

injecting drug use were age group 20–24 years OR = 3.4 95% CI 1.5–8.3, smoking status OR = 2.1 95% CI 1.2–4.5, daily alcohol intake OR = 3.1 95% CI 2.0–7.7 and rural area OR = 0.6 95% CI 0.5–0.8.

Conclusion Harm reduction approaches need to be instituted among out of school youths. Programming among them to reduce injecting drug use is important. Their HIV prevalence of 5.2% is above the national youth average of 3.0%. Multi-pronged strategies including motivational programs to reduce drug use and HIV risk are urgently needed. This will involve age-specific targeted interventions to effectively improve their health.

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Young Investigators Oral Presentations

Y1 - Surviving and thriving in STI research: research tools for young investigators

Y1.1 WHAT IS THE NEW EDITOR OF SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES GOING TO DO WITH THE JOURNAL?

William C Miller*. *The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC, USA*

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In January, 2015, I became the new Editor-in-Chief for the journal Sexually Transmitted Diseases. Taking over for Julie Schachter, who had been the Editor for 25 years, was a daunting task. He rescued the journal, nurtured it, and established it as a leading journal in our field. My job, simply put, is to maintain and strengthen it. Simultaneously, I will work to ensure that the high quality science in our field gets the attention it deserves.

What do you need to do to get your research published in Sexually Transmitted Diseases? First and foremost, do good research. That is the key for publication in any journal. Second, communicate that research clearly and succinctly. Many of us do not write as clearly as we think we do. Third, be responsive to the reviewers. Our reviewers do their best to provide meaningful comments that will strengthen the communication of your work. Respect them. Respond to them. And only rarely should your response be a rebuttal. The best way to ensure that your paper is not accepted, even when it was close, is to dismiss the reviewers' comments.

Going forward, you can expect to see a few minor changes in the journal. We will publish more program-oriented papers, including some from workers in the field who are not necessarily "scientists". We will also expand our coverage of HIV infection, focusing on HIV transmission, diagnosis, prevention, and monitoring, and excluding purely treatment studies. Generally, we will work to identify papers that will be difference-makers in the field of sexually transmitted diseases.

We also will be increasing our focus on young investigators. We hope to facilitate the growth of the type of people attending this meeting – encouraging bright, talented scientists to choose sexually transmitted diseases research as their career.

Y1.2 INSIDE THE WORLD OF JOURNAL PUBLISHING

Ginny Barbour*. *Australasian Open Access Support Group/Committee on Publication Ethics*

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Journal publishing is often felt to be a black box that hides a complex system that authors have little control over. I'd argue that authors should think of publishing as a partnership between them and the journal, not a battle. In this session I'll briefly outline the basic processes that are common to all journals, suggest some ways of optimising your manuscript's chances and highlight some common pitfalls.

Y1.3 WHAT DO FUNDERS WANT TO SEE IN A RESEARCH PROPOSAL?

Carolyn Deal*. *Division of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, Bethesda, MD, USA*

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The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is a medical research agency of the United States government. Its mission is to support improve health. The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) conducts and supports research to better understand, treat, and prevent infectious, immunologic, and allergic diseases. Investigators seeking support for their research interact with a variety of NIH staff from program officers to grant managers and contract officers. This session will discuss the structure of the NIH, the various people and their roles, and some of the key funding mechanisms. An important focus will be the role of mentors, both at NIH and within the broader academic community, in facilitating the funding process for Young investigators.

Y1.4 WHAT IS THE SECRET OF THE MENTOR-MENTEE RELATIONSHIPS?

K Holmes*. *Professor, Allergy and Infectious Dis. Professor, Global Health, Adjunct Professor, Epidemiology, Adjunct Professor, Microbiology, School of Public Health, University of Washington, USA*

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I've had the opportunity to mentor over 150 pre- and post-doctoral fellows and faculty colleagues, several of whom have mentored or advised many more. From the Mentor's perspective, many keys to success with Mentees are well known. For example, define goals explicitly. Back up your mentoring commitments with long-term investments of time, required resources, regular meetings, and a research project of mutual interest. Provide emotional and psychological support; directly assist with career development. Train mentees in the anatomy and brevity of a manuscript. Optimal mentoring is often inter-disciplinary, with the primary mentor clearly designated. Mentor on publications, posters and presentations.

Regarding "Secrets" (symposium organizers assigned the title of this talk), my first Secret is to assess the passion, enthusiasm and initiative for the work as shown in the eyes, language and demeanor of the potential Mentee. Second, get to know what is