Section:  *Special interest group*

**Name of Group/branch: Bacterial Special Interest Group**

**Membership**

**Core Group**
- Catherine Ison, London, Chair
- Frances Keane, Truro, Secretary
- S. Uthayakumar, London, Microscopy course coordinator
- Sarah Alexander, London, Joint webmaster
- Suneeta Soni, Brighton, Joint webmaster
- Achyuta Nori, Edinburgh, OGM organiser
- Sheel Patel, London, Treasurer

**General Membership**
- Elizabeth Claydon, Barnstaple
- Rachel Drayton, Cardiff
- Helen Fifer, London
- Emma Harding-Esch, London
- Paddy Horner, Bristol
- Bavithra Nathan, London
- Nigel O’ Farrell, London
- Tariq Sadiq, London
- Michael Perry, Cardiff
- Amanda Samarawickrama, London
- John Saunders, 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**

- Kirstine Eastick (Hull), Justin Gaffney (London) and Phil Hay (London) have stood down from the group, all of whom had been members for many years and made significant contributions to the Bacterial SIG outputs. Sheel Patel has agreed to become the BSIG treasurer.
- The annual meeting of the full Bacterial SIG took place on 2nd March 2017 at the Royal Society of Medicine.
- The Bacterial SIG contributed to the scientific meeting held on 6th June 2017 to celebrate the 100 years of Sexual Health which was held at the King’s Fund.
- The BSIG organised two microscopy courses on 15 October 2016 and 20 May 2017.
• Continuation of work to convert the Microscopy of STIs to a Responsive website and App.
• Sales of the DVD on Microscopy of STIs.
• Update of gonorrhoea guidelines.
• Manuscript in preparation on Feasibility study to determine the time taken for NAATs to become negative following treatment for *Chlamydia trachomatis* and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* in men and women.
• Updating of BSIG website

**Performance/Outputs in the year 2016/17 (1/8/16-31/7/17)**

• The microscopy courses continue to be led by Dr S. Uthayakumar and Dr Libby Claydon assisted by Drs John Saunders, Amanda Samarawickrama and Bavithra Nathan for the Bacterial SIG and others from Imperial College London. Both courses were well attended; on 15/10/16 there were 32 attendees, 7 BASHH members, and on 20/5/17 there were 38 attendees, 8 BASHH members. The feedback was excellent and the majority of participants rated the structure and evaluation of the programme and the course manual as good. Material from the Microscopy courses was made available to assist with a STIF course in Zambia which proved very successful.

• At their annual meeting 13 members of the BSIG reviewed the current status of the Microscopy website/App project. Discussion of the upcoming OGM programme, the Microscopy course, gonorrhoea guidelines and website also took place.

• Professor Nick Thomson from the Sanger Institute, Cambridge, gave the BSIG scientific lecture on ‘Whole genome sequencing and STI epidemiology’ at the centenary event.

• Subgroups of the BSIG have carried out a detailed review of the content to update and prepare for uploading onto the responsive website. Multiple meetings have taken place to discuss presentation of the content. A marketing strategy has been prepared and launch is anticipated in March 2018.

**Future plans**

• Plans for the 2018 scientific meeting organised by the Bacterial SIG are underway and will be led by Dr Achyuta Nori and will include the launch of the website/App for Microscopy of STIs.
• Microscopy courses will continue and are planned for October 2017 and May 2018.
• Completion and launch of the Website and App to replace the DVD on Microscopy of STIs.
• Gonorrohea guidelines will be sent for review by the Bacterial SIG and then submitted into the consultation process.
• Completion of manuscript for submission to peer review on 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.
• Continual review and updating of the Bacterial SIG webpage.

**Submitted by Catherine Ison**  
Chair Bacterial Special Interest Group