Highlights from this issue

Jackie A Cassell, Editor

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 click through @STI_BMJ for an update and links to the event of the year. We are delighted that the ISSTDR Board has again chosen STI to publish Ison, along with several members of our distinguished editors, including two of our editors, W. We need to work harder to achieve sufficient coverage at an early enough age.

Several papers explore diagnostic issues, and a particularly fascinating one is the for- tuitous discovery of lymphogranuloma venereum through its cytopathic effect on cell lines, reported by Busson and colleagues. Toby and colleagues present a case report on the use of immunostaining in a case of syphilis, which mimicked a lymphoproliferative disorder. Missed diagnoses also raise questions about protocols for screening women who report oral and anal sex, in a letter by Shaw et al. Finally, Stekler et al report a public health campaign for MSM aimed at increasing awareness of primary HIV infection symptoms.

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. Serology as a tool for assessing past history of chlamydia remains elusive, according to a report by Horner et al, who describe falls in seropositivity early on for women after one infection, but no clear pattern after 6 months. Fisher et al present two papers on another area of uncertainty, estimation of the size of high-risk populations.

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 individuals, who may be remaining undiagnosed for longer. Croucher et al report on a cohort of perinatally HIV-infected young adults in the UK, demonstrating strikingly high sexual health need. 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.

Competing interests None.

Provenance and peer review Commissioned, not peer reviewed.

REFERENCES

3. Rositch AF, Garvet PE, Smith JS. Growing evidence that HPV infection is associated with an increase in HIV acquisition, exploring the issue of HPV vaccination. Sex Transm Infect 2013;89:357.