

Plenary Sessions

Congress Keynote Lecture

Sunday 13 September 2015

6.00pm – 7.00pm

KL VACCINES AGAINST STIS: WHERE HAVE WE GOT TO?Ian Frazer. *Translational Research Institute, Queensland, Australia*

10.1136/sextrans-2015-052270.1

STIs are an increasing global challenge for public health. Infections with HSV and with drug resistant gonococci are endemic, and chlamydial infection contributes extensively to reproductive problems, while immunosuppression from HIV infection has resulted in epidemic spread of XDR Tuberculosis. Antivirals have converted HIV to a chronic disease, and have helped to control HSV. However, the underlying infections are no less frequent. Immunisation is the single most effective public health measure after safe food and water, and has resulted in control of many previously epidemic viral infections, and eradication of smallpox. The universal HPV prophylactic immunisation program in Australia, has over eight years dramatically reduced the incidence of genital warts, and of cervical pre-cancer, amongst immunised and unimmunized young Australians. However, 60 years of effort have failed to produce an effective prophylactic or therapeutic vaccine against herpes viruses, despite genetic stability and multiple immunogenic viral protein antigens. Similarly, 20 years of efforts have produced vaccines with only limited impact on prevention of HIV infection. Recent successes with vaccines effective against systemic bacterial infections offer some prospects of success for bacterial STIs, while novel vaccine technologies offer similar promise for viral STIs, though the value proposition for industry will need to be developed. The health community will need to accept vaccine programs that are not so much for individual protection as strategies to reduce the community burden of disease, and to develop effective education strategies to encourage uptake of new vaccines as they are developed.

Plenary Session PL01

Monday 14 September 2015

9.15am – 10.45am

PL01.1 GOLLOW LECTURE – STI AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN 2015 AND BEYONDHelen Rees. *Wits Reproductive Health & HIV Institute and Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa, and Honorary Professor, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, London, UK*

10.1136/sextrans-2015-052270.2

The Millennium Development Goals will expire in 2015 and the world is reshaping its vision towards a new set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Under the MDGs there were measurable targets focusing on reducing child mortality, improving maternal health and combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other

diseases. The MDGs provided an opportunity for a continued focus on the prevention and control of STIs, given the considerable burden of morbidity and mortality associated with STIs, and the relationship with HIV, particularly among women and child in low and middle income countries. Even with this focus, the STI field has struggled to achieve significant changes in disease burden, although there have been some notable achievements e.g. eradication of congenital syphilis in Cuba. Unlike the MDGs, the SDG has only one health goal to “Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all ages”. This loss of specificity presents a challenge to the STI field, and is contrary to notions of targeted interventions for populations most at risk. In addition, new global commitments have steered funding agencies towards topic specific funding pledges. The GAVI refurbishment, the London Summit on Family Planning, and the international response to Ebola and to global health emergencies, means that both bilateral and national health funding are being spread across a wider range of priority issues. So where does this leave STIs and has the world ceased to prioritise this field? Has the status of STIs become more aligned to the definition of Neglected Tropical Diseases i.e. infectious diseases that principally impact the world's poorest people. This talk will explore the status of the STI field and make suggestions about how we can reinvigorate its importance within a changing global context.

PL01.2 STI AND THE OPEN ACCESS REVOLUTION IN PUBLISHINGVirginia Barbour. *Australian Open Access Support Group, Brisbane, Australia, Founding Co-Editor of PLOS Medicine and Chair of the Committee on Publication Ethics*

10.1136/sextrans-2015-052270.3

Sexually transmitted infections (STI) and HIV researchers publish in scholarly journals to disseminate their work. The scholarly publishing industry has transformed beyond recognition in the past 20 years with the advent of the Internet. Not only have methods of dissemination of scholarly work changed, in addition there has been a proliferation of many different aspects of publishing, with innovations in the types of material considered as academic output, changes in peer review, and business models and new opportunities for engagement post publication. At the same time there have been fundamental changes in much of the infrastructure of publishing, including author identity, versioning of articles and linking within and between articles.

We are at a critical point in the opening up of access to the literature and what happens next will determine whether it really does become a global, and not just a developed world, public good. Skirmishes around some of these innovations have distracted from this vital debate. It is crucial for the next phase in scholarly publishing that everyone involved – be it authors, reviewers or editors – engages with this exciting debate to ensure that publishing STI and HIV research serves their needs.

PL01.3 THE GENOMICS OF CHLAMYDIA TRACHOMATIS: A CONSTANT SURPRISENick Thomson. *Pathogen Genetics, Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute, Cambridge and Professor of Bacterial Genomics and Evolution, Department of Pathogen Molecular Biology, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, London, UK*

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