Section: Special Interest Groups

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 London, OGM organiser
Sheel Patel London, Treasurer

General Membership

Elizabeth Claydon Barnstaple
Michelle Cole London
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

- Dr Michelle Cole, an STI microbiologist at Public Health England, joined the group.
- The annual meeting of the full Bacterial SIG took place on 9th March 2018 at the Royal Society of Medicine.
- The BSIG contributed to the afternoon scientific programme, together with Public Health England, on 9th March 2018.
- Two microscopy courses were held on 14 October 2017 and 19 May 2018.
Review and editing of the responsive website and App on Microscopy of STIs continued.
Response to requests from BASHH to review various documents.
Sales of the DVD on Microscopy of STIs.
Updating of gonorrhoea guidelines.
Updating of BSIG website

Performance/Outputs in the year 2017/18 (1/8/17-31/7/18)

- The microscopy course continues 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 14/10/17 there were 30 attendees, 13 BASHH members and on 19/5/18 there were 36 attendees, 14 BASHH members. The course continues to thrive, with excellent feedback, and is constantly reviewed following comments from participants.
- At their annual meeting 16 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, *Mycoplasma genitalium* guidelines and website also took place. It was decided to increase our meetings to two each year.

The BSIG contribution to the scientific meeting on 9th March 2017 was organised by Dr Achyuta Nori and the talks were:

- ‘Sustained transmission of high-level azithromycin resistant gonorrhoea in England. Dr Helen Fifer.

- *Mycoplasma genitalium* coinfections and resistance, Dr Tariq Sadiq

- Vaginal discharge, Dr Phillip Hay

- BSIG website/App on Microscopy for STIs, Prof. Cathy Ison

- All the content of the responsive website for the Microscopy of STIs has been uploaded. Review and editing has been ongoing throughout the year. Plans to launch in the Spring 2018 have been delayed until early 2019.
- Questionnaire about learning materials for antimicrobial resistance and infection was reviewed by Dr Frances Keane.
- BIA UK NSC consultation: chlamydia screening in pregnancy was reviewed by Dr John Saunders.

Future plans

- Two meeting of the full Bacterial SIG are planned for November 2018 and March/April 2019.
- Microscopy courses will continue and are planned for September 2018 and April 2019, following a request from Imperial that the courses be held out of term time.
- Completion and launch of the Website and App to replace the DVD on Microscopy of STIs.
- Gonorrhoea guidelines will be sent out for consultation and subsequent publication.
- To support (through Dr Paddy Horner) the Sexual Health Improvement for and Populations and Patients (SHIIPP), a multiagency multidisciplinary Health Integration Team (HIT) from Bristol Health Partners, in their major focus to develop strategies to combat antimicrobial resistance.
• Collaboration with Dr Matthew Hamill (John Hopkins University School of Medicine) on a survey of UK clinical experience of neuro/optic syphilis treatment with doxycycline.
• Continual review and updating of the Bacterial SIG webpage.

Professor Catherine Ison
Chair Bacterial Special Interest Group