Bacterial Special Interest Group: Annual report 2013

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

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.

Future plans

- Plans for 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.

Submitted by: Cathy Ison, Chair Bacterial SIG.