President’s Blog

Turbulent Times and Terrific Teams

As I sit down to put pen to paper for my first ‘President’s Blog entry, I’m struck by just how much is going on around us. It’s 2020, January has been and gone already, there’s a new Government in place, and the UK has now officially left the European Union. Different folks have different views on all of this. We are however where we find ourselves, in a time where there’s barely a pause to draw breath as the challenges present apace.

So, with that in mind, I reflect, and take comfort and inspiration from the amazing people that are still around me. Which brings me to an afternoon at the Royal Society of Medicine in January when my spirits were lifted by the parade of excellence that our specialty and our partners are able to display so seemingly effortlessly (although in reality there is of course a phenomenal amount of work that goes on behind the scenes to make it so!).

The BASHH Scientific Meeting and AGM is a phenomenal mix of people, politics, evidence, advice, recommendations and thoughtful considerations that challenge us to think differently on such a broad range of issues. These meetings always take me out of myself and my narrow day to day concerns and re-sight me on who we are and why as a group we are special. My thanks to all the speakers and organisers for a most diverse and challenging afternoon.

For me, an especially impressive session of the day was the Honorary Life Fellow Lecture delivered by Dr Angela Robinson.

It was a real privilege to listen to her experiences and reflections of her working life, and to reflect too, on the contrast between her humble detailing of it and the enormous impact she has had on our specialty. It’s fair to say that we know we are in the right place doing the right thing when we have inspirational colleagues such as Angela to look up to.

In the same spirit, I thank Dr Olwen Williams OBE for her energetic, optimistic clear-sighted and inspirational leadership of BASHH over the past two tumultuous years. It has been a pleasure, an education, and an entertainment ḥ, to witness and work alongside you. I can
only hope that I am able build on your successes. We all stand on the shoulders of those who go before us. I commented at the handover of the Presidential Regalia, that it was somewhat daunting to take over from a seamless sequence of supremely capable female leaders. However, the experience is not unfamiliar to me, having grown up in a household similarly blessed. As if to help make sure I didn’t forget this, my sisters decided to gather together from across the new Brexit Border to make the trip for a long weekend in London. See photo.

Which brings me to my title. All of us are who we are because of those around us, and those who support us. We are capable of nothing without each other, and everything with each other.

There is no question we face choppy waters ahead. Our Devolved Nations necessarily are moving in different directions. Some ahead on PrEP, one egregious example lagging behind (yes that’s you England!). Rights on access to services and legalisation of same sex marriage in Northern Ireland, adequate culture testing in Wales, I could go on......

Whilst some of these challenges will require persistence and patience to overcome, there are more immediate opportunities for influencing and improving on our horizon. Most notably Public Health England have issued a call for input into their proposals to revise the approach to the National Chlamydia Screening Programme, which, amongst other changes, will see a potential greater focus placed on reduction of harm to women There is much to ponder here and BASHH will of course be submitting a comprehensive response ahead of the deadline on 25th February. Details are available online here and responses from both individuals and organisations are encouraged.

The end of January saw the close of the call for written evidence from the HIV Commission, which is something BASHH members have been particularly involved in. The responses to this consultation will help inform the Commission’s recommendations on ending HIV transmission and HIV-attributed deaths in England by 2030, and we await the next steps to this hugely important enterprise with great interest. Looking ahead, we continue to push for the timely commencement of a new national Sexual Health Strategy and the stakeholder engagement process that will shape this. BASHH are working closely with partners to hold decision-makers to account on their commitments on this, as well as the need for a fully-funded and sufficiently protected Public Health Budget.

Through all of this, and the inevitable trials and tribulations that are surely ahead of us, I come back to the belief that we are stronger when we stick together. So, whilst we remain mindful and energetic in responding to our workforce and Brexit-shaped stresses (I say this as a migrant myself), let us all make sure that we continue to extend the love and support to our colleagues working hard to care for themselves, their loved ones, families and their communities.
The gathering of the McSorley clan (female wing only) as Olwen Williams OBE hands over the Presidential Medal to John McSorley incoming BASHH President 2020-2

BASHH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020

The BASHH Annual General Meeting was held on Friday 10 January 2020 and the following members were elected to the BASHH Board and BASHH CGC committee. We thank BASHH Board members and BASHH CGC representatives who completed their term of office and resigned at the AGM for their contribution and hard work on behalf of BASHH.

BASHH Board

President - Dr John McSorley
Vice President - Dr Alan Tang
Treasurer - Dr Kaveh Manavi
General Secretary - Dr David Phillips
Chair of Education Committee - Dr Sophie Forsyth
Chair of Clinical Governance Committee - Dr Shalini Andrews
Conference & Communications Secretary - Dr Claire Dewsnapp
Lay Trustee - Dr Ruth Lowbury
Health Adviser Representative to the Board - Ms Ceri Evans
SAS Representative to the Board - Dr Parameswaran Sashidharan
DIT Representative – Dr Hannah Church
Immediate Past President - Dr Olwen Williams
Fellows to the Board:
- Dr Laura Waters
- Dr Cecilia Priestley
- Dr Rachael Jones
- Dr Darren Cousins
- Dr Carol Emerson
- Prof Colm O’Mahony

Clinical Governance Committee (CGC) - new members
Trent - Dr Manjula Pammi
West Midlands - Dr Claire Robertson
Scotland - Dr Rona MacDonald
Lay Trustee - Dr Ruth Lowbury

Latest News

Journals go to electronic format – Reminder

From January 2020, the Journal of Sexually Transmitted Infections and International Journal of STD and AIDS will be accessible in electronic format. Click on the images below for the latest editions, or via these images on the BASHH website.

For those who have subscribed through their BASHH membership, you can access full text
articles and print out as many copies as you want through your access.

Please let BASHH secretariat know if you encounter any problems with the process. Please be informed that as part of the new contract, BASHH members will not receive hard copy versions of the journals anymore.

**New GUMCAD Launch and call for interest in an online data forum**

The latest version of GUMCAD was approved by NHS Digital in June 2018 and implementation officially began in April 2019. This version brings major changes to data collection which has presented challenges to some services, both technically and operationally. In response to concerns PHE extended implementation to February 2020 (originally April-Oct 2019), conducted training workshops for reporters and worked directly with software suppliers to derive user-friendly IT solutions to minimise impact on patient care. PHE assure that despite the larger question-set (e.g. drugs) it is not expected that every question will be asked/be relevant to every patient consultation (unasked questions do not need to be coded). Your data managers and clinical leads will have received communication from PHE. If you have any queries, contact GUMCAD@phe.gov.uk

BASHH is aware that some members wish to make links to share best practice and solutions. If you’re interested in taking part in an online discussion forum, please email david.phillips7@nhs.net

**BASHH Education Fellowship**

We are delighted to announce the BASHH 2020 Education Fellowships. This year we plan to offer 2 fellowships: one fellow will undertake a project considering recruitment into GUM higher specialist training, the other will evaluate the medical undergraduate learning pathway related to sexual health. The deadline for applications is 13/3/2020. Please see the BASHH website for further information.

**National Clinical Excellence Awards - 2020 Round**

This will open on Thursday 13th February 2020 and closes at 5:00pm on Thursday 9th April 2020.

Guidelines for the 2020 round will be published ahead of the opening of the round but prior to this the 2019 ACCEA guidelines can be accessed here and the link to the ACCEA application forms is here.

To apply for BASHH support for a new and/or renewal National CEA please submit your forms to BASHH by Sunday 1st March 2020 at Midnight. Applications received after this time will not be considered.
Applications will be considered by the BASHH CEA Committee on 17th March.

Please send your applications to elizabeth.carlin@bashh.net and copy in admin@bashh.org. Further details of the BASHH process are available on the BASHH website and if you need any additional information or advice please contact elizabeth.carlin@bashh.net, Secretary BASHH CEA Committee.

**National Clinical Excellence Awards - 2019**

Congratulations to the following for their success in gaining an award in the 2019 round:
- Silver: David Asboe (renewal)
- Bronze: Yvonne Gilleece (new), Nicola MacKie (new), Margaret Kingston (renewal), Kaveh Manavi (renewal)

**Cathy Harman MDT Innovation Award 2020**

Final application call for the Cathy Harman Award 2020 presented on behalf of the ‘BASHH Sexual Health Adviser & Nurse Special Interest Group’.

All clinicians – Medical, Nursing, Counselling, etc (BASHH members & non-BASHH members) as part of an MDT are welcome to apply.

‘Click here’ to open the webpage to download the ‘Award overview’ document and the ‘Application form’.

Applications to admin@bashh.org

Deadline for submission - Friday 28th February 2020 by 5pm

Queries to BASHH Nurse rep Mr Jodie Walker-Haywood jodiewh_82@hotmail.co.uk

**The BMA Foundation for Medical Research awards grants and prizes to further medical research.**

This year, the Foundation will be awarding the BMA MEDFASH prize for improving the quality of HIV and/ or sexual healthcare.

The prize is open to any health or social care professional or organisation actively involved in the delivery of HIV and/ or sexual healthcare in the UK. Applicants do not have to be a doctor or BMA member to apply.

Given the scope of your organisation we would be grateful if you could disseminate this information to any interested individuals and potential applicants.

For further details on the prize or to find out how to apply, please visit the BMA Foundation
webpages bmafoundationmr.org.uk or email the BMA Foundation team on researchgrants@bma.org.uk

Do you want to be more involved with BASHH?

Webteam chair
Applications are sought from BASHH members for the position of BASHH webteam chair.

The BASHH website is hosted and maintained by the technical team at KSAM (BASHH secretariat) and the webteam chair role involves editorial oversight for BASHH’s website and social media strategy (in conjunction with the BASHH media group chair), this position reports to the BASHH board (co-opted). Candidates would need to commit to the role for a minimum 2 year period.

For informal discussions please contact the current webteam chair, Dr Martyn Wood wood@bashh.org

To express interest in the role please submit a short personal statement (no more than 1 side of A4), outlining your interest for the role to admin@bashh.org

BASHH Education Committee Secretary
An opportunity has arisen to join the BASHH Education Committee as committee secretary. This important role involves coordinating the scientific meetings; overseeing the BASHH undergraduate essay prize and BASHH Education Fellowship and engaging with BASHH members through surveys and newsletter items. The committee secretary should be able to attend the Education Committee meetings, which are scheduled to occur in the morning before each scientific meeting. Suitable individuals will have an interest in education; work flexibly and respond to emails in a timely manner. Notes of interest should be sent by email to Dr Sophie Forsyth, Education Committee chair, by Friday 28th February 2020 using sophie.forsyth@nhs.net.

BASHH HIV & BBV Special Interest Group MSM Community Rep
The BASHH HIV & BBV SIG would like to recruit a community representative for gay and bisexual men. The group is active on behalf of BASHH at a UK policy and strategic level. The SIG also ensures that BASHH meets its commitment in ensuring provision of HIV related educational activities, and organises the annual HIV Masterclass which is very popular and receives excellent feedback.

We would like to welcome a new community MSM representative member. The ideal candidate should be enthusiastic about representing MSMs as part of our SIG, and keen to
ensure the community voice is an active part of the SIG’s discussions and activities.

Please contact Stuart Flanagan

**Genital Dermatology SIG**

Interested in Genital Dermatology?

The GD SIG committee has two vacancies for enthusiastic members to join us. You will be expected to help in the organisation of our highly successful educational study days that are run twice a year. There are also opportunities to be involved in guideline revision and contribute to training and education issues regarding genital dermatology.

Additionally, we are looking for a replacement trainee representative to join our group. Past trainee members have undertaken surveys which have been presented at BASHH conference.

If you are interested please email the GD SIG Chair christine.bates@liverpoolft.nhs.uk with details of your experience and reasons why you would like to be a member of the GD SIG.

**SHA & Nurse SIG seek wider MDT membership**

The Sexual Health Adviser & Nurse Special Interest Group (SHAN SIG) is seeking to widen its core membership to encompass more of the Sexual Health MDT. If you are a (Trainee) Nurse Associate, Health care assistant, Counsellor or Community worker in Sexual Health and would like to join please contact the Group Secretary Mr Jodie Walker-Haywood via jodiewh_82@hotmail.co.uk for more details

For the latest news from HIV Prevention England please go to their [website](#)

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**Upcoming Events and Courses**
BASHH Scientific Meetings 2020

6 March
No June meeting
2 October

Please visit the BASHH website for further information

BASHH routinely record the presentations from Scientific meetings for members to view via the BASHH website. After logging into the BASHH website please visit and select the meeting you wish to view and click recordings.

ViiV Healthcare have provided funding towards the venue and catering costs of these meeting and will have a promotional stand. ViiV Healthcare have had no input into or influence over the agenda or content.

BASHH Scientific meeting - 6 March 2020 at the RSM, London

The BASHH BSIG & PHE Special Interest Group will be organising this meeting.

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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<tr>
<td>13.00</td>
<td>Welcome, Chair</td>
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<tr>
<td>13.05</td>
<td>The epidemiology and testing frequency of syphilis in gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men. - Hamish Mohammed</td>
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<td>13.35</td>
<td>Finnish new variant Chlamydia trachomatis: incident response in England - Katie Follcard</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.05</td>
<td>Mycoplasma Genitalium AMR surveillance - Helen Fifer</td>
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<td>14.35</td>
<td>Panel discussion NIS issues with Mycoplasma genitalium - Helen Fifer &amp; Michelle Cole</td>
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<td>15.05</td>
<td>Refreshment Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>15.30</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>15.20</td>
<td>BASHH announcements</td>
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<td>15.35</td>
<td>Panel discussion: Role of empirical antibiotic therapy</td>
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<td>Introduction &amp; audience questions - Achyuta Nori</td>
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<td>Expedited partner therapy - Claudia Estcourt</td>
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<tr>
<td>15.35</td>
<td>Partner management strategies using newer testing pathways - John White</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Syndrome management using in-clinic rapid testing - Paddy Horner</td>
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<tr>
<td>17.30</td>
<td>Open discussion with panel</td>
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STIF Competency Train the Trainer workshop – LONDON 2020
The London STIF Competency Train the Trainer workshop will be held on Friday 6 March 2020 at the Royal Society of Medicine. 09.30 – 12.45

Registration fee: £75.00
To register please click here: http://www.stif.org.uk/stif_ttt

This half day practical workshop is recommended for GUM medical and nurse consultants, SAS doctors and clinical nurse specialists involved in training and assessing doctors and nurses within their own departments. It provides guidance about running the STIF Competency training and assessment programmes and how to use the assessment tools. Attendance at the workshop is a requirement for STIF Competency Trainer registration

Save the Date – HIV Masterclass 2020
The eagerly anticipated BASHH HIV Masterclass will move to Sheffield for the 19-20th March 2020. Following on from the success of last year’s meeting, this Masterclass will include medical updates on topics related to HIV as well as interactive case-based discussions and sessions on ethical and psychosocial aspects of long-term care for PLWH.

In order to avoid disappointment, we recommend registering early.

After careful consideration of feedback in recent years, we have decided to continue with a small charge for the Masterclass. We still feel this offers excellent value as it includes 2 days of education, a night of accommodation, all daytime refreshments, breakfast and dinner. Discounted rates will be available for BASHH Members.”

Doctors in Training (DIT)
Save the Date: 6th June 2020, Bournemouth International Centre, for the annual pre-BASHH DIT training day. The program is looking fabulous and will help to address some of those tricky to achieve areas of the curriculum.

A supporting document for those current trainees who may wish to consider a CESR in General Internal Medicine will shortly be available.

Opportunity to help with @BASHH_trainees Twitter account. Please contact trainees@BASHH.org if you are interested in supporting this.

If you are not on the national trainee email distribution list and wish to be, then please email trainees@BASHH.org with your details. It’s a great way to keep informed of training and professional opportunities.
BASHH STI/HIV Module Course
This course covers the in depth knowledge of STIs, HIV and their management with well renown speakers from all over the UK. It is highly recommended for those who intend to sit the Diploma in GU Medicine and Diploma in HIV Medicine exams and has been designed to cover the wider GU SpR curriculum with mapping of both the programme and e-lfh modules to this full curriculum. It may therefore also be suitable for other trainees such as RSH trainees or other senior healthcare professionals who wish to further their professional development. It is modular, enabling applicants to attend some, or all of the modules.

The dates for 2020 are:

11 - 14 May 2020 Module 1 - Epidemiology of STIs, Bacterial STIs
15 May 2020 Module 2 - Sexual Health and Sexuality
16 - 17 November 2020 Module 3 - Other viral infections
18 - 20 November 2020 Module 4 - HIV

Please email Dr Ngozi Dufty on ngozi.dufty@nhs.net for details.

5th BASHH Genital Dermatology PLUS Course Friday 26th June 2020
Date for your diary for this very popular course, organised by the Genital Dermatology Special Interest Group of the British Association of Sexual Health & HIV (BASHH) As numbers for this course are limited you are advised to apply early to avoid disappointment.

This popular course is organised by the BASHH Genital Dermatology Special Interest Group. It covers topics that were not included in the BASHH Genital Dermatology Primary Course (held in October each year) e.g. vulval pigmented lesions, pre-cancer and cancer of the penis, oral manifestations of genital disease, hidradenitis suppurativa, cutaneous manifestations of bacterial STIs and HIV in the HAART era, challenging penile and vulval skin cases.
It is intended to extend knowledge and skills of those who have attended the Genital Dermatology Primary Course. However, anyone who finds the topics interesting and feels it will be useful to them clinically should attend. The number of places on this course is limited. Hence, please apply as soon as possible.

Date: 26/ 06/ 20
Venue: Royal College of Nursing,
20 Cavendish Square,
London W1G 0RN
For further information and to register please follow the link:
Microscopy course for STIs
BASHH Bacterial Special Interest Group (BSIG)
Microscopy Course for STIs
Saturday 18th April 2020 8.45 am – 5.00 pm
Venue: SIR ALEXANDER FLEMING BUILDING
Imperial College London,
Exhibition Road, South Kensington, London SW7 2AZ
Please check online

Save the date: 18th May 2020! BASHH Adolescent Specialist Interest Group Education Event - Spring 2020
This spring, the BASHH Adolescent Specialist Interest Group are organising an education event on: Monday 18th May 2020 at the Royal Society of Medicine, LONDON. This event will include hot topics around safeguarding and aims to provide training and stimulate discussions. The content of this event is applicable to doctors, nurses, health advisors, psychologists, and other professionals working with young people including those in safeguarding lead roles. The event will provide relevant and interactive talks & workshops delivered by experts in the field. Further details of the programme and ticket sales will be on the BASHH website soon.

2020 SAS Doctors’ Conference – Save The Date
The 23rd Annual BASHH Conference for SAS Doctors Working in Sexual Health will be held on 11th and 12th September 2020 in Leicester. The provisional programme is packed full of relevant and interesting topics, combining lectures and interactive workshops. Look out for registration opening in May.

Help wanted

Consultation on Changes to Genitourinary Medicine Curriculum
The GUM specialty advisory committee is seeking feedback on proposed changes to the curriculum, with an emphasis on the impact on doctors and on patients with “protected characteristics” e.g. disability, sexual orientation and other characteristics that are protected by discrimination law.

The survey is open until 31/03/2020 and can be accessed here

Want a full-time job making people with genital herpes feel better?
The Herpes Viruses Association, London, seeks a deputy director to help run the charity. You will need to be a fast learner as just two people do everything from answering the herpes helpline to fundraising. We talk to the media and run training sessions. We write leaflets and
articles on every aspect of herpes simplex from transmission to stigma. But the two of us also run the membership scheme, do the bookkeeping and send out shop orders... See the job details [here](#).

**WE NEED YOU TO UPDATE THE CLINIC FINDER ON THE BASHH WEBSITE**

In times of fast changing services BASHH rely on members reviewing and updating their clinic details on the BASHH website, please can you take the time to check your clinic's entry at [http://www.bashh.org/clinics](http://www.bashh.org/clinics) and if any changes are needed, please complete the form by using this [link](#).

**BASHH Prison SIG needs you!**

The BASHH Prison SIG has welcomed a new Chair, Dr Susanna Currie. The SIG are looking for new members to help with the update of the 2011 guidelines in order to influence national practice of sexual health provision in prisons. They would also like to hear from you if you provide sexual health services to prisons, in order to create a support network and enable the sharing of good practice.

Please email [Susanna Currie](mailto:) if you are interested in joining the Prison SIG and/or provide sexual health services in prisons.

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BASHH members are asked to ensure that their details are correct in the BASHH database, by accessing your profile on the [BASHH website](#).

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**Diary Dates**

**2020**

- [HIV Prevention England](#) - 18 February in London

- [Scientific meeting](#) - 6 March at RSM, London

- [STIF Competency Train the Trainer workshop](#) – LONDON 2020 - 6 March at RSM, London

- [HIV Masterclass 2020](#) - 19-20 March in Sheffield
3rd UAE International Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance (ICAMR) - 19 & 20 March in Dubai

Microscopy Course for STIs - 18 April, Imperial College, London

RCP Annual Conference - 23/24 April at the ICC, Birmingham

STI/HIV Module course - Modules 1 & 2 - 11-14 and 15 May respectively

ESC congress - 13-15 May 2020 in Dublin

BASHH Adolescent Specialist Interest Group Education Event - 18 May at RSM, London

Northern Professional Development Conference - 18-20 May in Manchester

Doctors in Training (DIT) - 6 June in Bournemouth

BASHH Annual Conference - 7-9 June in Bournemouth

Talking HIV: HIV training day - 23 June at RSM, London

5th BASHH Genital Dermatology PLUS Course Friday 26th June 2020 - RCN, London

GOGC - 2020 - 8-9 August 2020 - Tallinn, Estonia

SAS Doctors' Conference - 11-12 September in Leicester

BASHH Scientific meeting - 2 October at RSM, London

STI/HIV Module course - Modules 3 & 4 - 16-17 and 18-20 respectively

The deadlines for newsletters in 2020, please make a note in your calendar to ensure that news items are received promptly

25 March
27 May
22 July
23 September
25 November