



## IUSTI World Secretary General's Report from the 37th General Assembly in Melbourne, Australia, June 1997 to the 38th General Assembly - Sun City, South Africa, November 1999

The most exciting development over this two year period has been the confirmation that the current World General Assembly would be held in the African Region for the first time in the history of our organisation in conjunction with the 6th IUSTI World STD/AIDS Congress, and together with meetings of the African Branch Committee (the AUSTI) and other organisations. WHO and UNAIDS will also be officially represented.

Professor Ron Ballard of Johannesburg and the other members of the Organising Committee kindly agreed to host this historic meeting. The IUSTI Regional Director for Africa and Chair of the AUSTI is Dr Ibra Ndoeye. It will be only the third occasion that a General Assembly has been held in the southern hemisphere, the previous two having been in the Asia-Pacific Region, viz. Singapore in 1995 and Melbourne in 1997. The 5th IUVDI/IUSTI World STD/AIDS Congress (Ven South '97) attracted a total of 326 delegates from all five regions of the world, and from two dozen countries in all.

The new Executive Committee met in Melbourne immediately after the General Assembly, next in Geneva in June 1998 in association with the World AIDS Conference, then in Denver in July 1999 in association with the ISSTD Meeting, and again just before the current 38th General Assembly in Sun City.

### OTHER IUSTI MEETINGS

The European Branch held a meeting in Goteborg Sweden in September 1998. The 39th.

General Assembly and 7th IUSTI World STD/AIDS Congress will be held in 2001 in Berlin, hosted by the Regional Director for Europe Dr. Peter Kohl. Dr Jean-Marc Bohbot is the Chair of the European Branch Committee.

Organisers of the proposed 11th Asia-Pacific Branch Meeting in Jakarta, Indonesia, advised that regional financial difficulties, together with political uncertainties, have unfortunately brought about the cancellation of that meeting. The Branch Committee Chairperson, Dr. Janet Say is looking into alternate possibilities in India. Dr. Thirumoonthy is the Asia-Pacific Regional Director.

In Latin America. ULACETS held its most recent meeting in Bahia, Brazil. The Chair of ULACETS is Dr. Paulo Naud, and the Regional Director for Latin America is Dr Juan Carlos Fichman. The 40th General Assembly and 8th IUSTI World STD/AIDS Congress will be held in 2003 in Uruguay, hosted by Dr. Hilda Abreu.

The Regional Director for North America is Tom Quinn MD. Arrangements are well advanced toward designating

the American STD Association as the official IUSTI Branch Committee for North America.

### COMMUNICATIONS AND THE INTERNET

In addition to these numerous meetings, there has been a steady flow of communication between the Office-Bearers, and with the organisers of the forthcoming scheduled meetings in Sun City (Professor Rori Ballard), Berim (Dr Peter Kohl) and Uruguay (Dr. Hilda Abreu). Emailing has quickly emerged as a major means of communication, to supplement faxes, phone calls and airmail. The Secretary General established an internet web site with the invaluable assistance of Dr. Christopher Miller on which can be found essential details about the Union, including The Statutes, contact details of the Office-Bearers and other members of the Executive Committee, plus the Membership Register. Our web site is linked to other relevant web sites around the world. Dr. Russell Waddell is responding to clinical enquiries directed to our email address at the site.

### JOURNALS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Both the Union's official scientific journals viz. *Int J STD AIDS* and *Venereology* continue to flourish. Regional Directors' reports, together with reports of the President, Treasurer and WHO Liaison officer were published in *Int J STD AIDS* 1997; 8; 719-727, following previous reports in *Int J STD AIDS* 1995; 6: 62-66.

The *International Journal of STD & AIDS*, edited by Dr. Wallace Dinsmore, continues as the official scientific publication of the Union at the world level, as does the *Journal Venereology*, with new editors Professor Basil Donovan and Mrs Juliet Richters, for the Asia-Pacific Region, which also has the Newsletter, *The Asia-Pacific Venereologist*, edited by Professor Ngeow Yung Fong. Last year two further Journals were added to this list viz. *Jornal Brasileiro de Doenças Sexualmente Transmissíveis*, edited by Dr. Mauro Passos, for Portuguese speaking colleagues in Latin America, and *Sexually Transmitted Infections* of CAHAM ("SANAM") for Russian speaking people, edited by the late Professor Konstantin Borisenko.

The change in name of the Union on 27 June 1997 from the IUVDI to the IUSTI has been widely publicised, including in the recent report from the Union in *Int J STD AIDS* 1998; 9: 305-307 as part of the IUSTI (previously IUVDI) World Secretary General's report, 1995 (Singapore) to 1997 (Melbourne). Appropriate alterations have also been made to our Internet Website.

The revised Singapore Statutes have been published

in English in *The International Journal of STD & AIDS* and in Russian in the scientific Journal *Sexually Transmitted Infections* of CAHAM ("SANAM"), as well as on our web site in English, Spanish and French.

The CD Rom *Sexually Transmitted Infections and Genitoanal Dermatoses - Diagnosis and Therapy*, is officially endorsed by the IUSTI, introduced by Michael Waugh, and authored by Peter Kohl, (Editor-in-Chief) together with James Bingham, Jorma Paavonen, Ross Philpot and Jonathon Zenilman, available from Lasion Europe NV in Belgium, ISBN 90-74512-44-5.

Also recently published are two books on international 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) and *Sexually Transmitted Diseases in Asia and the Pacific*, edited by Brian Mullhall, Roy Chan, David Plummer, Rabin Sarda, Werasit Sittitrai, Tim Brown and Doris Mugrditchian (Venereology Publishing Inc, New South Wales, Australia, 1998; ISBN 0-646-34972-4).

#### LIAISON WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

WHO Collaborative activities between the IUSTI and WHO 1997-1999 have been carefully documented by our IUSTI Liaison Officer to WHO, Mike Antal, in a detailed Schedule of Collaborative Activities, in accordance with the Strategic Plan for Collaborative Activities with the World Health Organisation. Dr. Antonio Gerbase has been the WHO representative to the IUSTI.

There has also been continuing liaison with UN/UNAIDS via Lew Drusin, Peter Piot and Francis Ndowa; with the ILDS via Detlef Petzoldt and Michael Waugh and with the ISSTD via Frank Judson and Peter Kohl.

#### MEMBERSHIP

The general membership of the Union continues to flourish, although there were some concerns that with the increase in subscription fees to more accurately reflect expenses, and to cover the cost of a journal subscription, there might have been some losses.

At the 37th General Assembly in Melbourne two years ago, ten new members were elected to the Executive Committee. viz.

Professor Ron BALLARD  
Dr. Simon BARTON  
Dr. Charnchai BURAPANGKUL  
Dr. Sjaiful DAILI  
Professor Basil DONOVAN  
Frank JUDSON MD  
Dr. Jorma PAAVONEN  
Professor Evelio PEREA  
Professor Eric SANDSTROM  
Professor ZHU Xue-Jun

The current President Dr Michael Waugh, ends his term of office at this World Assembly and automatically remains on the Executive Committee as Immediate Past President.

Other elected members complete their four year terms of office at this General Assembly and may be eligible for re-election viz.

Professor Michael ADLER  
Dr Michael ANTAL  
Dr James BINGHAM  
Dr Roy CHAN  
Professor Lewis DRUSIN MD

Dr Juan Carlos FLICHMAN (Regional Director)  
Professor Subhash HIRA  
Professor King HOLMES  
Dr Peter KOHL (Regional Director)  
Professor Andre MEHEUS  
Dr Ibra NDOYE (Regional Director)  
Professor NGEOW Yun Fong  
Professor Detlef PETZOLDT  
Dr Ross PHILPOT  
Professor Peter PIOT  
Thomas QUINN MD (Regional Director)  
Dr T THIRUMOORTHY (Regional Director)

Change in membership of the Subscriptions, Membership and Income Sub-committee of the Executive Committee at the General Assembly in Melbourne, resulted in the following composition; Convenor James Bingham, with Roy Chan, Ahmed Kosasih, Ngeow Yun Fong, Ross Philpot, and Michael Waugh.

The Treasurer's Sub-Committee of the Executive Committee is also convened by James Bingham, the other two members being Simon Barton and Basil Donovan.

The Scientific Programmes Working Party convened by Ross Philpot includes Ron Ballard, James Bingham, Basil Donovan, Ibra Ndoeye, Evelio Perera, Erio Sandstrom and Michael Waugh.

The Executive Committee Meeting in Denver, USA considered nominations for changes in membership of the Office Bearers. The President is currently elected for one term of four years and it has been proposed that this be reduced to two years. The other Office Bearers can be re-elected for a second term of four years, and this makes a possible total of eight years for these positions, as well as for the Regional Directors and other elected members of the Committee, as specified in Article 7 of the Statutes. It is also noted that Article 9 of the Statutes states that "Members of the Executive Committee who do not participate in (3) consecutive meetings, may become Senior Counsellors and are still welcome at Executive Committee Meetings". Such a change of status carries with it the loss of voting rights.

As I complete my term of office as Secretary General and having been a member of either the Asia-Pacific Branch Committee and the World Executive Committee continuously since 1981, I am honoured to acknowledge with special thanks the inspiration and support kindly provided by Dr Duncan Catterall, Dr Kanchana Panikabutra, Dr Jan Edwards and Dr Michael Waugh.

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