This is my final contribution to the BASHH newsletter as President - how the past 2 years have flown by. In January, we will welcome our new President and Officers who will take over the helm.

Presidents come and Presidents go, each one has their unique style, areas of focus and legacies. It’s a huge privilege to be elected to such a role and with it comes responsibility and duty. Identifying opportunities and rising to the challenge is not without its pitfalls in these difficult political times, especially with the ongoing pressures in England regarding funding and the commissioning of sexual health services.

Since I took up office, I have to my best used my influencing skills against this wider backdrop, co-working with our stakeholders to promote and articulate the message ‘Save our Sexual Health Services’. However, despite us securing the development of a much-needed new Sexual Health Strategy for England (detail available online here), the Health and Social Care Committee ultimately decided against recommending a whole system change to commissioning, instead putting emphasis on the need for strengthened collaboration between different parts of the system and the introduction of longer contracts to reduce the current burden of tendering.

This was a decision which I know disappointed many of our members, and is an ongoing challenge that will likely require a political willingness if the Health and Social Care Act 2012 is to be amended. In the meantime, we will continue to push for favourable outcomes from the next steps to the Government’s Green paper on Public Health, alongside a fairer and more secure deal for sexual health from the forthcoming multi-year Spending Review (due to take place at some point in 2020). In the devolved Nations there has been ongoing work in strategy development in Scotland and Wales, with sexual health now featuring specifically in the plans of local Health Boards. BASHH is also advising the HIV Commission on the HIV elimination strategy and
everyone is invited to contribute either through written or oral submissions (detail available online here).

Going into the next decade, a key challenge to address will be improving recruitment and retention of all our sexual health workforce. BASHH, along with BHIVA, the RCP JSC and the SAC are working to develop a new plan that can help to meet this challenge, incorporating recruitment materials and resources suitable for all of our members to use.

Despite the pressures which I've touched on, I would like to end on an optimistic note - after more than 30 years in this specialty, I still love my job.

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**BASHH Scientific Meetings 2020**

10 January
6 March
No June meeting
2 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.

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

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**BASHH Scientific meeting - 10 January 2020 at the RSM, London**

Part 1: GSM Specialist Interest Group
Chair: Dr Kate Nambiar
Ageing and sex with an LGBT focus

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13.00 - 13.05</td>
<td>Welcome, Chair</td>
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| 13.05 - 13.25 | Tailoring ageing-related concerns to the LGBT community (inc end of life/nursing home etc?)
|             | Professor Richard Harding, KCL                                          |
| 13.25 - 13.50 | Accessing sexual health services – how does this change with age for LGBT populations?
|             | Dr Michael Brady, KCL                                                  |
| 13.50 - 14.15 | PEP, chems, and navigating risk and prevention – a toolkit for older LGBT |
|             | Mr David Stuart, 56 Dean St                                             |
14.15 - 14.40 SpR presentations of older LGBT specific GUM cases  
Speakers TBC
14.40 - 15.00 Questions, panel discussion, and close by Chair
15.00 - 15.20 Tea Break
15.20 - 15.30 BASHH announcements
15.30 - 16.00 Honorary Life Fellow Award Presentation

Part 2: HIV Specialist Interest Group
Chair: Dr Tristan Barber

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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<tr>
<td>16.00 - 16.25</td>
<td>Life expectancy for PLWH in the context of the &quot;4th 90&quot;</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Dr Jaime Vera, Brighton</td>
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<td>16.25 - 16.50</td>
<td>ART in older patients – what’s best?</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Dr Ranjababu Kulasegaram, GSTT</td>
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<tr>
<td>16.50 - 17.15</td>
<td>Frailty services and coordination of complex care</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Cheryl Gower, National AIDS Trust</td>
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<td>17.15 - 17.30</td>
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<tr>
<td>17.30 - 18.00</td>
<td>BASHH AGM</td>
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<tr>
<td>18.00 - 19.00</td>
<td>Drinks reception</td>
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**BASHH AGM 2019 - 10 January 2020**

All BASHH members are invited to attend the BASHH AGM which will be held on Friday 10th January 2020 at the Royal Society of Medicine, London at 17.30 hrs.

The meeting will be followed by a sparkling wine reception at 6 pm. This is a text block. You can use it to add text to your template.

**The Board has approved charging non-members £40 so please add this to:**

**BASHH Scientific meeting - 10 January 2020 at the RSM, London**

**PLEASE BRING YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARD OR DOWNLOAD YOUR UNIQUE QR CODE TO YOUR DIGITAL DEVICE.**

Non-members of BASHH will be charged £40 for attendance at one or both sessions of this meeting, as agreed by BASHH Board on 13 September 2019. Those who join BASHH on the day will have this fee waived. Payment for attendance or initial membership must be paid by card at booking in.

**The HIV & GSM-SIG Presents: Ageing and sex, with an LGBT focus**

BASHH Scientific Meeting at Royal Society of Medicine, London on Friday 10th January 2020

HIV & GSM-SIG: Ageing and sex from 13:00 – 17:30, followed by the BASHH AGM
** We are looking for SpRs to present interesting older LGBT specific GUM/HIV cases – if interested please contact Dr Matthew Page at matthewpage1@nhs.net **

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**Latest News**

**Chair of the BASHH National Audit Group**
Please note that Vanessa Apea has taken over from Ann Sullivan as Chair of NAG. BASHH thank Ann for her many years of service to the National Audit Group.

**Cathy Harman MDT Innovation Award 2020**
Applications are now open for the Cathy Harman Award 2020 presented on behalf of the ‘BASHH Sexual Health Adviser & Nurse Special Interest Group’.

All clinicians (BASHH members & non-BASHH members) as part of an MDT are welcome to apply.

‘Click here’ to open the webpage to download the ‘Award overview’ document and the ‘Application form’.
Applications to admin@bashh.org
Deadline for submission - Friday 28th February 2020 by 5pm

Queries to BASHH Nurse rep Mr Jodie Walker-Haywood jodiehw_82@hotmail.co.uk

**Awards and Prizes**
BASHH is pleased to announce that the following awards will be offered in 2020:

- **BASHH Undergraduate Essay Prize.** Please note the closing date is 31/1/2020 [https://www.bashh.org/events-education/prizes-and-awards/undergraduate-prize/](https://www.bashh.org/events-education/prizes-and-awards/undergraduate-prize/)

- **BASHH / PHE fellowships.** Please [click here](https://www.bashh.org/events-education/prizes-and-awards/undergraduate-prize/) (closing date April 2020)

- **BASHH Educational Fellowship.** Further information to be announced soon (closing date April 2020)

**BASHH Undergraduate essay prize**
We would like to draw your attention to the BASHH undergraduate prizes which will close for entries on 31 January 2020. This essay competition is open to all UK undergraduates with a prize of £200 being awarded to the winners. Please see the BASHH [website](https://www.bashh.org/events-education/prizes-and-awards/undergraduate-prize/) for more information.
Disseminated Gonococcal Infection – Initiation of enhanced surveillance in England

In recent months, there have been reports of increased incidence of disseminated gonococcal infection (DGI) in Europe and North America. PHE is initiating enhanced surveillance in order to quantify and characterise DGI cases in England and determine whether specific public health actions are needed.

Enhanced surveillance

We are requesting that cases of confirmed or probable DGI (see definitions in box below) are reported to PHE as follows:

- Sexual health services should email grasp.enquiries@phe.gov.uk, stating that a confirmed/probable case has been identified. Please provide your contact information but do not include any patient-identifiable information. PHE will follow-up all emails.
- Microbiology laboratories should refer all N gonorrhoeae isolates identified from non-mucosal sites, and any N gonorrhoeae isolates from mucosal sites which are from cases of probable DGI, to the PHE Antimicrobial Resistance in STIs (AMRSTI) Reference Laboratory, Colindale. The referral form must clearly state that the isolate is associated with DGI, so that your laboratory is not charged.

Box. Definitions of confirmed/probable DGI cases for reporting:

Confirmed case: N gonorrhoeae identified (either by culture or by NAAT) from a non-mucosal specimen such as blood or synovial fluid

Probable case: N gonorrhoeae identified from a mucosal site (urogenital, rectal or pharyngeal), and with a clinical presentation consistent with DGI

Sexual transmission of dengue virus in Spain

For information: the ECDC has published the results of a rapid risk assessment after a case of sexually transmitted dengue virus in Spain

As you’ll see, they’ve concluded the following: Based on the current limited evidence, sexual transmission of dengue appears to be a rare route of transmission and the risk (both among MSM and heterosexuals), is considered extremely low.

The BMA Foundation for Medical Research awards grants and prizes to further medical research.

This year, the Foundation will be awarding the BMA MEDFASH prize for improving the quality of HIV and/or sexual healthcare.

The prize is open to any health or social care professional or organisation actively involved in the delivery of HIV and/or sexual healthcare in the UK. Applicants do not have to be a doctor or BMA member to apply.

Given the scope of your organisation we would be grateful if you could disseminate this information to any interested individuals and potential applicants. Please find attached a flyer for circulation.

For further details on the prize or to find out how to apply, please visit the BMA Foundation webpages or email the BMA Foundation team on researchgrants@bma.org.uk

Do you want to be more involved with BASHH?

Webteam chair

Applications are sought from BASHH members for the position of BASHH webteam chair.

The BASHH website is hosted and maintained by the technical team at KSAM (BASHH secretariat) and the webteam chair role involves editorial oversight for BASHH’s website and social media strategy (in conjunction with the BASHH
media group chair), this position reports to the BASHH board (co-opted). Candidates would need to commit to the role for a minimum 2 year period.

For informal discussions please contact the current webteam chair, Dr Martyn Wood wood@bashh.org

To express interest in the role please submit a short personal statement (no more than 1 side of A4), outlining your interest for the role to admin@bashh.org

**Could you be mentor for a doctor working in sexual health?**
The Mentoring Group are looking for new mentors for the BASHH BHIVA FSRH Mentoring Scheme in most regions across the UK.

If you have at least 5 years’ experience working at consultant or SAS doctor level in sexual health / HIV and would like to use your experience and understanding to support the development of a colleague, we would like to hear from you.

If you have no prior training in mentoring, this can be gained by attending our one-day course on 6th December 2019.

Please contact Dr Emma Fox at emma.fox2@nhs.net for further information or to express an interest.

**Sexual Dysfunction Special Interest Group – Nurse Representative**
The Sexual Dysfunction SIG is looking to recruit a dynamic nurse to join us with immediate effect! The group meets once per year (usually in London) to plan the following year’s events. We host annual educational days – alternating the ‘ABC of Sexual Dysfunction’ with the ‘Sexual Dysfunction Masterclass’ both of which are popular and receive excellent educational feedback.

We also undertake regular projects and work collaboratively with other national bodies involved in the care with those affected by sexual function problems.

We would like to welcome a new nurse group member. You should be enthusiastic about the field and ideally have some clinical experience. You should be willing to take an active role in the group’s activities and be a BASHH member.

Please apply by sending a brief CV and a covering letter to Dr David Goldmeier, explaining why you would like to join the group and any skills you think would be useful. For an informal discussion or enquiries, please contact Dr David Goldmeier (Chair)  -  d.goldmeier@nhs.net.

Closing date for applications is: Friday 17th January 2020

**NURSING ASSOCIATES SURVEY**
The Sexual Health Adviser and Nurses Group are looking into the new role of Nursing Associate, and how this role may be utilised within Sexual Health.

We would really appreciate all BASHH members taking time to complete this short survey to see how many trusts are already using NAs or are likely to in future.  https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/NCPXZY8

Feel free to circulate to other team members and colleagues.
Online forms
There are now the following online forms on the BASHH website to help you provide updates to the BASHH team:
Website update form
Event Notification form
Clinic update form
Payment Request form
Sponsorship Invoice Request Form
Newsletter Item Request form

BASHH are also planning to have an online expenses claim form.

For the latest news from HIV Prevention England please go to their website

Upcoming Events and Courses

FSRH BASHH JOINT CONFERENCE 2020
REGISTRATION IS OPEN

BASHH and FSRH continue to produce this highly regarded collaborative conference. Registration commences in mid-November for next conference on 17th January 2020.
The programme will focus on special clinical presentation and groups, and collaborative care across the specialties work. More details can be found here.

From global to local: addressing the threat of AMR to STI control
On 9-10th January 2020, the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) is hosting a two-day conference, entitled: ‘From global to local: addressing the threat of AMR to STI control’.

This two-day conference will bring together experts working at the interface of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and STI research, policy and practice. Themes covered will include surveillance, treatment guidelines, new treatment initiatives, new diagnostic initiatives, antibiotic stewardship, and vaccines.

The aims of the conference are to:
• Develop a network to share knowledge and experiences of effective strategies and bottlenecks for tackling STI AMR, both locally and globally
• Identify bottlenecks and solutions for tackling STI AMR
• Develop a short- and long-term action plan on STIs and AMR

The conference is being organised by LSHTM’s STI Research Interest Group (STIRIG), co-hosted with and supported by LSHTM’s AMR Centre, Public Health England, Bristol Health Partners’ Sexual Health Improvement Programme Health Integration Team (SHIP), the British Association for Sexual Health and HIV (BASHH), and the World Health Organization.

More details, and FREE registration, at: https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/news-events/events/global-local-addressing-threat-amr-sti-control
STIF Competency Train the Trainer workshop – LONDON 2020
The London STIF Competency Train the Trainer workshop will be held on Friday 6 March 2020 at the Royal Society of Medicine. 09.30 – 12.45
Registration fee: £75.00
To register please click here: http://www.stif.org.uk/stif_ttt
This half day practical workshop is recommended for GUM medical and nurse consultants, SAS doctors and clinical nurse specialists involved in training and assessing doctors and nurses within their own departments. It provides guidance about running the STIF Competency training and assessment programmes and how to use the assessment tools. Attendance at the workshop is a requirement for STIF Competency Trainer registration

Registration open! – HIV Masterclass 2020
The eagerly anticipated BASHH HIV Masterclass will move to Sheffield for the 19-20th March 2020. Following on from the success of last year’s meeting, this Masterclass will include medical updates on topics related to HIV as well as interactive case-based discussions and sessions on ethical and psychosocial aspects of long-term care for PLWH.

In order to avoid disappointment, we recommend registering early.

After careful consideration of feedback in recent years, we have decided to continue with a small charge for the Masterclass. We still feel this offers excellent value as it includes 2 days of education, a night of accommodation, all daytime refreshments, breakfast and dinner. Discounted rates will be available for BASHH Members. More details can be found here

Doctors in Training (DIT)
Save the Date: 6th June 2020, Bournemouth International Centre, for the annual pre-BASHH DIT training day. The program is already looking fabulous.
Work is continuing to produce a supporting document for those current trainees who may wish to consider a CESR in General Internal Medicine.
Opportunity to help with @BASHH_trainees Twitter account. Please contact trainees@BASHH.org if you are interested in supporting this.
We are putting together a short newsletter to celebrate the achievements of GU trainees across the countries. If you have anything you would like to share or promote within our group then please email trainees@BASHH.org with the details.
If you are not on the national trainee email distribution list and wish to be, then please email trainees@BASHH.org with your details. It’s a great way to keep informed of training and professional opportunities.

Joint BASHH/BHIVA One day Diploma in HIV Medicine update
Join us in Manchester on Monday 13th 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.

Programme (0900-1630)
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
Help wanted

Independent Commission to end HIV transmissions in England by 2030

The HIV Commission is asking individuals and organisations to submit written evidence in order to inform a set of recommendations to end new HIV transmissions and HIV-attributed deaths in England by 2030.

The Commission is aiming to further explore evidence on five key themes and welcomes your contributions on them or any additional topics you consider of importance:

- **Theme 1:** Understanding trends, trajectories and opportunities to end the HIV epidemic
- **Theme 2:** Combination Prevention: what works in preventing HIV
- **Theme 3:** Optimising HIV care services for the future
- **Theme 4:** Opportunities for addressing the wider determinants of HIV transmission
- **Theme 5:** Community-specific considerations and approaches

For more information on what the Commission is looking on each theme, please read their terms of reference.

Submissions should reach the commission by 5pm on Friday 31st January 2020.

More information can be found via the commissions website [www.hivcommission.org.uk](http://www.hivcommission.org.uk).

**Consultant Census: Deadline 11th**

Over the last few years the completion rate by GUM consultants of the RCP census of consultant physicians has been less than 50%.

The census provides the specialty as well as the three Royal Colleges of Physicians with essential data that we use to lobby for changes, such as additional consultant posts and medical student places. By filling in the census, you’re contributing not just your own data but to the wider case we’re making.

You should have received a personalised email from the three Royal Colleges of Physicians which will allow you to access your form.

If you haven’t received your email, or are having difficulties accessing your form, please contact mwucensus@rcplondon.ac.uk.

The census will close on Wednesday 11 December

Jackie Sherrard and Ashini Fox
BASHH Workforce leads

**STIF Course Evaluation Study**

STIF courses were originally setup in 2002 to help increase primary care involvement in STI management. To date, the STIF course has never formally been evaluated on a nationwide basis against its original objectives. We are therefore conducting an evaluation study assessing primary care doctors and nurses attending a STIF course. We are asking STIF Course Directors to participate and will be in contact by email.

For more information, email STIF.evaluation@bashh.net.
Could you mentor a doctor working in sexual health?
The BASHH / BHIVA / FSRH mentoring group are looking for new mentors across the UK. You need to have worked as a SAS doctor or consultant for at least 5 years and have undergone training. You need to be empathic and willing to give your time to support and guide a colleague who may benefit from your experience.
Our one-day mentor training course provides suitable training (next course – 6th December 2019), or you can attend training through your deanery or employer. If you are interested or want more information, please contact Dr Emma Fox at emma.fox2@nhs.net.

HIV/BBV SIG – SAS rep vacancy
The HIV/BBV SIG has a vacancy for an SAS doctor working in HIV or HIV/hepatitis. Please send a short paragraph indicating where you work and why you’d like to join the SIG, to Tristan Barber, SIG Chair, t.barber@nhs.net by 20th December 2019 in order to apply.

Genital Dermatology SIG
Interested in Genital Dermatology?

The GD SIG committee has two vacancies for enthusiastic members to join us. You will be expected to help in the organisation of our highly successful educational study days that are run twice a year. There are also opportunities to be involved in guideline revision and contribute to training and education issues regarding genital dermatology.

Additionally, we are looking for a replacement trainee representative to join our group. Past trainee members have undertaken surveys which have been presented at BASHH conference.

If you are interested please email the GD SIG Chair christine.bates@liverpoolft.nhs.uk with details of your experience and reasons why you would like to be a member of the GD SIG.

BASHH members are asked to ensure that their details are correct in the BASHH database, by accessing your profile on the BASHH website

Short survey on HTLV testing
There is an online survey on HTLV testing, looking at who requests testing, the indications used locally and how results are reported. The survey takes about 5 minutes to complete and results will be used to help improve HTLV testing pathways. We would be very grateful if BASHH members were able to complete the survey via the link below.

https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/HTLVsurvey2019

For any queries, please contact Dr Heli Harvala, Consultant Virologist at NHS Blood and Transplant: Hel.HarvalaSimmonds@nhsbt.nhs.uk

Future Direction of the Specialty - Important Survey for Consultants and Doctors in Training
The Joint Specialty Committee for Genitourinary Medicine are looking to gain insights from consultants and doctors in training regarding the current challenges in Genitourinary Medicine and to inform perspectives on the future direction of the specialty.

This survey is for doctors who are on the GMC specialist register in GUM only, whatever your scope of practice or working title you use. This survey takes 5 - 10 minutes and please note you should only respond once.

The survey will close on the 6th January 2020. A link to the survey can be found here.
WE NEED YOU TO UPDATE THE CLINIC FINDER ON THE BASHH WEBSITE

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.

Helping newly diagnosed patients with herpes

You have all spoken to patients who break down in tears when diagnosed with genital herpes. You need to have the words and facts that will dispel their fears at your fingertips.

The Herpes Viruses Association can send you "an inspirational speaker" for your staff training events on "Helping you to Help your Patients with Herpes.” Feedback score is always over 90% with occasional 100% satisfaction. Some clinics invite us back every few years for a refresher, and to help new staff.

Patient resources are also available with the most accessible the PDF on [https://herpes.org.uk/publications/pl-printable/](https://herpes.org.uk/publications/pl-printable/)

### Diary Dates

**2020**

BASHH Scientific Meeting - 10 January at the RSM, London

BASHH Annual General Meeting - 10 January, RSM, London at 17.30pm

[From global to local: addressing the threat of AMR to STI control](https://www.bashh.org/events) - 9-10 January in London

[FSRH BASHH JOINT CONFERENCE 2020](https://www.bashh.org/events) - 17 January at RSM, London

[Sexual Offences: Working Together Best practice update for Scotland](https://www.bashh.org/events) - 24 January in Glasgow

[HIV Prevention England](https://www.bashh.org/events) - 18 February in London

Scientific meeting - 6 March at RSM, London

STIF Competency Train the Trainer workshop – LONDON 2020 - 6 March at RSM, London

HIV Masterclass 2020 - 19-20 March in Sheffield

[RCP Annual Conference](https://www.bashh.org/events) - 23/24 April at the ICC, Birmingham

Northern Professional Development Conference - 18-20 May in Manchester

Doctors in Training (DIT) - 6 June in Bournemouth

BASHH Scientific meeting - 2 October at RSM, London
The deadlines for newsletters in 2020, please make a note in your calendar to ensure that news items are received promptly

- 22 January
- 25 March
- 27 May
- 22 July
- 23 September
- 25 November