As we go to press, life feels very uncertain for many of our readers. The USA awaits the outcome of a presidential election in which one of the candidates promises a punitive and intolerant approach to the health consequences of migration and diaspora. In the UK, where the majority of our print subscribers are based—the seasons celebrated by the thump of STI journal on the doormat—our new government is widely seen as promoting xenophobia, even racism. And Syria burns.

It is at times like this it is important to remember the special place of venerology - now genitourinary medicine or sexual health - and its origins amidst the wreckage of war and migration.1–3

I recently visited a relative having a rough post-operative ride, and chatted to the physician checking her over. He asked what I specialised in, and when I told him he visibly shuddered. It’s a while since I last met with a reaction like this from a colleague, and it reminded me of how important it is to tell our colleagues and the public about the value of our work. When I first started in genitourinary medicine as a clinical assistant, my consultant Dr Stephen Tchamouroff warned me that while people would thank a cardiologist at parties for operating on themself or their family or beloved and for a better life, natural catastrophe, yearning to join and literature are shot through with the fully concealed while contemporary art eases were heavily stigmatised and care-asylums which would only begin to empty the landscape.13 14 The science has changed, and new technologies such as asymptomatic HPV-related neovaginal lesions in transgender women: case series and clinical manifestations.12 Novel diagnostic technologies and the discovery of new microbes really do change the landscape.13 14 The science has changed, and new technologies such as HPV make a real difference to prevention that will transform the clinical landscape.

But as the political landscape darkens, we must remember who we are and where we came from. We must continue to stand up for global populations vulnerable to STIs and HIV, even as our political leaders create ignorance and fear.

Competing interests None.
Provenance and peer review Commissioned, not peer reviewed

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Highlights from this issue

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