recognize the strengths of individuals as active agents in their health, and not merely passive recipients of health services.

To support WHO normative guideline on innovative self-care strategies for sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), a conceptual framework was developed and the evidence base was evaluated on interventions in transition from provision by facility-based, healthcare providers to delivery in the self-care environment, including STI and HPV self-sampling. While further research is needed on user understanding, uptake and access, our reviews suggest that STI and HPV self-sampling are effective strategies to increase STI and HPV testing uptake respectively.

Challenge remain, however, for vulnerable, marginalized and socioeconomically underprivileged populations, who have the poorest health outcomes globally, to access quality health innovations, including self-care interventions. The WHO guideline on self-care interventions for SRHR is framed around key principles of human rights, gender equality and a holistic, people-centred approach to health and well-being. The potential benefits of such an approach includes the creation of a safe and supportive enabling environment which can potentially increase health coverage, access and quality of services; and thereby reduce health inequities. There is already widespread and rapidly growing use of self-care interventions. When these interventions are people-centred, and evidence-driven, even vulnerable populations will be able to exercise their rights to health, to information, to autonomous decision-making.

Disclosure No significant relationships.

S11 – RESEARCH ON THE VAGINAL MICROBIOME: ADVANCES & CONTROVERSIES

Tuesday, July 16, 2019
10:45 AM – 12:15 PM

S11.1 INTRODUCTION TO THE VAGINAL MICROBIOME PRE-CONFERENCE SYMPOSIUM
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10.1136/sextrans-2019-sti.53

This will comprise an introduction to this session.
Disclosure No significant relationships.

S11.2 LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE PRE-MEETING SYMPOSIUM ON CHARACTERIZING THE VAGINAL MICROBIOTA THROUGH A BLINDED MULTI-LABORATORY COLLABORATION
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10.1136/sextrans-2019-sti.54

In studies of the microbiome, variability can arise from numerous steps in the microbial profiling process, including DNA extraction, PCR amplification, and bioinformatics approaches for taxonomic assignment. This variability may contribute to issues with reproducibility in clinical and epidemiologic studies. Others have described the contribution of different steps in the microbial profiling process to measurement variability in samples comprised of bacteria from the human gut. We conducted a comparative study across four laboratories to better understand sources of variation in describing the human vaginal microbiota. In this session, we will share highlights from the pre-conference symposium that presented lessons learned from this comparative project and discuss implications for future vaginal microbiota research.
Disclosure No significant relationships.