New approaches to partner notification have emerged over the past decade. This month we publish the clinical and economic results of a trial of Accelerated Partner Therapy, a form of expedited partner therapy adapted to the legislative framework of the UK. An editorial by Dombrowski and Golden provides a perspective from ‘across the pond’ on the potential of Accelerated Partner Therapy. Policymakers and practitioners will always have to adapt partner notification practice to local professional and cultural contexts, so it is good to see new models of partner notification emerging that may serve the needs of countries where straightforward patient delivered therapy is not approved.

We are pleased to include an editorial this month by David Gurnham, an academic lawyer, on the role of clinical needs of countries where straightforward patient delivered therapy is not approved. Policymakers and practitioners will always have to adapt partner notification practice to local professional and cultural contexts, so it is good to see new models of partner notification emerging that may serve the needs of countries where straightforward patient delivered therapy is not approved.

Two papers explore the interaction of psychosocial factors and STI risk this month. Pratt et al describe an association between current depression and higher risk sexual behaviours in women (but not men) in the USA’s NHANES (National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey). This association related both to recent risky behaviour, and early experience. The authors emphasise the need for providers to be aware of this association, and its implications for safe sex counselling needs. An Estonian study of condom use among drug injectors by Uusikuła et al identifies fatalism about HIV infection within discordant relationships as a factor inhibiting consistent condom use. Both these studies identify specific groups and prevention activities that could reduce their risk, and deserve careful attention by those of us planning health promotion activities.

Risk communication is a common topic in this journal. It is worrying to read that there is confusion between cervical cancer screening and chlamydia screening among many young women in a US population. The findings of Pavlinac et al that oral HIV RNA correlated closely with viral load—but was also impacted by local oral factors—should be helpful to practitioners helping people assess the risk associated with oral sex within discordant partnerships.

The impact of incarceration on risk to partners, international variation in discordancy, and progress made in the UK in access to STI services are other topics covered in this month’s journal. Please do look at our blog, listen to our podcasts and follow us on Twitter to make sure you are getting up to the minute news!

**REFERENCES**