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# REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNION AGAINST SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS FROM NOVEMBER 1999 (38TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SUN CITY, SOUTH AFRICA) TO SEPTEMBER 2000 (EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, BUDAPEST, HUNGARY)

Monday 4 September 2000 at 9.00am in the Conference Venue, Pesti Vigadó, Budapest.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The new Executive Committee met after the last General Assembly at the Sun City Convention Centre, and will meet again just before the next (39th) General Assembly in Berlin next June, in association with the 9th IUSTI World STD/AIDS Congress, and the meeting of the ISSTD.

The meeting in Sun City was the first time the Union's Executive Committee had ever met in the African Region.

It is a great pleasure to thank and acknowledge the work done by The President of the Congress, **Professor Attila Horvath**, and the organising Secretary, **Dr Viktoria Varkonyi**, and their Committee members, for this European Regional IUSTI meeting in Budapest. This Scientific Conference has been highly successful, with papers presented from many nations in Central and Eastern Europe (Hungary, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Croatia, Estonia, Germany, Great Britain, Latvia, Poland, Romania, Russia, Slovenia, Sweden, Ukraine, Yugoslavia) and also from Africa (Tanzania), Asia-Pacific (Thailand, Philippines and Australia), Latin America (Brazil), and North America (USA).

## THE REGIONS

All Regional Directors' terms of office expire at the next General Assembly in Berlin, and the current holders or new nominees are eligible for re-election or election as appropriate.

### EUROPE

The European Branch continues to flourish, as evidenced by this excellent Scientific Conference in Budapest, and the World Executive Committee is pleased to support the Branch by holding our meeting here. We thank and congratulate **Professor Attila Horvath** and **Dr Viktoria Varkonyi** for the success of this meeting.

I have a strong commitment as current President to maintain and where possible enhance the ever valuable contributions of European Branch members to the effective functioning of the Executive Committee and to the IUSTI as a whole.

This region is also poised to hold the 7th IUSTI World STD/AIDS Congress and 39th General Assembly in June next year, kindly hosted by **Peter Kohl** and his Organising Committee in Berlin. At the Sun City General Assembly he handed over the Regional Directorship to **Dr Angelika Stary**, Treasurer of the European Branch Committee. **Dr Jean-Marc Bohbot** continues as European Branch Committee Chair, and this Committee has held its business meeting in Budapest too, officiated by **Dr Angelika Stary** and **Dr Geo von Grogh**.

### AFRICA

We offer our warmest thanks and congratulations to **Ron Ballard** and his Organising Committee for the great success of last November's Congress and business meetings, in Sun City.

**Dr Ibra Ndoye** continues to hold both the positions of Regional Director and also Chair of the Branch Committee, viz. the African Union against Sexually Transmitted Infections (AUSTI).

ASIA-PACIFIC. The new Regional Director is **Professor Verapol Chandeying** (cverapol@ratree.psu.ac.th). Thanks go to **Dr T Thirumorthy** for his term as previous Asia-Pacific Regional Director. **Dr Janet Say** (pjanetsay@hotmail.com) continues as Asia-Pacific Branch Committee Chair.

India is hosting the 11th Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting from the 13-15th of next month in Chandigarh. The Organising Secretary is **Dr Bhushan Kumar**. Further details are obtainable at medinst@pgi.chd.nic.in

Plans are underway for further regional meetings in Beijing courtesy of **Professor Xue-Yun Zhu** and in Thailand courtesy of **Professor Verapol Chandeying**.

### LATIN AMERICA

**Professor Hilda Abreu** (abreuh@adinet.com.uy) is the new Chair of ULACETS, the Latin American Branch

Committee. **Dr Juan Carlos Flichman** (ulacets@maste-rint.org) continues as the Regional Director.

The members of ULACETS continue their long series of successful Scientific Conferences on STD and HIV/AIDS, with the next one scheduled to be held in Mexico City, in August 2001.

The most exciting development for Latin America from the Union's point of view is that the 40th General Assembly and 8th IUSTI World STD/AIDS Congress will be held in Punta del Este, Uruguay, in December 2003. History will be made by this being the first time the Union has ever held a General Assembly in the Latin American Region.

## NORTH AMERICA

History was also made at the Sun City General Assembly when a IUSTI Branch Committee was formally designated for the North American Region, namely the American STD Association (ASTDA), with **Professor Julius Schachter** as its Chair (jsch@itsa.ucsf.edu). Simultaneously that Association's journal, *Sexually Transmitted Diseases*, of which **Professor Julius Schachter** is Editor, was designated as the official scientific journal of the IUSTI for the region.

## LIAISON WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

**WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION.** It is again a great pleasure to acknowledge the special contribution to the Union's work of our Liaison Officer to the WHO, **Dr Mike Antal**. Effective representation of the five regions on the Executive Committee by its general elected membership, as well as by their Regional Directors and Branch Committee Chairs, would make his task much easier, in compiling the essential ongoing Schedule of Collaborative Activities between the IUSTI and the WHO. The Official Plan for Collaboration between our two bodies is published on our internet website, as well as in the *Int J STD & AIDS* and in our Russian language journal *Sexually Transmitted Diseases* (SANAM/CAHAM). **Dr Antonio Gerbase** is currently the Officer responsible for STDs in the WHO.

**UN & UNAIDS.** **Dr Francis Ndowa** is the current contact person in Geneva, and **Professor Lew Drusin** continues as our Union's main representative to the United Nations in New York.

**ILDS.** Immediate Past President **Dr Michael Waugh** has succeeded **Professor Detlef Petzoldt** as Liaison Officer to the International League of Dermatological Societies.

**ISSTDR.** **Dr Peter Kohl**, our new Honorary Treasurer, is currently our main liaison member to the International Society for STD Research.

Written reports from all these IUSTI representative are to be submitted at the next meeting in Berlin, in June 2001.

COMPOSITION AND CONSTITUTION OF THE WORLD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

## COMPOSITION

In Sun City **Professor Ron Ballard** was elected Acting Secretary General, and he has since been appointed Secretary General (rballard@mweb.co.za), which left the Assistant Secretary position vacant, to be filled at this Executive Committee meeting, and this completes the recently increased complement of six Office-Bearers, as laid down in the amendments to the Statutes made at the 38th General Assembly. **Professor Hilda Abreu** is now the elected Assistant Secretary, the first time the Union has had an office bearer from the Latin American Region.

It is further noted with interest that this is the first time in the seventy-seven years of the Union that the Executive Committee of the Union has had a President from other than Europe or North America, and the first time there has been an Office-Bearer from the African Region. The Treasurer **Dr Peter Kohl** (peterkohl@knk-berlin.de), Past President **Michael Waugh** (waughmi@ulth.northy.nhs.uk), and President Elect **James Bingham** (james.bingham@gstt.sthames.nhs.uk), still maintain the high profile of the Union's traditional strong support from the European Region. It is also a healthy reflection of the progressive global internationalisation of the Union, that the composition of the Executive Committee as a whole now more equitably reflects the reality of the five regions of the Union.

## CONSTITUTION

**Michael Waugh** has continued the previous sterling work of **Detlef Petzoldt**, by re-examining the Union's Statutes, with a view to beginning to update them for the start of this new millennium. He has put forward specific proposals about voting procedures for consideration at this meeting and subsequently at next year's General Assembly. These and further possible revisions take into account the observations and suggestions from our Honorary Legal Advisor, **The Honourable Justice Michael Kirby**, when he examined the 1995 Singapore Statutes for us in detail. Improvements to voting have been implemented, by including more formal nominating procedures, and extending voting to make provision for proxy votes, and for postal votes (by fax, email, surface mail or air mail).

## PUBLICATIONS AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

### JOURNALS AND NEWSLETTERS

Since the last General Assembly the IUSTI has had an additional official scientific journal, viz. *Sexually Transmitted Diseases* of the American STD Association, with Editor **Professor Julius Schachter**, (jsch@itsa.ucsf.edu). This is now added to the Russian language journal of SANAM/CAHAM *Sexually Transmitted Diseases*, Editor **Dr Mikhail Gomberg**, (mgomberg@css-mps.ru); *Jornal*

*Brasileiro de Doenças Sexualmente Transmissíveis*, Editor **Dr Mauro Passos** (mipmaur@vm.uff.br); *Venereology*, edited by **Professor Basil Donovan** and **Mrs Juliet Richters**; (donovanb@sesahs.nsw.gov.au and j.richters@unsw.edu.au), and *Int J STD & AIDS*, edited by **Dr Wallace Dinsmore** (101631.2261@compuserve.com) as official scientific journals of the Union. Subscriptions to the *Int J STD & AIDS* can now be made through its secure site at <https://www.securehosting.com/secureforms/sh100011/orderjnl.htm>.

The Asia-Pacific Region has recently published a further edition of its Newsletter, (Volume 10, No. 1, June 2000). This has been showcased on the Union's internet website, in addition to having 2,000 hard copies printed for distribution world-wide, particularly at the forthcoming Asia-Pacific Regional meeting in Chandigarh, India, next month.

## INTERNET WEBSITE

Our website is emerging as a wonderful source of information for IUSTI members and non-members alike. Several significant changes have taken place since last year's General Assembly.

- the web address has been simplified to <http://www.iusti.org/>
- the email address of the Union is [iusti@ozemail.com.au](mailto:iusti@ozemail.com.au)
- the contents have been made more user-accessible, including the Membership Register, the Who's Who of the Executive Committee, the Statutes, and now also the above-mentioned IUSTI Regional Newsletter, *The Asia-Pacific Venereologist*.
- the IUSTI website overall has been given a "facelift" inspired by the colourful new edition of the Asia-Pacific Newsletter.
- there has been an increase in number of links to other sites, now including the MSSVD in the United Kingdom, the Australasian College of Sexual Health Physicians, and others.
- an anti-retroviral drug checklist has been included, and recently updated
- There is now a special link from the IUSTI site to forthcoming events pages elsewhere, via [www.iusti.org/events](http://www.iusti.org/events)

The composition on the Website Working Group has been expanded, with new members including the Asia-Pacific Regional Director **Professor Verapol Chandeying**, the Chair of the Latin American Branch Committee (ULACETS), **Professor Hilda Abreu**, plus **Professor Basil Donovan** and **Dr Simon Barton**, in addition to the original two members, myself and Webmaster **Dr Christopher Miller** ([Chris.Miller@iusti.org](mailto:Chris.Miller@iusti.org)). Several of us, including Professor Chandeying, held discussions at the Annual Scientific Conference of the Australasian Sexual Health Physicians in Darwin, Australia, in June. At that meeting I also held discussions with the Honorary Secretary/Treasurer of the ASTDA **Dr Stephen Morse**, of the Centers for Disease Control,

Atlanta, Georgia, regarding proposed links to American internet sites, among other international issues.

**Dr Russell Waddell** in Adelaide, South Australia, continues to deal with clinical enquiries directed to the Union via our website and email address. He is also available through the Australasian College of Sexual Health Physicians on [secretariat@acshp.org.au](mailto:secretariat@acshp.org.au), at which **Dr Chris Miller** is also the Webmaster.

Future features could include a protected members-only area of the site for internal material. This area could be accessed by means of a user name and password-protected combination. Internet access to the Union's scientific journals is mentioned also in items 3.1 and 5.2.

Our new server at [www.iusti.org](http://www.iusti.org) allows us some features not previously available on the old one:

- statistics for site accesses (there is a link to the statistics report from the bottom of every page on the site).
- a search engine
- another future addition could be an online database (eg of IUSTI members) which would allow anyone to search for specific information, rather than downloading the whole page of information (which currently takes several minutes)
- At this stage the Working Party would be grateful for any feedback or suggestions about the site. Also let us know if you have any favourite sites you would like to add to our links section, and provide us with a brief comment on the site for other IUSTI members.

## PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

### CD ROM

The CD ROM *Sexually Transmitted Infections and Genitoanal Dermatoses - Diagnosis and Therapy*, ISBN 90-74512-44-5, is officially endorsed by the IUSTI. This educational resource is introduced by **Michael Waugh**, and authored by **Peter Kohl**, (Editor-in-Chief) together with **James Bingham**, **Jorma Paavonen** ([jpaavone@cc.helsinki.fi](mailto:jpaavone@cc.helsinki.fi)), **Ross Philpot** and **Jonathon Zenilman** ([jzenilma@jhmi.edu](mailto:jzenilma@jhmi.edu)). It continues to be available from Lasion Europe NV in Belgium, [info@lasion.be](mailto:info@lasion.be), tel: +32 3 877 0555, fax: +32 3 887 8705. Kontichsesteenweg 40, B-2630 Artselarr, Belgium.

We are being asked for permission to use some material from the CD ROM for education by other organisations eg. AIDS council resources for gay men and by CAHAM in Russian language translation.

## FUTURE EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

The Executive Committee of the Union might do well to support or sponsor other CD ROMs and other educational publications, as well as adding to the current modest educational contents of the website itself. The CD ROM is already represented on the website, and there is potential for more

electronic education to be promoted through this valuable communication tool. The various IUSTI journals, or at least abstracts of their articles, could be made available online via the website, and the *Int J STD & AIDS* is already accessible in this way by registering with CatchWord, and following the protocol explained on <http://www.rsm.ac.uk/pub/std.htm>.

Every government in every one of the three hundred nations around the world should have email and website facilities. So should every university. So should every major hospital, and in time all public Sexual Health Clinics and private Sexual Health Services. The IUSTI should therefore make it part of its role to assist our fellow health professionals in all these areas to do their jobs as effectively as possible, by providing high quality relevant educational and resource material by electronic access.

This is a challenge to each of us on this Executive Committee, to support the website and Internet Working Group in this important task.

## BOOKS ON REGIONAL INTERNATIONAL VENERELOGY

I would like to draw attention to some books and text book chapters on international aspects of Venereology;

*Sex, Disease and Society. A comparative history of sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS in Asia and the Pacific*, edited by **Milton Lewis, Scott Bamber** and **Michael Waugh**, Greenwood Press, Connecticut, USA, 1997, ISBN 0-313-29442-9;

*Sexually Transmitted Diseases in Asia and the Pacific*, edited by **Brian Mulhall, Roy Chan, David Plummer, Rabin Sarda, Weravit Sittitrai, Tim Brown** and **Doris**

**Mugrditchian**, Venereology Publishing Inc, New South Wales, Australia, 1998, ISBN 0-646-34972-4. Colleagues in other regions may care to emulate the lead provided by these authors in documenting Sexual Health Medicine on an international scale.

**Aral S O, Holmes K K**. Chapter 4. Social and technical determinants of the epidemic of STDs: individualised and developing countries, 39-76; and **Way P O, Schwartlander D, Piot P**. Chapter 5. The global epidemiology of HIV and AIDS, 77-103 in **Holmes K K, Sparling P F, Mårdh P-A** et al. *Sexually Transmitted Diseases*, 3rd Edition 1999. McGraw-Hill. New York and seventeen other countries.

## COMING MEETINGS OF THIS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### BERLIN

June 2001, as mentioned above (4.1).

The organising agency in Berlin is:

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In accordance with the amendments to the Statutes adopted in Sun City, the President's term of office is two years, so at the next General Assembly I will become Immediate Past President. **James Bingham** will become the new President,

TABLE 1  
VENUES OF GENERAL ASSEMBLIES 1972-2003

No. in series	Year	Dates	City	Country	Region
27	1972	May 27-31	Venice	Italy	Europe
28	1975	April 13-18	Valletta	Malta	Europe
29	1978	May 21-25	Leeds	United Kingdom	Europe
30	1980	June 6-11	Berlin	Germany	Europe
31	1982	June 25-29	Dublin	Ireland	Europe
32	1984	June 17-21	Montreal	Canada	North America
33	1986	June 25-29	Paris	France	Europe
34	1988	June 3-4	Cannes	France	Europe
35	1990	May 9-11	London	United Kingdom	Europe
36	1995	March 18-22	Singapore	Singapore	Asia Pacific
37	1997	June 26-28	Melbourne	Australia	Asia Pacific
38	1999	Nov 21-24	Sun City	South Africa	Africa
39	2001	June 24-27	Berlin	Germany	Europe
40	2003	December 2-5	Punta del Este	Uruguay	Latin America

and the Assembly will vote for a new President Elect to serve until becoming the following President in 2003.

In Berlin there will also be elections for all five Regional Directors, as well as for a number of other Executive Committee members whose terms of office expire at the 39th General Assembly.

In Budapest **Peter Kohl** and I discussed preparations for this Congress, and we met again in Berlin, before and after a tour of inspection of the excellent meeting venue and hotel accommodation.

Este, Uruguay, in association with the 14th Latin American Congress of Sexually Transmitted Diseases/ULACETS. In Budapest **Professor Hilda Abreu** and I discussed plans for the Congress venue. We had previously made a tour of inspection of the venue together in October 1998. Further details are available from **Professor Hilda Abreu** on [abreuh@adinet.com.uy](mailto:abreuh@adinet.com.uy) - phone/fax +598 2 350 4018, Artigas 572, Durazno, Uruguay, Sud America.

Dr Ross Philpot - [carlisle@chariot.net.au](mailto:carlisle@chariot.net.au)  
August 2000

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING IN 2002. To be arranged.

PUNTA DEL ESTE

December 2003. 40th World General Assembly and 8th IUSTI World STD/AIDS Congress, will be held in Punta del



I.U.S.T.I.

INTERNATIONAL UNION AGAINST  
SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS

<http://www.iusti.org/>



Founded in 1923 for international cooperation in the  
control of sexually transmissible diseases

*Admitted into official relations with the World Health Organisation in 1948  
On the Roster of the United Nations Economic and Social Council*

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