November 2018 Presidential blog

These Uncertain Times

I have refrained to date from using the six-letter word in my bi-monthly musings but finally I’ve relented – yes BREXIT. It seems to be all-consuming and affecting all aspects of life. With such uncertainty ranging from whether drug supplies will be affected if there is a ‘no deal’ through to what happens to recruitment of the workforce. All will become clear over the coming months…perhaps! In the meantime, we anticipate that the NHS England Ten Year Plan will be published in early December and the Health and Social Care Select Committee Inquiry into Sexual Health will hold its oral evidence meetings in the New Year if BREXIT proceedings allow. All written submissions made to the inquiry are available to view online here.
November is a busy time for BASHH officers, chairs of the various SIGs and all committees, as we gather all the evidence for our annual report. It's a great time to reflect on the Association’s depth and breadth of activity – truly impressive. We should be proud of what we do. May I thank everyone for submitting their reports in a timely manner. It is also the time we elect new members – please do vote.

It's also been a busy period as BASHH President, with the past couple of months involving appearances on Radio 4’s Today programme and Women’s Hour, an engagement event in the House of Commons to raise awareness amongst Parliamentarians of the pressures facing services and a variety of meetings highlighting issues from public health cuts to PHE’s Sexual Health Campaign. All of these have been both enlightening and encouraging, with so many individuals and organisations working to help ensure the continued delivery of accessible, high-quality Sexual Health and HIV care across the UK. In the coming months, I will be meeting with MPs to discuss the growing concerns of AMR within sexual health, digital technology and Fast Track Cities. I was also hugely honoured in being awarded the RCP London President’s Award for advancing equality and diversity at the recent Harveian lecture. I have committed that BASHH will support Professor Dame Jane Dacre in highlighting the Gender Pay Gap survey that she is currently leading on. If you have received an e-mail inviting you to participate, please do.

We are also always keen to welcome new members into the Media group (chaired by Dr Mark Lawton) and expand our network of experts who are able to speak with journalists and support BASHH’s response to breaking sexual health stories. Everyone is welcome to apply, including junior members, nurses and sexual health advisers. We are also keen for broad media group representation from across the UK and have circulated an email to BASHH members with details. To register your interest, or for any more information, please get in touch with Mark Lawton, BASHH Media Chair, by email (mark@marklawton.com) with Caitlin Murray from M&F Health in copy (caitlin.murray@mandfhealth.com).

Following a high-profile HIV Testing Week with some eminent individuals getting involved in #GiveHIVTheFinger campaign, including new Secretary of State for Health and Social Care Matt Hancock himself, World AIDS Day celebrates its 30th anniversary, with many events across the UK including BHIVA - Celebrating our Communities: Art, History & Politics of HIV on Friday 30th November (further details here). We await with interest the 2017 HIV statistics for the UK – hopefully we will be celebrating a further reduction in new cases.

Finally, I'd like to wish you all Season’s Greetings.
BASHH Scientific Meetings

Dates of scientific meetings in 2019 will be:

11 January
22 March
07 June
11 October

Please visit the BASHH website for further information.

BASHH routinely record the presentations from Scientific meetings for members to view via the BASHH website. After logging into the BASHH website please visit, and select the meeting you wish to view and click recordings.

BASHH Scientific Meeting, Royal Society Medicine, London
Friday 11th January 2019 - BASHH HIV and HPV SIG

ViiV Healthcare have provided funding towards the venue and catering costs of this meeting and will have a promotional stand. ViiV Healthcare have had no input into or influence over the agenda or content.

12.00 - 13.00 Exhibition
Part 1: BASHH HIV Specialist Interest Group
Chair: Dr Fiona Burns, UCL and Royal Free

Welcome, Chair

13:30 - 14:00 Update on testing and treatment for infectious hepatitis
Dr Emma Page (Leeds)
14:30 - 14:50  Update on NAFLD
Dr James Maurice (Imperial)

2DR – where are we now?
Dr Laura Waters (Mortimer Market Clinic)

14:50 - 15:00

2DR/ageing/liver cases
Dr Lara Payne (King’s)

15.00 - 15.30

Dr Sarah Bradley (Mortimer Market Clinic)

15.30 - 15.45  Questions, discussion, and close by Chair

15.45 - 16.15

Tea Break

BASHH announcements

Part 1: Honorary Life Fellow Award
Presentation: from Dublin to Merseyside, not all plain sailing
- Professor Colm O’Mahony

16.15 - 16.45

Part 2: BASHH HPV Specialist Interest Group
Chair: Dr Richard Gilson

16.45 - 17.15  The MSM HPV Vaccination Programme in England: an update on its role in HPV control, progress & evaluation
Dr Kate Soldan and Dr Marta Checchi

17.15 - 17.30  A new era in anogenital wart treatment?
Dr Richard Gilson (UCL, London)

17.30 - 18.00  Panel Discussion

18.00 - 19.00
BASHH AGM 2019 - 11 January 2019

All BASHH members are invited to attend the BASHH AGM which will be held on Friday 11th January 2019 at the Royal Society of Medicine, London at 17.30 hrs.

The meeting will be followed by a sparkling wine reception at 6pm.

Latest News

BASHH Undergraduate essay prize

We would like to draw your attention to the BASHH undergraduate prizes which will close for entries on 31 January 2019.

This essay competition is open to all UK undergraduates with a prize of £200 being awarded to the winners. Please see the BASHH website for more information.

STI Journal - Direct access from the BASHH website

BASHH members who have chosen to subscribe to the STI Journal can now access the journal's online site (and archive) via their BASHH website login. Please login to the BASHH website and click the STI Journal link on the homepage to take you to the STI Journal full access page.
BASHH understand that Survey Monkey is GDPR compliant and you can therefore reassure your IT/IG departments that it is safe to use Survey Monkey.

**BASHH Mycoplasma genitalium (Mgen) educational day**

BASHH held an education day to support the launch of NICE accredited treatment guidelines for Mycoplasma genitalium (Mgen), a relatively new STI that affects around 1 in 100 people and which can if left untreated, can lead to pelvic inflammatory disease (PID).

A BASHH member survey revealed that seven in ten respondents said they couldn’t afford diagnostic tests recommended by the guidelines and further research showed only one in ten public health commissioners were making provisions for testing equipment in their 2019 budgets.

Presentations from the educational day are available here and the BASHH Mgen guidelines can be accessed here.

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**An update from the HIV CRG related to HIV care in England**

Sorry for the lack of HIV CRG information – there have been a number of staffing changes within NHS England so we’re only recently back on track!

**Key messages:**

1. Best practice prescribing and MDT guidance documents have been combined updated and will be published within the next few weeks.
2. Drug policies: Dolutegravir (no MDT discussion required if part of regional guidelines) and cobicstat (Symtuza can be used outside TAF requirements) policies have been updated and are on the HIV CRG website. There are some inconsistencies in the dolutegravir policy which will be corrected ASAP
3. Biktarvy policy has been drafted & tweaked by the NICE commissioning
support programme (CSP) and is due to go out for stakeholder review
4. Policies for dolutegravir /rilpivirine FDC and doravirine products are being considered by the NICE CSP – we have had 2 volunteers, if you’d be interested in working on a national drug policy and learning about NHSE and NICE processes contact me on lwaters@nhs.net – commitment will be a one day meeting then no more than 4 hours of phone call/email correspondence
5. Dashboard data for each Trust available for quarter 3 2017/18 now available at the Specialised services quality dashboards website (.https://www.ssqd.england.nhs.uk/login) Data can be accessed through the Trust gatekeeper
6. Outpatient tariff pilot ongoing and planned for roll out in 2021
7. Generic Truvada /Atripla are available but should be rolled out in accordance with NHSE advice please. Please discourage your Trust from switching to generic supplies now as this risks stock outs
We still feel this offers excellent value as it includes 2 days of education, a night of accommodation, all daytime refreshments, breakfast and dinner, so we really hope this won't deter you from signing up and joining us in Manchester.

Discounted rates are available for BASHH Members, click here to join BASHH. If you’re not already a member, you may be entitled to a reduced subscription fee depending on your job title and level.

Please click here to register

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**Joint BASHH/BHIVA One day Diploma in HIV Medicine update**

Join us in Manchester on Monday 28th January for the Joint BASHH/BHIVA One day Diploma in HIV Medicine update.

This course was developed by both associations to help prepare candidates for the Diploma in HIV Medicine examination. It aims to refresh some of the common topics that come up in the exam with a focus on the OSCE part of the examination.

Provisional Programme (0830-1630)

Topics include:
- New antiretroviral drugs and trials
- HIV/Hepatitis co-infection
- Specific groups of people living with HIV
- Complications of HIV infection
- Understanding HIV resistance
- Management of opportunistic infections
- Drug interactions and pharmacokinetics
- OSCE case-based discussion, BO5 tips

The course fee will be £90 and registration will be online via the BASHH website here.
New - STIF NHIVNA Advanced and Core Training programme
The National HIV Nurses Association (NHIVNA) and the STI Foundation (BASHH) have developed a work-based training and assessment programme. Aimed to meet the specific needs of nurses working in HIV services or in Integrated GUM/HIV and/or ID/HIV services, the structure of the training and assessment is very similar to the STIF Intermediate programme and many trainers and trainees will recognise the format.
More information here:

22nd Annual BASHH Conference for SAS Doctors Working in Sexual Health
A note for your diary.

This well-established conference will take place at Leicester Conferences, the University of Leicester in Leicester on the 6th and 7th September 2019.

Programme and registration details will be announced in May 2019.

The 14th Joint BASHH-FSRH conference is open for registration and is already selling fast. This conference sold out last year, we recommend not leaving it too late to avoid missing out on this highly regarded conference.
The conference will focus on ‘Complex care in everyday practice’
29th January 2019 at the Royal School of Medicine, London

More information, including the current programme, can be found here.
BASHH 2019 annual conference will be held at the ICC Birmingham from 30th June – 2 July. Abstract submission and registration are opening shortly. Please go online to register and submit abstracts

**Important Dates:**
Abstract Deadline: 8th March 2019  
Early Bird Registration: 29th April 2019  
Conference dates: 30th June – 2nd July 2019

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**BHIVA ‘Best of CROI’ Feedback Meetings 2019**

To register for the regional feedback meetings please [CLICK HERE](#)

These meetings will provide an independent, unbiased and impartial review of the key presentations from the 26th CROI Conference that will be held in Seattle, USA. An experienced working party has been convened, to review presentations and collate the most relevant slides and material for feedback to those working in the field of HIV medicine in the UK.

Registration will be provided to all on a complimentary basis. However, please note that in order to secure your place, you will need to supply credit card details for the sum of £20 as a commitment fee. This fee will only be charged if you fail to attend on the day or if you cancel your registration after Friday 8 March 2019.

The dates of the various regional meetings can be found [here](#).
Consultations & Guidelines

**NICE Impact Report on Antimicrobial Resistance**

This focuses on how NICE’s evidence-based guidance can change prescribing practice to help slow the emergence of AMR and ensure that antimicrobials remain effective treatments for managing infections. This important new resource will be particularly relevant to BASHH members/stakeholders and so please disseminate through your branches and clinical services.

**Public Consultation Opportunity on draft Adult Clinical Pathway for people who have experienced rape or sexual assault in Scotland and the new standardised National Form**

Please see [link](#) to an ongoing consultation process in progress in Scotland.

An opportunity for BASHH members to contribute to both the pathway and proposed documentation would be welcomed.

Please note that to access the proposed documentation, scroll down to 'Related' Documents at the end of the consultation document and click onto 'National Adult Sexual Offences Form'.

**Help Wanted**

*eHIV-STI Module Editor Required*

A new editor is required for eHIV-STI module 14 “Bacterial STIs and Related Conditions” as it requires review and the previous editor Dr Andrew Winter is stepping down. It consists of fifteen 30 minute e-learning sessions covering topics such as PID, Epididymitis, Male Pelvic Pain and Sexually Acquired Reactive Arthritis. Each session will already have an
author or authors so the module editor’s role would involve peer review of updated versions. A review of the whole module is already underway, so I estimate a commitment of approximately 5 hours per year from the module editor. My clinical lead role is backfilled for 2 PA/wk and the actual editing is done by professional e-learning designers, so there is plenty of administrative support. There is unfortunately no payment available for the work but the project has external RCP CPD approval for 16 points. Please see our website for further details.

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**Terrence Higgins Trust Mags Portman PrEP Access Fund**

THT have set up a fund to financially assist people who are not able to access PrEP on the Impact Tria or the NHS, and cannot afford to buy it themselves. The fund is named after Dr Mags Portman, a sexual health pioneer acknowledged as one of the key players in raising awareness of, and support for, PrEP in the UK.

The fund will provide PrEP for up to 1,000 people and will be open until the Impact Trial end or PrEP is commissioned on the NHS, whichever comes first. Successful applicants are given a voucher code to redeem online for a 3-month supply of PrEP and can then request another voucher every 3 months for as long as they need PrEP and remain eligible for the fund.

Applicants need to be:
- aged over 16
- resident in England or Northern Ireland
- clinically eligible for PrEP
- able to confirm HIV negative status and engagement with sexual health services
- able to demonstrate the need for support by submitting documents showing that they have no income or are in receipt of benefits

More information on the fund and how to apply can be found [here](#):
Call for bids ISSTDR - IUSTI joint conference

The International Society for Sexually Transmitted Diseases Research (ISSTDR) and the International Union against STI (IUSTI) solicit proposals by qualified investigators to conduct ISSTDR’s 25th biennial meeting in conjunction with the 24th World IUSTI meeting in 2023. It has been decided by the Board of ISSTDR and the Executive Committee of IUSTI that this conference is planned as a joint conference of both organizations like the conferences in Vienna in 2013, Brisbane 2015, Rio de Janeiro 2017, Vancouver in 2019 and the planned conference in Amsterdam 2021. More information is available [here](#).

Invitation to apply for research funds 2019 round

We invite researchers in various fields related to sexual health, HIV and other sexually transmitted viruses to apply for research funds. Sexually Transmitted Infections Research Foundation (STIRF) was set up to pump prime research projects relating to the epidemiology, pathophysiology, management, and health care delivery of sexually transmitted infections and HIV in the West Midlands, Trent, Yorkshire, Northern and North West regions. The primary aim is to provide initial funding to allow promising projects from
We invite applications from researchers in the above regions on projects relating to sexually transmitted diseases and HIV. All projects will be initially screened by the Scientific Committee of STIRF and UHBC and those considered suitable will be sent for peer review by experts in the field. Applications should not exceed £50,000 in the first year. Depending on satisfactory reports a further £25,000 may be available for the second year. Joint funding with other grant giving bodies will be considered. For further information and guidance on how to apply visit [visit](#).

Deadline for applications is 28th February 2019

**CLINIC FINDER**

In times of fast changing services BASHH rely on members reviewing and updating their clinic details on the BASHH website, please can you take the time to check your clinic’s entry at [http://www.bashh.org/clinics](http://www.bashh.org/clinics) and if any changes are needed, please complete the form by using this link or contact admin@bashh.org with the new details.

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**Diary Dates**

2018

Mentoring Skills Workshop 7th December

2019

BASHH Scientific meeting 11 January at RSM London


Joint BASHH/BHIVA One day Diploma in HIV Medicine update 28 January in Manchester

HepHIV 2019 Bucharest Conference: Challenges of Timely and Integrated Testing and Care 28 -30 January

BASHH HIV Masterclass 2019 14-15 March in London
BASHH Scientific meeting 22 March 2019 at RSM, London

STIF Competency Train the Trainer workshops 22 March at RSM, London 2nd Annual NHS Productivity Congress 1st of May 2019 at ETC Venues, London.

PCS 4th Annual Global Obstetrics and Gynaecology Congress (GOGC 2019 22-23 June 2019 - Prague, Czech Republic

BASHH 2019 Annual Conference 30 June - 2 July at ICC, Birmingham

ISSTDR/IUSTI joint meeting 14—17 July in Vancouver

22nd Annual BASHH Conference for SAS Doctors Working in Sexual Health 7-9 September

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Registered Office: Chester House, 68 Chestergate, Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK11 6DY
T: +44 (0)1625 664523 | F: +44 (0)1625 664510 | E: admin@bashh.org W: www.bashh.org
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