Section: **Special interest group**

**Bacterial Special Interest Group**

**Core Group**

Cathy Ison               London, Chair  
Frances Keane           Truro, Secretary  
S. Uthayakumar          London, Microscopy course coordinator  
Sarah Alexander         London, Joint webmaster  
Suneeta Soni            Brighton, Joint webmaster  
Michael Perry            Cardiff, OGM organiser  
Treasurer post is vacant

**General Membership**

Elizabeth Claydon       Barnstaple  
Rachel Drayton           Cardiff  
Kirstine Eastick        Edinburgh  
Helen Fifer             London  
Justin Gaffney          London  
Phil Hay                London  
Paddy Horner            Bristol  
Bavithra Nathan         London  
Achyuta Nori            London  
Nigel O’ Farrell        London  
Sheel Patel             London  
Tariq Sadiq             London  
Amanda Samarawickrama   London  
John Saunders           London  

**Resignations**

Catherine Lowndes       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 organised its annual OGM on Friday 13th March 2015 which was held at the King’s Fund.  
- The BSIG organised two microscopy courses on 11th October 2014 and 16th May 2015.  
- Development of an APP to replace the DVD on Microscopy of STIs is being progressed
• Sales of the DVD on Microscopy of STIs continued.
• Collection of specimens and testing 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 completed.
• The BSIG website was updated.

**Performance/Outputs in the year 2014/15**

• The BSIG organised the March OGM led and chaired by Michael Perry on the theme ‘Outstanding conundrums in Sexual Health’ which was very well attended and received excellent feedback.

There were three talks given by

- Dr Jørgen Jensen, Statens Serum Institut, Copenhagen, Denmark: What’s New in NGU?
- Dr Elizabeth Johnson, Public Health England, Cardiff: Genital *Candida* infection.

There was also a debate on ‘The way we use azithromycin in the treatment of STIs is good’ where Dr John Saunders (Public Health England, London) spoke for the motion and Dr Paddy Horner (University of Bristol) spoke against.

• Two Microscopy courses were held during 2014-15 led by Dr S. Uthayakumar and Dr Elizabeth Claydon and continue to be oversubscribed and well received. The content of the course continues to be updated in response to feedback.

• A request for provision of services to develop a mobile APP to replace the DVD on Microscopy of STIs was prepared by Dr Frances Keane and Prof Cathy Ison and circulated to three companies. Following a short listing process two of the companies presented their proposals to a full meeting of the BSIG in March 2015. After independent scoring and further consideration a business plan has been prepared and sent for approval to the board.

• Data from the Research project has been collated in preparation for publication.

**Future plans**

• Plans for programme for the March 2016 OGM are is being led by Michael Perry.
• The Microscopy course is planned for October 2015 and May 2016.
• It is planned to produce a mobile APP on Microscopy of STIs, depending on approval by the BASHH board.
• Dr Tariq Sadiq and Dr Helen Fifer will take the lead on revision of the Management guidelines for gonorrhoea.
• Completion of manuscript to be submitted for publication on Time to test of cure.
• Further development of the website will be undertaken by Dr Suneeta Soni

Submitted by Professor Cathy Ison, Chair of BSIG