Now conference season is in full swing, many of us are looking forward to the biennial meeting of the International Society for Sexually Transmitted Infections Research (ISSTDR), which this year meets in Vienna under the presidency of Angelika Stary. We look forward to attending this outstanding conference and for the first time sending Sean Cassidy as our roving reporter who will be interviewing speakers, tweeting from the conference hall, and reporting from the social events. If you missed us live, have a look at our website and links to the event of the year.

The theme of co-infection continues with a report on HPV and repeat syphilis infection among Danish men with syphilis, in an article by Salado-Rasmussen and colleagues.1 This is sobering reading, showing a 9.8% 5-year risk of HIV diagnosis after one episode of syphilis, and 14.8% after two. Many reports tell us that most people at highest risk of HIV do attend sexual health services beforehand. However, it is not clear from the audit by Desai et al2 that uptake of behavioural interventions for those who report oral and anal sex, in a letter by Shaw et al.3 Finally, Stekel et al report a public health campaign for MSM aimed at increasing awareness of primary HIV infection symptoms.4

The epidemiology of chlamydia remains a vexed topic, and this month’s contributions are no exception to the trend of cautionary tales. Torrone and colleagues demonstrate how, depending on choice of denominator, three different narratives about reinfection rates can be inferred from the same dataset.5 Serology as a tool for assessing past history of chlamydia remains elusive, according to a report by Horner et al,6 who describe falls in seropositivity no clear pattern after 6 months.7 Fisher et al present two papers on another area of uncertainty, estimation of the size of high-risk populations.8 9

Lastly, we have a series of papers on clinical populations that many of our readers will find familiar. Wiewel et al explore HIV diagnosis and uptake of care in New York City, showing an increasing proportion of cases in foreign individual, who may be remaining undiagnosed for longer.10 Croucher et al report on a cohort of perinatally HIV-infected young adults in the UK, demonstrating strikingly high sexual health need.11 Those of you providing prison services will do well to promote Butler et al’s paper which shows that condoms increased safe sex with no evidence that they increased either consensual or non-consensual sexual activity.12

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REFERENCES