for their ongoing hard work and support and wish the new Chair well in continuing to work together with the members of BASHH to help achieve its objectives.

**Dr John White**

**Chair, Education Committee**

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**Named Groups**

**Clinical Effectiveness Group**

**Objectives**

* To produce and revise national guidelines on the management of sexually transmitted infections and related conditions.
* To provide advice as required from other groups and members on evidence-based practice in the specialty.
* To produce information for patients about the conditions covered in the guidelines.
* To liaise with a variety of other professional bodies within the UK to disseminate impact of the guidelines.

**Significant activities**

* During the 12 month period in question the CEG met three times at the Royal Society of Medicine in London, in October 2012, and in March and June 2013.
* Keith Radcliffe represented BASHH and the CEG at the CDC STD Treatment Guidelines Meeting in Atlanta USA 30 April–2 May 2013.
* Deepa Grover represented the CEG at meetings of the Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Health’s (FSRH) Clinical Effectiveness Unit.
* Mark FitzGerald represented the CEG at meetings of the Royal College of Physicians’ Clinical Effectiveness Forum.

**Performance/Outputs in the year 2012/13**

**Guidelines**

* Guideline on gonorrhoea updated and published.
* Guideline on bacterial vaginosis updated and published.

**Others**

* Comments on NICE Public Health Guidance 43 on hepatitis B and C testing - input lead to a significant change in this guidance from recommending testing of all attendees at sexual health clinics to recommending that only those with risk factors be tested.
* Primary care guidance - Neil Lazaro summarised recommendations for primary care practitioners (this is an update of previous work) - this has been published on the website of BASHH and the Royal College of General Practitioners.

**Liaison**

Members liaise with the following organisations:-

* BASHH National Audit Group
* BHIVA Audit Sub-Committee
* BASHH Clinical Standards Unit
* RCP Clinical Effectiveness Forum
* US National Guidelines Clearing House
* BNF
* Clarity Informatics
* FSRH Clinical Effectiveness Unit
* NICE Evidence Reference Panel
* Registration on behalf of BASHH as a stakeholder in NICE guidelines: hepatitis C

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* UK National Screening Committee - Steve Higgins represents the CEG on the subgroup looking at syphilis in pregnancy.

**Publications**

* FitzGerald M, Kingston M.Why we like clinical guidelines. *Sex Transm Infect* 2012; **88**: 239.
* Clutterbuck DJ et al.UK national guideline on safer sex advice. *Int J STD AIDS* 2012; **23**: 381-388.
* McCarthy G.New patient information leaflets to accompany BASHH guidelines. *Sex Transm Infect* 2012; **88**: 316.
* 2012 BASHH statement on partner notification for sexually transmissible infections. H McClean, K Radcliffe, A Sullivan, I Ahmed-Jushuf. *Int J STD AIDS* 0956462412472804, first published on June 18, 2013.

**Future Plans**

* To continue to update the guidelines on a rolling programme.
* To continue to produce patient information based on the guidelines.
* To continue to liaise with a wide range of professional organisations.

**Dr Keith Radcliffe**

**Chair, Clinical Effectiveness Group**

**BASHH/Faculty Integrated Information Group**

**Objectives**

We meet with members of the Faculty as well as software providers, PHE specialists and staff from the Health and Social Care Information Centre 3-4 times a year. Our objectives are:-

* To recommend strategies for IT implementation, data collection and reporting for Sexual Health Services.
* To advise on the type of information to be collected from Sexual Health Services for the purposes of national audit and public health monitoring.
* To respond to relevant consultations affecting service provision and data collection in Sexual Health.
* To liaise between HPA, DH, PHE and other interested parties over information issues to achieve best patient outcomes.
* To maintain overview of issues pertaining to Information Governance in Sexual Health.
* To receive and respond to queries and concerns from members relating to IT and IG.
* To anticipate problems relating to IT and IG from new legislation or other changes which affect Sexual Health.
* To work towards IT solutions for integration of all Sexual Health Services.
* To disseminate important information to BASHH/Faculty members via organisational websites/ newsletters.

**Significant activities**

The BASHH Information Group has become a joint group with the Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Health as so many of the issues we now face are influenced by integration, and benefit from a joint approach.

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**Performance/Outputs in the year 2012/13**

We have responded to consultations on patient confidentiality and are updating the section on Information Governance in the revised Standards for the Management of STIs. We have met on 3 occasions in 2012/13.

**Future plans**

* To continue to work closely with members of the Faculty to ensure that we meet our objectives

**Dr Danielle Mercey, Chair Integrated Information Group**

**Librarian & Archivist’s report**

**Objectives**

* None.

**Significant activities**

* The BASHH Library and archives have been closed. They have been distributed to Wellcome and RCP Libraries. The remainder on order of the Trustees have been put on Auction. 40 years endeavour building up a Library have ended. This may be well regretted in the future.

**Performance/Outputs in the year 2012/13**

* As above.

**Future plans**

* None.

**Dr M Waugh**

**Former Honorary Librarian**

**National Audit Group**

**Objectives**

* Meet three times each calendar year.
* Provide national audits of clinical practice in sexual health, genitourinary medicine clinics and services managing people with HIV infection against the BASHH CEG National Guidelines, and agreed audits against other standards and guidelines.
* Support Branch Audit Chairs in connecting national audits with local quality improvement and clinician revalidation.
* Working with other BASHH groups, provide leadership and support for national audit and quality improvement programmes approved of by BASHH. Provide questionnaire proformae for use as audit tools for the common genitourinary conditions, using the clinical guidelines of the CEG as the standard of care.
* Advise the BASHH CEG on auditable outcomes for BASHH guidelines, when requested to do so.
* Provide a session on clinical audit at the BASHH Spring Meeting, when requested by BASHH.
* Provide a forum to discuss UK national and branch audit programmes.
* Respond to requests for national audits by the British Association for Sexual Health and HIV.

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* Publish on the BASHH NAG web page a proposed audit programme for three years hence. This is to help clinics with forward planning with their organisations, to register audits and participate in the BASHH national audits.

**Significant activities**

* Collaboration with the British HIV Association (BHIVA), Medical Foundation for AIDS and Sexual Health (MedFASH), Public Health England and other national key stakeholders in Sexual Health in a major national engagement exercise to build specifications with the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership and the National Clinical Audit Advisory group for a new national STI/HIV audit programme.
* In collaboration with BHIVA, provision of a national audit on partner notification for people with HIV infection. The Audit is at the report stage.
* Developing the use of Google Survey software for future audit work.
* Development work for a national audit on genital herpes management in 2014.
* Collaboration with the BASHH Clinical Standards Unit and MedFASH in developing the quality statements, measures and standards of the first revision of the BASHH & MedFASH Standards for the Management of Sexually Transmitted Infections.
* Completion of revised Terms of Reference for the BASHH National Audit Group.
* Collaboration with the National Chlamydia Screening Programme to support uniform approach to national audits.

**Performance/Outputs in the year 2012/13**

* Three National Audit Group meetings.
* Contribution to the BASHH annual Conference and educational output.
* Development of the STI/HIV national clinical audit and patient outcomes programme to the stage of specification in preparation for a contract notice.
* Publication of the BASHH 2012 Audit of Asymptomatic Screening in the *International Journal STD & AIDS.*
* Publication of the BASHH Statement on Partner Notification for Sexually Transmissible Infections in the *International Journal STD & AIDS.*

**Future plans**

* Continue with the objectives stated on the National Audit Group’s Terms of Reference, including continuing to:-
	+ Report on the 2013 HIV-PN Audit.
	+ Provide future BASHH national audits, including a 2014 audit on herpes management using Google survey software.
	+ Develop the HQIP national STI/HIV audit programme.
	+ Collaborate in providing quality improvement activity with BASHH and other Sexual Health groups.

**Dr Hugo McClean**

**Chair, National Audit Group**

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**Public Panel**

**Membership August 2012- July 2013**

Jan Clarke Chair

Kerry Anderson Vice President, Sexpression

Garry Brough THT representative

Paul Casey FPA representative

Sarah Challenor Student, Cardiff

David Crundwell Lay member

James Drysdale Nurse/Health Adviser

Nick Henderson Lay member, Glasgow

Steve Higgins CEG representative

Carrie Kochar Student

Anna Malzy Student, London

Emily Mason Student, Coventry

Pete Mercer NUS representative

Marian Nicholson Herpes Viruses Association

Andy Parkhouse Health Adviser

Ann Sullivan CEG representative

Verity Sullivan BASHH Web team/social media representive

Beverley Spencer Health Adviser

Emily Topham Prince’s Trust Youth Ambassador

Matthew Tuck Sexpression representative

Ben Whittaker Vice President, Welfare, NUS

In attendance

David Roberts-Jones Lay Trustee (resigned January 2013)

Panel Meetings were held in September 2012, January and March 2013.

The key roles and activities of the panel within this year included:-

* Reviewing public material produced by BASHH - not only paper leaflets, but all electronic forms of information.
	+ Leaflets on syphilis in pregnancy, trichomonas, bacterial vaginosis, partner notification, gonorrhoea and safer sex were considered.
	+ Discussion with the Webmaster resulted in further modifications of the BASHH website and the Webmaster agreed to work closely with the group on future developments.
* Representing lay opinion on technical groups such as in guideline development, and with audit projects of direct relevance to BASHH
	+ Revision of standards for the management of STIs - the group reviewed existing standard 9 (PPE) and commented on early drafts of the new version.
	+ Draft BASHH guidelines on trichomonas, LGV, sexual history taking and safer sex advice were considered.
* The panel discussed the development of the HQUIP sexual health audit bid; Ruth Lowbury and Hilary Curtis attended to present options and explain the scope of the project. The Panel wrote to HQUIP in support of the bid.
* PROMs and PREMs for GU Medicine were discussed, and suggestions passed to the National Audit Group.

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* Working with other community and public panels of organisations working in the field to avoid duplication of effort.
	+ Recommendations about supporting and maintaining a common list of sexual health and GUM clinics have been considered by Board.
	+ New links with the Prince’s Trust have been forged and work continues with the FPA, Sexpression, Herpes Virus Association and THT.
* Widening the age range of panel membership to include non-medical students and young people in employment. Representation from outside England has been expanded. We continue to actively recruit, especially for trans\* people, BAME community members and young heterosexual men.
* Offering volunteering opportunities for panel members and acting as a resource for other BASHH groups seeking lay members.

**Work outside Panel meetings**

Dr Clarke represented BASHH on the steering group of Testing Faith - a project to educate faith leaders around HIV issues in the BAME community - developed by Naz Project London. Pilot workshops in London are planned for November 2013.

**Dr Jan Clarke**

**Chair, Public Panel**

**Web team**

**Objectives**

* To improve the ease of access for BASHH members to educational content on the BASHH website.
* Improve and update public areas of the website.
* Increase the use of Branch website areas to increase engagement with local branch activities.

**Significant Activities**

* Development of online payments and registration for BASHH events.
* Improving OGM presentations “podcasts” – now viewable on ipads/iphones.
* Establishment of health unlocked as the main BASHH public forum. [www.healthunlocked.com/BASHH](http://www.healthunlocked.com/BASHH).
* Ongoing update and refreshing of website content.

**Future Plans**

* Forge closer links with the BASHH Media group and increase social media presence.
* Development of a dedicated STIF “mini site” to mirror the expansion of STIF competencies.
* Develop online feedback and downloadable attendance certificates for BASHH OGMs.
* Improve public section of website with bespoke BASHH health education material.

**Dr Martyn Wood**

**Chair, BASHH Web team**

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**Special Interest Groups**

**Adolescent and Sexual Violence Groups**

**Members**

**Sexual Violence Group**

Rachel Sacks, chair (on maternity leave)

Rageshri Dhairyawan (acting chair)

Daniela Brawley (secretary)

Praveen Jayadeva

Kate Shadlow

Tara Suchak

Ali Mears

Beata Cybulska

Rimi Shah

Charlotte Cohen

Christine Donohue

Michelle Carroll

Emma McCarty

Katherine Coyne

Greta Forster

Carol Emerson

**Adolescent Special Interest Group**

Angela Robinson (chair)

Dawn Wilkinson (deputy chair)

Rita Browne (secretary)

Sophie Forsyth

Karen Rogstad

Ceri Slater

Elizabeth Hamlyn

Rebecca Adlington

Alan Tang

Laura Mitchell

Katia Prime

Karen Rogstad

Kimberley Forbes

Laura Mitchell

**Objectives**

The Adolescent special interest group consists of clinicians working in sexual health and with an interest in issues related to the sexual health of young people and sexual violence. We meet quarterly and plan research studies, training and educational meetings; respond to related national consultations and develop and contribute to guideline development in related fields. Over the past year we have been especially interested in addressing the training needs of GUM doctors (especially specialty trainees) in managing patients with a history of sexual violence (SV) and training on child sexual exploitation (CSE).

**Significant activities**

* June 2013: National Sexual Violence training day including lectures/workshops on human trafficking and sexual exploitation, domestic violence, male sexual assault and managing SV in young people and vulnerable adults. A study using pre- and post training surveys on confidence and knowledge of managing SV has been carried out and will be submitted for publication in STI journal. This showed the day was a successful intervention.
* Joint BASHH/FFLM National Survey on Facilities for Complainants of Sexual Assault. Findings to be submitted to BASHH Spring Conference 2014.

**Performance/Outputs in the year 2012/13**

* Poster presentation at the BASHH conference in 2013 of the national survey of sexual health clinics on the implementation of the NICE guidelines on ‘Alcohol use disorders; preventing harmful drinking’.
* Poster presentation at the BASHH conference 2013 of the national survey of the implementation of the Intercollegiate guidelines on safeguarding children and young people.
* BASHH column editorial, "Gangs and sexual violence and exploitation" Sex Trans Infect 2013;89;1, highlighting the training needs of GUM SpRs to identify CSE, following the Doctors in Training

 Meeting, Brighton 2012 presentation.

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* Accepted Manuscript ID sextrans-2013-051179.R1 - Uptake of the HPV vaccination programme in England – a cross-sectional survey of young women attending sexual health services. R Sacks, A Copas, D Wilkinson and A Robinson.
* Genitourinary Medicine trainees’ experience and training needs in the management of patients disclosing sexual violence. R Sacks and CR Emerson. Int J STD & AIDS Published online first October 7, 2013.
* Assessing the sexual violence services currently provided in genitourinary medicine clinics. CR Emerson and R Sacks. *Sex Transm Infect* 2013;89:371.

**Documents reviewed and responded to on behalf of the SIG or BASHH**

* The group responded to the call for evidence of good practice in identifying and intervening in cases of suspected or known CSE as part of the second part of the inquiry on CSE in Gangs and Groups (CSEGG) led by the deputy Children’s Commissioner.
* Major contributions to speciality guidance, NICE and GMC consultation documents. BASHH/RCP representation at National Chlamydia Screening Programme, RCP and DH stakeholder meetings.
* ASIG members regularly teach on the bi-annual BASHH Course in STIs and HIV, Module 2 Sexual Health and Sexuality.
* Reviewed NICE guidance on management of domestic violence.
* Response to ‘A national conversation: raising awareness of Child sexual exploitation’.

**Future plans**

* Receipt of a Department of Health grant for £59,000 to develop a national proforma to detect child sexual exploitation.
* BASHH members are represented on the STI working group on Child Sexual Abuse [CSA] Project working with the research division of RCPCH to update the national publication The Physical signs of Child Abuse, current timeline 2014. An evidence based review and guidance for best practice.
* BASHH ASIG contribution on consultation process: GMC guidance: Protecting children and young people: The responsibilities of all doctors Sept 2013.
* Oct 2013: BASHH afternoon OGM on Young people and Sexual health risks and child sexual exploitation.
* Oct 2013: BASHH evening OGM on understanding the adolescent brain and CSE based discussions.
* Training day on sexual violence and child sexual exploitation particularly focusing on female genital mutilation and the final report from the CSEGG.
* National survey looking at prevalence of domestic violence in Sexual Health clinics.

**Dr Rita Browne**

**Secretary, Adolescent SIG**

**Bacterial Group**

**Membership**

**Core Group**

Cathy Ison London, Chair

Frances Keane Truro, Secretary

Justin Gaffney London, Treasurer

S. Uthayakumar London, Microscopy course coordinator

Paul Benn London, Research Project organiser

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**General Membership**

Sarah Alexander London

Amanda Samarawickrama London

Elizabeth Claydon Barnstaple

Rachel Drayton Cardiff

Paddy Horner Bristol

Nigel O’ Farrell London

Achyuta Nori London

Michael Perry Cardiff

Jonathan Ross Birmingham

Tariq Sadiq London

Suneeta Soni Brighton

**Resignations**

Beng Goh London

Caroline Carder London

**Objectives**

* To promote communication between microbiologists and clinicians involved in the diagnosis and treatment of bacterial sexually transmitted infections by: offering courses in specialist areas e.g. microscopy course, production of educational material and organisation of symposia on new areas of interest.

**Significant activities**

* The BSIG put out a call for new members in 2012 and elected six new members to the group. The first full meeting of the group following the elections was on Friday 8th March 2013.
* The BSIG contributed to the summary tables being produced by the CEG to replace the STI testing guidelines.
* Final planning for the feasibility study to determine the time taken for NAATs tests to become negative following treatment for *Chlamydia trachomatis* and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* in men and women was undertaken with a projected start date of October 2013.
* Sales of the DVD on Microscopy of STIs continues with over 750 DVDs sold.

**Performance/Outputs in the year 2012/13**

* The BSIG organised its annual OGM on Friday 8th March 2013 on the theme of Genital Ulcer Disease The speakers were:-
* Gwenda Hughes (PHE, London): Outbreak of lymphogranuloma venereum in the UK
* Ron Ballard (CDC, Atlanta, USA): Problems with the eradication of endemic treponematoses
* John Richens (London): Epidemic donovanosis among the Marind-anim headhunters of the 1920s
* Beng Goh (London): Honorary Life Fellowship Lecture: Issues in the management of syphilis
* BASHH Microscopy for GU Medicine courses were held on 6/10/12 and 18/05/13. A GU microscopy competency assessment pilot project was run between these dates, with a final assessment to be completed by participants on the course on 05/10/13. Evaluation of this pilot project will inform recommendations for future competency assessments. All courses have been well received.  Analysis of participants and feedback has prompted further modification to include separate workshops for beginners and more experienced microscopists.

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**Future plans**

* Plans for the programme for the March 2014 OGM are underway with the theme of Molecular diagnostics for bacterial STIs.
* The Microscopy course will be held twice during this year, on 5th October 2013 and 17th May 2014.
* Recruitment has begun for the Research project and it is hoped to complete recruitment in early 2014.
* The possibility of creating an APP instead of an E-book are being investigated to replace the DVD on Microscopy for STIs.

**Professor Cathy Ison**

**Chair, Bacterial SIG**

**BCCG Group**

**Objectives**

* To investigate areas of current interest in clinical practice. This is done by questionnaires which are distributed through a network of regional representatives (see list above). The results of these questionnaires are then published.

**Significant activities**

* Two meetings were held during the year. These coincided with the Spring and Autumn OGMs. These meetings were less well attended than in previous years the reason being given pressure of the clinical services.

**Performance/Outputs in the year 2012/13**

* Three questionnaires have been carried out this year, covering areas as wide as integrated sexual health clinics and AIN.
* All these questionnaires are now being prepared for publication.

**Future plans**

* 2-3 questionnaires will be delivered in 2013-2014. These will cover topics such as nurse led services and the use of scrotal ultrasound

**Dr Philip Kell**

**Chair, BCCG**

**Doctors in Training Group**

**Objectives**

The doctors in training continue to be well represented within the specialty; trainees sit on the BASHH Board, the Education Committee, Clinical Governance Committee, Clinical Standards Unit, Public Panel and Special Interest Groups. The regional representatives enable us to disseminate information and opportunities to all UK trainees, as well as raising training issues in their area to be addressed at relevant meetings.

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**Significant activities**

* **Doctors in Training (DIT) Day - preceding BASHH Spring meeting, April 2013**

As with previous training days, the event held in Bristol was a great success.We had a varied programme covering both GUM and HIV topics. Peter Greenhouse opened the day with a talk on ‘sexual health in the military’, Rak Nandwani discussed ‘current issues in GUM specialty training’, highly topical in a year of great change within the speciality. John Saunders gave us a personal insight into pros/cons of an OOPE and Emma Fox spoke about the mentoring programme that has been rolled out for new consultants within the speciality. The HIV talks were all fascinating, with Graham Moyle speaking on the long term issues in the management of HIV, Frank Prost telling us all we need to know about Vitamin D and Adrian Palfreeman giving an update on what new HIV treatments are in the pipeline. The day was rounded up with an entertaining meal at Za Za Bazaars. Thanks must be given to all our sponsors and to Dr Sris Allan, for all his help organising the day.

* **Royal College of Physicians (RCP) Career’s Day, 2013**

In September, Alan Tang and I ran the GUM stand at the RCP careers day. This event is held for both undergraduates and postgraduates enabling them to speak to people working in all the medical specialities and to gain insight into what working within it might entail. We had a lot of interest and the day was a success.

**Future plans**

* **April 2014: Joint DIT & HIV Trainees Club meeting, preceding BASHH/BHIVA joint Spring meeting**

In view of the upcoming joint BASHH /BHIVA meeting it was decided to join forces with the HIV trainees club for the first time to hold a single day joint meeting. Plans are already in progress and the preliminary program looks extremely interesting.

**Dr Emily Lord**

**Doctors in Training Representative, BASHH Board**

**Genital Dermatology Group**

**Objectives**

* To support the delivery of high quality care for genital dermatoses within Genitourinary Medicine by developing clear standards and providing educational events.

**Significant activities**

* The group has built on the success of its inaugural Genital Dermatology Course, by delivering another successful event in December 2012, which was very highly evaluated. There has also been significant activity in guidelines development throughout the year, with the vulval guidelines nearing completion.
* The group is now focussing solely on Dermatology, and has changed its name accordingly.

**Performance/Outputs in the year 2012/13**

* Guidelines under development:-
	+ Management of vulval conditions
	+ Management of Molluscum contagiosum
	+ Management of Scabies and Pediculosis
* Educational events:
	+ 2nd Annual Genital Dermatology Course
	+ BASHH OGM June 2013

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**Future plans**

* To continue to deliver the Genital Dermatology Course and identify potential for further complementary educational events.
* To review genital dermatology service delivery and training in the current commissioning climate.

**Dr Sarah Edwards, Chair Dermatology SIG**

**HIV & Blood Borne Viruses Group**

**Chair** Laura Waters, Central & North West London NHS Foundation Trust

**Treasurer** Fiona Burns, Royal Free NHS Foundation Trust

**Secretary** Simon Edwards, Central & North West London NHS Foundation Trust

**Members** As per BASHH website

**Objectives**

* Provision of CPD related to HIV and other blood borne viruses to BASHH members.
* To provide comment on pertinent national guidelines.
* To provide representation at meetings reviewing guidelines & drugs relevant to BBV of interest to the BASHH membership.

**Significant activities**

***Meetings***

* Diploma in HIV Revision Course, London, September 2012.
* BASHH HIV Focus Meeting, London, September 2012.
* Joint BASHH OGM 11th January 2013.
* BASHH HIV Masterclass, Manchester, February 2013.

***BASHH response to consultation documents***

* BHIVA 2012 treatment guidelines.
* BHIVA 2013 hepatitis guidelines.
* NICE TB scope consultation.
* Northern Ireland charging for non-residents consultation (including HIV).

***BASHH representation at meetings/committees***

* BHIVA conferences sub-committee.
* BASHH education committee.

**Performance/Outputs in the year 2012/13**

* We sought new members to better represent the multi-disciplinary nature of HIV and hepatitis care; new appointments include trainee, nurse, pharmacist and health advisor representatives.
* Excellent feedback from the Masterclass and Focus meetings.

**Future plans**

* Joint OGM with the Public Health SIG January 2014.
* To continue the successful Masterclass and Focus meetings.
* To work with BHIVA to increase CPD focused on general medical issues of interest to BASHH.
* To lead the update to the 2007 BASHH/BHIVA/FSRH guidelines for the sexual & reproductive health care of people living with HIV.
* To expand hepatitis CPD.

**Dr Laura Waters**

**Chair, HIV & Blood Borne Virus SIG**

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**HPV Group**

**Objectives**

* Dissemination of good clinical practice.
* Encourage HPV-related research.
* Provide advice to other bodies on anogenital HPV disease, on behalf of BASHH.

**Significant activities**

* Surgical techniques course (12th October 2012).
* HIPvac trial - funding from NIHR.
* LOPAC trial - funding from NIHR (HTA).
* HPV ordinary general meeting afternoon session (14th June 2013).

**Performance/Outputs in the year 2012/13**

* Editorial on HPV vaccination for MSM.
* Editorial on treatment of AIN.

**Future plans**

* HRA theoretical course (2014).
* Facilitate integration of HRA care with cancer networks.
* Surgical techniques course (15th October 2013).

**Dr Mayura Nathan**

**Chair, HPV SIG**

**HSV Group**

The SIG meets infrequently and completes its tasks principally through Teleconferences. The group has recently completed the 2013 HSV Guideline and importantly an HSV in Pregnancy Guideline in collaboration with the RCOG. Patient information leaflets to support these have also been developed.

Members of the group continue to deliver the BASHH STI and HIV courses, speak at joint meetings with the RCOG, Faculty and the RCP. The group is currently developing an OGM for the Spring 2014 program.

**Dr Raj Patel**

**Dr John Green**

**On behalf of the HSV SIG**

**Mentoring Group**

**Objectives**

* The BASHH Mentoring group was set up to provide a mentoring service for new consultants, to help them transition effectively into their new role. We have now expanded access to the scheme to include Specialist Registrars within 6 months of their CCT.
* We are now expanding to provide a co-mentoring service to SAS doctors.

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**Significant activities**

* We now have a pool of 86 mentors and 44 current mentees.
* Our team has worked closely with BHIVA, proposing a joint BASHH/BHIVA Mentoring programme, which was formally launched this year. This was presented at the BHIVA Young Consultants forum in April 2012.
* We have surveyed our first wave of mentor / mentee pairs as they exited the scheme with very positive responses. We presented our findings at the BASHH Spring Conference in June 2013.

**Performance/Outputs in the year 2012/13**

During the past year we have focused on 3 major initiatives:-

* The SAS phase of the programme - working closely with the RCP we developed and ran a new tailored course for SAS GUM clinicians in December 2012. This focused on SAS doctors’ specific needs with a peer mentoring model. We now have a bank of trained SAS mentors ready to take mentees, which is an exciting step forward for the group.
* The SAC has approved the development of an SpR mentoring module that could be incorporated into the medical leadership component of the GUM/HIV curriculum. We gave a presentation on mentoring at the Junior Doctors Day of the BASHH Conference in June 2013. We have appointed an SpR representative to help take this work forward in 2014.
* We continue our collaboration with the RCP and are invited to teach at the MSc in Medical Leadership course held annually. Our mentoring scheme is highlighted as a model of good practice for other specialties to consider.

**Future plans**

Work for August 2013 - July 2014 will focus on:-

* Further establishment of a joint BASHH / BHIVA mentoring group with training of new mentors who have now joined the network in 2013.
* The roll out of the SAS mentoring scheme to SAS mentees.
* Development of the SpR mentoring module with the RCP.
* Ongoing analysis of the exit surveys of mentor / mentee pairs to ensure the scheme meets the needs of GUM/HIV doctors.

**Dr Emma Fox**

 **Incoming Chair, Mentoring Group**

**Dr Charlotte Cohen**

**Outgoing Chair, Mentoring Group**

**MSM Group**

**Objectives**

The SIG will:-

* Promote the sexual health of MSM within BASHH and at a wider strategic/policy level.
* Prioritise prevention of STI/HIV and other related adverse health outcomes in MSM.
* Collaborate with community organisations to promote sexual health of MSM.
* Contribute to the surveillance of STIs relating to MSM.
* Assist the monitoring and evaluation of prevention initiatives/interventions for MSM.
* Promote best practice in the prevention, diagnosis, management including partner notification of STI/HIV through development of and contribution to guidelines and standards.
* Identify gaps and define research priorities for the sexual health of MSM.
* Provide education through meetings and via other media.

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* Promote access to information, advice, prevention, treatment and care relating to sexual health for MSM.
* Contribute to undergraduate and post-graduate curricula development.

**Significant activities**

* BASHH OGM, January 2013.
* Planning for Sex, Drugs and MSM meeting, subsequently held in Birmingham 1st November 2013.

**Performance/Outputs in the year 2012/13**

Contributed to consultation:-

* NICE Public Health guidance: PH43 - Hepatitis B and C: ways to promote and offer testing to people at increased risk of infection.

**Future plans**

* Develop proposal for development of standards of sexual health care for MSM.
* Further OGM and education events.
* Develop strategy for increased and more frequent STI/HIV screening of MSM.

**Dr David Asboe**

**Chair, MSM Group**

**Nursing Group**

Throughout the year I have been working on the issue of nurse inclusion within the programmes of FSRH in association with Drs Penny Goold and Janet Wilson. This has involved several meetings and discussions about the need to have options for nurses who wish to undertake the ‘Course of 5’ medical programme.

I have continued to represent BASHH and worked with the NHS London Sexual Health Programme led by Dr Kathy French on the PGDs for contraception and sexual infections. Whilst written for NHS London, they are now complete and available on the NHS website as PDF documents for anyone who has access. Guidance on their use is provided.

Joint work with the Education subcommittee on STIF and nurse education focusing on the creation of a clinical competency skills passport continues. This work is detailed in the report from Dr Penny Goold. The creation of a cohort of expert nurse markers for the academic work has been instigated and the first applicants for academic accreditation are registering with STIF. Ongoing liaison with the University of Greenwich for academic accreditation is complete and the necessary protection of BASHH intellectual property has also been completed.

In collaboration with the lay trustee on the Board, David Roberts-Jones, a BASHH Intellectual Property statement has been created and has been submitted for consideration by the BASHH Board. We have had generous support from legal colleagues of David, pro bono.

It was an honor and privilege to be awarded a Fellowship of the Royal College of Nursing for my clinical and educational support for sexual health nursing. This is indeed a milestone for sexual health nursing within the RCN.

The outcome of the Cathy Harman award 2013 is detailed elsewhere in the annual report.

**Colin Roberts**

**Nurse Representative, BASHH Board**

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**Pharmacy Group**

**Objectives**

The Pharmacy Special Interest Group was formed in 2009. Its key objectives were:

* To establish dialogue and collaborative work with the Centre for Pharmacy Postgraduate Education (CPPE) and Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) in promoting and developing sexual health training for pharmacists.
* To promote the BASHH STIF Competency package for community pharmacists interested in developing their educational portfolio.
* To facilitate specific training needs - e.g. sexual history taking, clinic placements, etc should this be necessary.
* To understand and respond to current and future commissioning requirements for training and accreditation for the service offered by pharmacists.

**Significant activities**

* There have been no significant activities during 2012-13.

**Performance/Outputs in the year 2012/13**

* The SIG has not met since April 2012.

**Future plans**

* The SIG was a short -term group and has no future plans to re-convene.

**Dr Richard Lau**

**Chair, Pharmacy SIG**

**Prison Subgroup**

**Objectives**

* Develop national quality standards for STI, HIV and BBV management in prisons in conjunction with Clinical Standards Unit and partners in related organisations.

**Significant activities**

* Analysis of results from HIV Health Care in Prisons Survey 2012.
* Preliminary results of this survey presented to the Expert Advisory Group on AIDS in October 2012.
* Members participated in the Sexual Health in Prison Conference June 2013 organised by St George’s Health Care, London.

**Performance/Outputs in the year 2012/13**

* Publication of results from HIV Health Care in Prisons Survey 2012 as a poster presentation at BASHH Spring Meeting June 2013.
* Oral evidence on sexual health services in prisons to the Commission on Sex in Prisons in March 2013.
* Membership of the national Clinical Reference Group on Health and Justice in NHS England.

**Future plans**

* Publication of results from HIV Health Care in Prisons Survey 2012 as an original paper in a peer reviewed journal.
* Participate in the new Sexual Health in Prisons Network established by Dr Eamonn O’Moore, Director of Health and Justice in Public Health England.

**Dr Alan Tang**

**Chair, Prison SIG**

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**SAS Group**

The aim of the group is to give educational support to SAS doctors working in genitourinary medicine and to ensure that SAS doctors’ views are heard.

**Executive Committee Membership**

John Lee *(Yorkshire)* Chair, BASHH SAS Group

 BASHH Board representative January 2012 - to date Helen Mullan *(NW Thames)* Secretary, BASHH SAS Group

 BASHH Mentoring Committee representative

Nick Theobald *(NW Thames)* Financial Officer, BASHH SAS Group

 Education Committee Representative

Helen Bailey *(Wales)*  Clinical Governance Committee Representative

Pinky Mukherjee *(NE Thames)*

PN Sashidharan *(NE Thames)*

Rachel Sacks *(NW Thames)*

Kajal Verma *(SW Thames)*

Jennifer Dobbie *(SE Thames)*

Kate Thomas *(Anglia)*

Jane Richards *(Northern)* Conference Committee

Neil Lazaro *(Northwest & Merseyside)*

Lorna Sands *(Oxford)*

Carlos Oroz *(Scotland)*  Conference Committee

Syed Ali Akbar *(Scotland)*

Kim Botley *(South & West including Wessex)*

Rachel Amherst *(South & West including Wessex)*

Vendela McNamara *(Trent & FSRH representative)* Conference Committee

Karl Hollows *(West Midlands)*  Conference Committee Chair

Lewis Lau *(Co-opted)* Conference Committee

Mervyn Lee *(Co-opted)*     Conference Committee

Achievements during 2012-2013 include:-

**Annual Conference**

The 15th Annual BASHH conference for SAS doctors was held at the University of Loughborough and

attracted over 150 delegates from around the UK. Once again this educational conference was evaluated extremely highly by the delegates. The conference was successful financially and the representatives of the 12 exhibition stands also rated the conference highly.

**Audit**
The online audit on the management of people under the age of sixteen attending genitourinary medicine clinics has been completed and the results accepted for publication.

Participating SAS doctors have been sent the national data and their own clinic data to enable them to complete local audit projects.

**Meetings**
Three committee meetings were held during the year, including the AGM, which was held at the Annual Conference at Loughborough University.

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**Publication**

J Lee, EM Carlin, A Robinson. Specialty and Associate Specialist Doctors: still the dependable backbone of Genitourinary Medicine. International Journal of STD & AIDS;2013:**24**:383-385.

**Planned Activity for 2013 - 2014**

* 16th Annual Conference at the University of Warwick 6th -7th September 2013.
* A national SAS doctors’ audit on the management of Gonorrhoea has been agreed with the National Audit group and is in planning.
* A national online survey of SAS doctors’ experiences of the 2008 contract has been organised and is due to commence in September 2013.

**Sexual dysfunction group**

**Membership**

David Goldmeier, Chair

Karl Hollows, Vice Chair

Emma McCarty

Wallace Dinsmore

Pippa Green

John Green

Uday Joshi

Ali Mears

John Ewan

Penny Mostyn

Jane Ashby

Jane Nicholls, SpR Representative

**Objectives**

* To improve the quality of care given to patients presenting to Genitourinary Medicine Clinics with sexual dysfunction.
* To provide a forum for education, training and research in the area of sexual dysfunction for all.

**Significant activities**

* Successful satellite symposium on HIV and sexual dysfunction 2012.
* Spring meeting steering committee meeting November 2012 Imperial College.

**Performance/Outputs in the year 2012/13**

* Update of Premature Ejaculation National Recommendations (on website).
* Continue working with USA colleagues to research on use of combined PDE5i in clinical practice.

**Future plans**

* “ABC Sexual Dysfunction” conference at RSM 17October 2013.
* Steering meeting of SIG in November 2013 Imperial College.

**David Goldmeier**

**Chair, Sexual Dysfunction SIG**

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**STI Foundation group**

**STIF Steering Committee Members 2012-2013**

Nick Theobald Chair - GU Physician (London)

Sue Bird Secretariat

Ushan Andrady GU Physician (Wales)

Olivia Drew Doctors in Training Rep

Emile Morgan GU Physician (Manchester)

Jessica Daniel/Sophie Forsyth GU Physician (Swindon)

Jenny Heathcote Faculty of Family Planning and Reproductive Health

Jane Hutchinson Co-opted: STIF Competency Project

Usha Kuchimanchi GU Physician (Hull)

Adam Black Nurse Representative

Jonathan Roberts Health Adviser

Ray Walsh General Practitioner (London)

Conrad White GU Physician (North)

Nicola Fearnley (mat leave) GU Physician (Bradford)

Rachel Sacks (part mat leave) SAS Doctors

**STIF Competency Working Group Members 2012 - 2013**

Penny Goold GU Physician (University Hospital, Birmingham) - Chair

Miranda King GU Nurse (Dorset County Hospital)

Ashini Jayasuriya GU Physician (Nottingham University Hospitals)

Cordelia Chapman GU Physician (The Royal Bournemouth & Christchurch Hospitals)

Jane Hutchinson GU Physician (St Bartholomew’s Hospital, London)

Dason Evans GU Physician (St George’s Hospital, London)

Jonathan Roberts Health Adviser (Brighton & Sussex University Hospital)

BASHH continues to provide leadership in the delivery of quality educational products in the field for practitioners who wish to improve their knowledge and skills.

**STIF Steering Committee 2012-13**

The STIF Steering Committee once again wishes to acknowledge the continued enthusiasm and hard work of the individual STI Foundation Course organisers and course directors. Since the STIF Course was started in 2002, more than 24,000 delegates have attended.

The Steering Committee met twice over the year to undertake the review and reshaping of the course - with a great deal of work taking place between meetings. All course materials were updated during the summer of 2013 in the light of feedback received from both course directors and STIF course attendees. The annual review process will continue. We are grateful to all the members of the Steering Committee who give up their time to facilitate this process.

**STIF Competency Working Group 2012-13**

With new commissioning processes in place and the tendering of sexual health services by local councils it has become more important for BASHHto provide high quality training and assessment of competence in order to set uniform national standards for sexual health providers. The STIF Competency Working Group would like to acknowledge the support of those who have taken up running the STIF competency assessments for both external and internal candidates and look forward to new training and assessment sites commencing next year.

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**STIF Level 1 Competency**

There have been 99 registrations for STIF Level 1 since its launch in January 2012. The trainees have included; GPs, Reproductive & Sexual Health Nurses, Sexual Health Advisers and Health Care Assistants working within Level 3 GUM services.

**STIF Intermediate Competency**

There were 105 registrations for STIF Intermediate over the last 12 months (August 2012 - end July 2013). Of the trainees 74% were nurses most of whom are working within Sexual Health services (GUM, Sexual & Reproductive Health or integrated services). Trainees and training centres are now well spread geographically within England. The total number of registrations since STIF Intermediate was launched in 2010 is 326.

**Academic Credits with the University of Greenwich**

The award of 15 academic credits linked to undertaking STIF Intermediate training with an additional written assignment is now available through the University of Greenwich. This was launched in May 2013 with a view to starting recruitment in September 2013. The qualification is owned by BASHH and ratified by the University of Greenwich. For more information see the BASHH website.

**STIF Level 2 Competency**

This is aimed at Advanced Nurse practitioners in Sexual Health, clinical leads of Level 2 Sexual Health Services and GPs with a special interest. The pilot has reached capacity and feedback will be available in 2014.

**STIF Sexual Health Advisers Competency**

Following collaboration with the Society of Sexual Health Advisers and the recommendations for standardised training, the STIF Competency Group will be developing a training and competency assessment package specifically tailored to sexual health advisers in 2013/2014.

**Train the Trainers’ Workshop**

The annual STIF Competency Train the Trainers Workshop ran on 11 January 2013 with 62 attendees providing good overall feedback. In 2014 the event will be held on 14 March in response to feedback from people who have been unable to attend in January.

**Nick Theobald**

**Chair, STIF Steering Committee**

**Penny Goold**

**Chair, STIF Competency Working Group**

**STI & HIV Course**

**Objectives**

* The STI & HIV Course remains popular and well-evaluated. We continue to re-evaluate and improve the course content.
* Due to reduction in SpR numbers the course will now run once a year to ensure the course is financially viable.
* The one day Diploma in GUM and Diploma in HIV (co-organised with BHIVA) revision courses continued to be successful and have received good feedback. Each course is run twice a year. The Diploma in GUM course is held in Manchester and Southampton and the Diploma in HIV course is held in Manchester and London.

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**Significant activities**

* The STI & HIV Course, the Diploma in GUM and the Diploma in HIV revision courses have all run successfully over the year. Numerous cost efficiency measures have been made.

**Performance/Outputs in the year 2012/13**

* Successful courses have been held as detailed above.

**Future plans**

* Revised format of course
* Annual course
* Modules 1 and 2 in Spring
* Modules 3 and 4 in Autumn
* Review of course Secretariat/ manager role

**Dr Candice McDonald**

**Lead, STI & HIV Course**

**Dr Laura Waters**

**Lead, Diploma in HIV revision Course**

**Dr Vincent Lee**

**Lead, Diploma in GUM revision Course**

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**Regions**

**Northern Branch**

**Objectives**

* To identify areas of excellent clinical practice within clinics in the region and promote them within the region whilst recognising local differences relating to populations and levels of workforce.
* To form a regional clinical network to aid the HIV commissioning process.
* To provide peer support.
* To feedback from national CGC meetings.

**Significant activities**

* Quarterly education and business meetings.
* HIV clinical network group set up with GUM, Infectious Diseases Units and Public Health England.

**Performance/Outputs in the year 2012/13**

* Educational topics included medical anthropology study of sexual behaviour, HIV treatment failure and virology services.
* Specific tasks for HIV standards have been identified and allocated.

**Future plans**

* Educational content of quarterly meetings will increase.
* Audits on extragenital PCR tests and Syphilis PCR to be presented at September meeting.

**Dr Alison Wardropper**

**Chair, Northern Branch**

**Oxford Branch**

**Objectives**

* To understand the effect of club drugs and legal highs on sexual risk taking behaviour.
* To increase awareness of child sexual exploitation and gangs in the wake of Operation Bullfinch in Oxford.

**Significant activities**

* Informative lecture by Dr Alistair Reed on Club Drugs.
* Insight on Operation Bullfinch by Kingfisher Team, Oxford.

**Performance/Outputs in the year 2012/13**

* Discussion on tendering of services and involvement of the private sector.
* Continuing effective financing of educational meeting with appointment of second Branch Treasurer, Dr Amy Bennett.

**Future plans**

* Presentation of results from BASHH national audit of partner notification.
* Meetings to be scheduled for May and November 2014 to coincide with HIV Network meetings.

**Dr Alan Tang**

**Chair, Oxford Branch**

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**Scotland Branch**

**Objectives**

* Run twice yearly national educational and business meetings held in different parts of Scotland.
* To annually audit a significant sexual health issue - typically in relation to STI management.

**Significant activities**

* Autumn 2012 meeting held in Edinburgh with robust discussion about the law in relation to HIV transmission.
* Spring 2013 meeting held in Dunfermline.
* Survey asking Scottish members what they wanted out of BASHH.
* Award of two grants to support HIV diagnosis and prevention activity.

**Performance/Outputs in the year 2012/13**

* Audit of syphilis management presented at Autumn meeting 2012 - in Edinburgh.

**Future plans**

* Continue with current objectives.
* Spring meeting 2014 will probably be held in Stirling.

**Dr Steve Baguley**

**Chair, Scotland Branch**

**South West Branch**

**Objectives**

* To facilitate communication to BASHH members in the region and to organise education for BASHH members in the region.

**Significant activities**

* Two academic meetings held during the year. These were well attended and well evaluated by the attendees. These academic meetings were also accompanied by business meetings for the regional BASHH members. The business meetings were less well attended the reason being given pressure of the clinical services.
* The Southwest has a regional office for sexual health, which has been acclaimed nationally for its achievements. The workings of the office are facilitated and disseminated by a regional board. Several BASHH members sit on this board. Some of the recent achievements include the formation of a sex education hub, a region wide Chlamydia partner notification project and a forum for providers of termination of pregnancy services.
* As in 2012, in January 2013 the South West BASHH Branch ran a patient satisfaction questionnaire throughout the region using the PSQ validated for use in sexual health clinics. In 2012 twelve clinics participated providing 593 responses and in 2013 eleven clinics participated providing 553 responses.  Participating clinics were able to look at their performance from one year to the next and an opportunity to share good practice occurred where some clinics were performing especially well.  The Branch intends to run the PSQ regionally again next year.

**Performance/Outputs in the year 2012/13**

* As above.

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**Future plans**

* Continue the activities as outlined above.

**Dr Philip Kell**

**Chair, South West Branch**

**Thames (NE) Branch**

**Objectives**

* Dissemination of information to region.
* Provision of bi-annual educational meeting with relevant content.

**Significant activities**

* Joint North Thames/NELNET meeting January 2013: BASHH Asymptomatic screening audit presented, Dr Alan McCowan presentation on social media and sexual health.
* Involvement in patient survey regarding repeal of STI legislation.

**Performance/Outputs in the year 2012/13**

* Communication with regional clinical leads.
* Participation in regional audit-HIV PN.
* Well attended meeting January 2013.
* Participation in clinical leads survey.

**Future plans**

* Joint North Thames/NELNET meeting 20November 2013 with HIV prevention focus: Prep: Proud and Prep for conception, HIV testing in non-traditional settings.
* Continued participation in national audits.
* Continued dissemination of information within region.

**Dr Liat Sarner**

**Chair, Thames (NE) Branch**

**Trent Branch**

**Objectives**

* Organise/coordinate the provision of regional educational activities relevant to clinical staff from GUM and HIV Medicine.
* Provide a link between local/regional members and central BASHH, linking with CGC etc.

**Significant activities**

* Trent and West Midlands HIV Interest Group and Autumn Meeting October 2012.
* Trent and West Midlands HIV Interest Group Spring Meeting March 2013.

**Performance/Outputs in the year 2012/13**

* 2 very successful well attended regional meetings with excellent speakers.

**Future plans**

* Organisation of Trent and West Midlands Doctors-in-Training meeting 2013.

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* Organisation of Trent and West Midlands Nurses and Health Advisers Meeting, East meets West 2013.
* Organisation of Trent and West Midlands HIV Interest Group Meetings (Autumn 2014, Spring 2015) and GUM Autumn Meeting 2014.

**Dr Tana Green**

**Chair, Trent Branch**

**Wales Branch**

**Objectives**

* Continue to engage with Welsh members of BASHH and provide a forum to discuss key regional issues.
* To raise awareness of the differences between NHS Wales and NHS England and the impact this has on sexual health services in Wales.

**Significant activities**

* A well attended scientific meeting held in Wrexham in July, including external speakers who discussed HIV and renal disease, erectile dysfunction and recreational drug use.
* Spring and autumn regional audit and business meetings held, where results of national HIV partner notification audit discussed, along with presentation of recent local audits.
* Meeting with the President of BASHH and Munro and Forster to discuss the Welsh region relationship with BASHH and funding for sexual health services in Wales.

**Performance/Outputs in the year 2012/13**

* Continued progress in implementing IT systems across Wales.

**Future plans**

* Further work to introduce IT systems across Wales.
* Reviewing adjustments required in all clinics to merge with new Wales-wide results reporting system (LIMMS).
* Continue to try and highlight the importance of adequate funding for sexual health services in Wales.
* Annual all Wales Scientific meeting July 2014.
* Spring and Autumn 2014 regional audit and branch meetings.

**Dr Nicola Lomax**

**Chair, Wales Branch**

**Wessex Branch**

**Objectives**

* To hold 3 regional education events per year, at least one to be aimed at a multidisciplinary audience.
* To coordinate an active regional audit programme.
* To hold 3 Branch Clinical Governance meetings per year.
* To produce an annual branch business report.

**Significant activities**

* 3 successful educational days held with a wide range of local and national speakers.
* 1 regional audit completed and presented:-
	+ An audit of Gonorrhoea testing and treatment.

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* Regional participation in national audits:-
	+ BASHH/BHIVA Partner notification of HIV positive patients.
* Regional HIV mortality meeting.
* 3 Branch Clinical Governance meetings held.
* Review and clarification of branch finances, action plan to ensure meetings break even, including review of venue, delegate fees and sponsorship.

**Performance/Outputs in the year 2012/13**

* Audit of Gonorrhoea testing and treatment.
* 100% participation by Wessex in BASHH/BHIVA Partner notification of HIV positive patients audit.
* Successful regional educational events with both national and local expert speakers. Good turnout and excellent feedback.
* Review of all HIV deaths in the region, with learning points disseminated to all HIV clinicians.

**Future plans**

* 2 planned regional audits:-
	+ Audit of HIV PEPSE.
	+ Audit of asymptomatic STI screening.
* 3 regional educational events.
* HIV mortality meeting
* 3 regional clinical governance meetings.

**Dr Alison Blume**

**Chair, Wessex Branch**

**West Midlands Branch**

**Objectives**

* Quarterly Branch Business meetings to discuss: Chair’s feedback from BASHH’s clinical governance group, business raised by the BASHH fellows and members in the region, update on regional STI and HIV epidemiology data, feedback from audit committee, feedback from higher training committee, feedback from HIV network, feedback from HIV CRG, and feedback from nurses’ committee.
* Participating and hosting (on alternate years) of the West Midlands/Trent HIV interest meeting (held twice a year) and sexual health interest meeting (held once a year).
* Participation of regional members in BASHH national audit projects.
* Design and coordination of annual regional audit project.
* Coordination and review of clinical outcomes for members of West Midlands HIV Network annually.
* Review and update of trainee doctors’ progress in the regional GUM high training program.
* Coordinate response to local and national policies on sexual health and HIV services.

**Significant activities**

* Hosting 2013 West Midlands/Trent meetings; HIV interest and sexual health interest meetings.
* Coordination of BASHH national audit project.
* Review and discussion of West Midlands’ HIV Network annual report.
* Elections for and appointments of the new Branch secretary, and the new audit committee member.
* Review and discussion of recent regional data on prevalence of STIs.
* Re-arrangement of frequency, hosting and organisation of regional training CPD program according to the recently reduced number of training posts in West Midlands.

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**Performance/Outputs in the year 2012/13**

* Well attended West Midlands/Trent meeting; 44 for HIV interest meeting, 61 for sexual health interest meeting, and 17 for the dinner. Consistently positive feedback comments on the program.
* Well attended Branch Business Meetings with lively sessions.

**Future plans**

* West Midlands’ BASHH End of Year meeting 29/11/13.
* Complete revamp of the Branch page in BASHH website.

**Dr Kaveh Manavi**

**Chair, West Midlands Branch**

**Yorkshire Branch**

**Objectives**

* To hold at least one Branch General Meeting yearly.
* To organise a regional educational day once yearly.

**Significant activities**

* Successful meetings held with discussion of relevant developments.

**Performance/Outputs in the year 2012/13**

* Two branch business meetings and one regional educational day were held.

**Future plans**

* Continue to ensure the multidisciplinary team’s educational needs are addressed with the annual educational meeting.

**Dr Sophie Brady**

**Chair, Yorkshire Branch**

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**Committees with BASHH representation**

**BMA Dermatology and Venereology Committee**

The current membership of this Committee from a GUM point of view is: Dr Angela Robinson and Nicki Saulsbury as CC Genitourinary Medicine representatives; Dr Colm O’Mahony and Dr Simon Barton as British Association for Sexual Heath and HIV representatives. Dr O’Mahony is the current Chair.

Out of the blue, we received an email from the BMA to say it is disbanding all of these committees and there is only going to be 11 representatives on the Central Consultants Committee representing all of the branches of Medicine. Myself and the BAD Chairman, Chris Bunker, had extensive correspondence with the BMA pointing out that none of the 11 representatives are likely to be a Dermatologist or Venereologist so how would this work out? Unfortunately, the BMA has not engaged with this issue yet so we do not actually know what the future of this committee will be. This committee had proved useful in the past as correspondence from the BMA Committee to a minister was always acknowledged and a formal reply received - we will just have to see what happens.

**Dr Colm O’Mahony**

**Chairman, BMA Dermatovenereology Committee**

**British Federation against Sexually Transmitted Infections (BFSTI)**

The British Federation against Sexually Transmitted Infections (BFSTI) membership now includes four BASHH members - Dr Patrick French (current Secretary of the BFSTI), Ceri Evans (SHA representative), Dr Rak Nandwani (Scotland representative), Dr Olwen Williams (Wales representative).

The BFSTI has met on two occasions in the last 12 months and continues to act as an important information exchange and forum for discussion between a broad range of different organisations.

Issues discussed this last year have included: The English Department of Health’s Sexual Health Framework; the Criminalisation of STI transmission (particularly herpes simplex); Legislation relating to Sex Work and Prostitution.

The BFSTI dedicated one of its sessions to Local Authority commissioning of sexual health services in England and there was an interesting debate on the potential risks (particularly relating to open access and cross charging) and opportunities (particularly linking sexual health to broader public health) of the new arrangements.

In the next year the BFSTI will launch its website which will make its activities more accessible and help it to engage more broadly with other organizations. Member organisations will also be kept more regularly up to date with the work of the BFSTI with feedback from their Federation representative.

**Dr Patrick French**

**BASHH Representative on the BFSTI**

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**Joint Specialty Committee for Genitourinary Medicine**

**Membership**

Dr David Daniels *Chairman*

Dr Elizabeth Foley *Honorary Secretary*

Dr Imtyaz Ahmed

Dr Chitra Babu

Professor Jackie Cassell

Dr Rak Nandwani

Dr Angela Robinson

Dr Gordon Scott

Dr Belinda Stanley

Dr Nicola Thorley

Dr Ian Williams

Dr Janet Wilson

Mrs Barbara Byer *Patient and carer representative*

Sir Richard Thompson *President RCP*

Dr Patrick Cadigan *Registrar RCP*

**Objectives**

The Joint Specialty Committee for Genitourinary medicine acts as an advisory body to the Royal College of Physicians (RCP) on matters concerning sexual health and HIV. It meets twice a year and has a membership drawn from both the RCP and BASHH, including patient and carer network representation.

**Performance/Outputs in the year 2012/2013**

The group meet twice a year; this year the committee has been involved in workforce planning and training in the speciality, and in particular commissioning and tendering of HIV and sexual health services. The speciality was also represented at the successful RCP Medical Careers Day in April and the RCP Open Day in July 2013. The committee has also responded to a number of consultations including testing for viral Hepatitis; the management of hepatitis and HIV coinfection and the management of HIV related malignancies.

**Future plans**

There are two meetings arranged for 2014. The first in January is on the diagnosis and management of TB which is being held in conjunction with British Thoracic Society and the second is an update on STIs and HIV planned for December 2014.

**Dr Elizabeth Foley**

**Honorary Secretary, Joint Specialty Committee**

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**Specialty Advisory Committee**

**Membership of GUM Specialty Advisory Committee (Oct 2013):**

Dr Rak Nandwani, Chair and Scotland Deaneries

Dr Jackie Sherrard, Vice Chair and Oxford Deanery & BASHH representative

Professor Sheona MacLeod, COPMed and Lead Dean for GUM

Mr David Crundwell (Lay representative)

Dr Sris Allan, West Midlands Deanery

Dr Mayur Chauhan, Northern England Deanery

Dr Andrew De-Burgh Thomas, Severn Deanery

Dr Jyoti Dhar, East Midlands Deanery

Dr Ian Fairly, Yorkshire & Humber Deanery

Dr Lisa Haddon, Peninsula Deanery

Dr Margaret Kingston, North Western England Deanery

Dr Debashis Mandal, Mersey Deanery

Dr Katia Prime, London Deaneries

Dr Say Quah, Northern Ireland Medical & Dental Training Agency

Dr Kate Schroeder, Wessex Deanery

Dr Chris Sonnex, East of England Deanery

Dr Debbie Williams, KSS Deanery

Dr Kathir Yoganathan, Wales Deanery

Dr Emily Lord, Trainee Representative (England & Wales)

Dr Sally Wielding, Trainee Representative (Scotland)

Dr Gillian Dilke-Wing, Co-opted (Recruitment Lead)

Dr Melinda Tenant-Flowers, Co-opted (DipGUM Convenor)

Dr Andy Williams, Co-opted (DipGUM External)

Dr David Asboe, Co-opted (DipHIV Convenor & BHIVA representative)

Dr Chloe Orkin, Co-opted (DipHIV External)

Professor Jackie Cassell, Co-opted (Public Health)

Dr Graham Taylor, Co-opted (Academic Lead)

Dr Angela Robinson, Co-opted (JSC representative)

Dr Simon Barton, Co-opted (UEMS representative)

GUM postgraduate training remains in a strong position despite the major challenges of non-NHS bodies commissioning sexual health services and the number/distribution of new GUM consultant posts differing from where individuals are completing specialist training. In May 2013, the first ever single GUM recruitment round covering England, Wales and Scotland was held. All 24 available NTN posts were appointed. The percentage of GUM unique applicants (not applying for any other specialty) was 54%. The 100% recruitment fill rate makes GUM, along with dermatology, the most popular medical specialty.

The SAC oversees delivery of the Diplomas in HIV and GUM in accordance with GMC standards. The SAC’s arrangements to do this were reviewed and updated in 2013. Both the DipGUM and DipHIV examinations delivered by the Society of Apothecaries were demonstrated to be reliable. The pass rate for GUM trainees passing the DipHIV was 82% in Sept 2012 and 80% in March 2013. For the DipGUM it was 92% in Dec 2012 and 83% in June 2013.

The 2012/13 SAC work programme included further development of the GUM curriculum (e.g. addition of gender-based violence and adolescent transition) and workplace based assessments (the new Multiple Consultant Report was launched in October 2013). The quality of local training continues to be informed by feedback from multiple sources such as the GMC trainee survey, ARCPs and deanery reports.

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There remain major challenges ahead including maintaining GUM against proposals for a shared European dermatovenereology curriculum and the anticipated implications of the Shape of Training report which make it increasingly likely that specialist trainees will be required to participate in acute medical receiving. The GUM SAC’s view is that must be properly supervised and provide educational value. It is also important that individual circumstances of trainees already in programme must be considered.

Once again, improving the quality and standard of postgraduate GUM training remains the primary objective of the SAC and we wish to thank BASHH colleagues for their ongoing support.

**Dr Rak Nandwani**

**Chair, GUM Specialty Advisory Committee**

**Web:** [**http://www.jrcptb.org.uk/trainingandcert/ST3-SpR/Pages/GUM.aspx**](http://www.jrcptb.org.uk/trainingandcert/ST3-SpR/Pages/GUM.aspx)

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**UEMS Report**

This has been a busy year in the UEMS with a great deal of activity across the European Union regarding the curriculum for training in dermatovenereology and the development of plans for specific exit examinations in dermatovenereology, dermatology and venereology.

I have worked closely with the British Medical Association representative on the main UEMS Council, to ensure that we fully understand the legal status of these draft directives and, in particular, whether any retrospective applications to specialties apply.

There has also been a great deal of activity in the UEMS regarding the legal status of technical rules on specific procedures. In particular, this has applied to dermatology and specific skin and plastic surgery techniques. Although we are certain the conflict will be resolved in favour of the UEMS and the medical nature of the definition of a specialty, EU law is complex and the processes have to be carefully examined.

Finally, there has been close co-operation with our colleagues in Ireland, and in Malta, where dermatology and venereology have training programmes which are separate, as we have in the UK.

**Dr Simon Barton**

**UEMS Representative**

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**Journals with BASHH representation**

**International Journal of STD & AIDS (IJSA)**

Over the past year the IJSA has continued to provide a clinically oriented forum for the investigation and management of sexually transmissible infections, HIV & AIDS. In addition to publishing original research and practical papers, the journal’s review articles, short papers, case reports and audit reports have continued to be popular among our readership. We have also continued to work with BASHH, BHIVA and IUSTI to ensure the timely publication of relevant guidelines and position statements.

Despite some early teething problems and delays during the transition to our new publisher, SAGE Publications, this large international company has enabled us to improve the overall quality of the journal. In particular, SAGE has strengthened the journal’s structure with more rapid turnaround of manuscripts from submission to decision, along with rapid Online First publication. In response to the success of this transition SAGE plans to increase the output of the journal to 14 issues per year for 2014 and beyond. We also plan to establish a new editorial board in 2014 that will not only enable us to continue to accept high quality publications from all over the world but also to provide an accessible forum that focuses on issues relevant to UK clinicians and trainees.

**John White**

**Editor-in-Chief, IJSA**

**Sexually Transmitted Infections Journal**

The internationally respected BMJ journal *Sexually Transmitted Infections* publishes a wide range of high quality research, educational materials, opinion and updating across all aspects of STI and HIV. Over the past year we received over 450 submissions, of which half were original articles and the remainder a mix of editorials, letters, educational materials and opinion pieces. Submissions come from across the world, while as a BASHH journal we have a particular focus on the needs of our UK readers.

Particular highlights of the past year included a special issue on *Trichomonas vaginalis*, spearheaded by Professor David Lewis and widely appreciated. We also published Supplements on the UNAIDS estimates of the HIV epidemic, new generation surveillance in Pakistan, and (as we go to press) a fascinating overview of surveillance and research from the Middle East and North Africa.

We also publish a regular BASHH column commissioned by Liz Foley. Communication with BASHH members is a key priority within our growing social network activity both on Twitter (we have nearly 1700 followers on @sti­­\_bmj) and Facebook. Our social media editors Stuart Flanagan and Sean Cassidy are always open to new ideas. This year Sean was our “roving reporter” at the ISSTDR/IUSTI conference in Vienna, where he interviewed opinion leaders on new developments.

The continuing high quality of full length original research has resulted in a relatively low success rate for submissions in this category. Our short report format allows us to publish a range of interesting work such as pilot studies or work of local significance - this is well used by BASHH members. Our growing library of podcasts, commenting on topics in the journal, has proved popular as have the regular blogs on topical issues written by our blogmaster Leslie Goode.

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BASHH members tell us that you value letters and other short items of interest in the journal, and we actively solicit letters and commentary to publish in the print version. Rapid responses on the website are automatically considered for print publication. We are also entering into a partnership with Medfash with a view to widening our reports on developments in sexual health in the UK at this particularly challenging time.

In the coming year, we are looking to develop educational and web content further to add interest for our BASHH subscribers. Your ideas for educational topics are always welcomed by our Education Editor, Sarah Edwards.

Thanks as always are due to the many BASHH members who provide reviews for us. As Editor in Chief I am particularly grateful to my Deputies, Professor Nicola Low and Professor David Lewis, and to Dr Keith Radcliffe as BASHH Senior Editor and to my excellent team of Associate Editors. However, this year special thanks are due to Professor Cathy Ison as she prepares to retire at the end of the year. Her contribution to the journal over many years has been outstanding, and we wish her well in her retirement.

**Professor Jackie Cassell**

**Editor-in-Chief, IJSA**