JULY 2016: A look at ASHM News, Sector News, Resources, Courses, Conferences, and more

Greetings ASHM Member: You will notice the new format for the monthly ASHM eNEWS is somewhat longer. This is a result of some feedback, but please let saysana.sirimanotham@ashm.org.au know what you prefer.

Register now to join in the conversation with leading experts in Viral Hepatitis

With three months leading to the 10th Australasian Viral Hepatitis 2016 Conference held in the Gold Coast, Queensland from 29 September to 1 October, there’s no better time to plan towards attending this highly valuable educational opportunity – and to join a diverse delegation who include Viral Hepatitis specialists, gastroenterologists, physicians, General Practitioners, addiction medicine specialists, drug and alcohol workers, nurses, social workers, community workers, educators, pharmaceutical company representatives, basic scientists, Infectious Disease specialists, researchers, National/State & Territory Government agency personnel, NGO personnel, Regional/Area Health Authority personnel, and People Living with Viral Hepatitis.

It is a crucial year for HCV treatment and management – a unique moment in history to reduce the burden of HCV in Australia, and never before has there been a more important conference to attend.

Hear and learn from a multidisciplinary range of key speakers and panellists leading the conversation in their respective field of viral hepatitis clinical management and care, epidemiology, public health, community and social research – with highlighted keynote speakers (pictured above) including:

Alexander Ploss (PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Molecular Biology, Princeton University) who discusses his pioneering research and provides his opinions on the greatest unmet needs in hepatitis C research that could one day affect treatment.

Kate Seear (ARC DECRA Fellow and Senior Lecturer in Law at Monash University) who considers the role that the law and legal practices play in shaping hepatitis C transmission and the nature and scale of hepatitis C epidemics in Hepatitis transmission and prevention: Exploring the role that the law plays in shaping blood borne virus epidemics.

Peter Revill (Senior Medical Scientist, Victorian Infectious Diseases Reference Laboratory, Doherty Institute, Melbourne, VIC) who presents Global Strategies are required to cure and eliminate HBV with a proposal of the establishment of an International Coalition to Eliminate Hepatitis B work group, to promote awareness and education as well as to drive changes in governmental policy and ensure funds are channelled to HBV cure research and drug development.
Greg Dore (Head of Viral Hepatitis Clinical Research Program, Kirby Institute, UNSW Australia, and Infectious Diseases Physician, St Vincent’s Hospital, Sydney) who has been involved in viral hepatitis and HIV epidemiological and clinical research, clinical care and public health policy for 20 years.

Both medical and non-clinical professionals working in the sector are also welcome to attend pre-conference associated event workshops held Wednesday 29 and Thursday 30 September. Visit the conference website for more information on speakers, accommodation options, the program, and registration types and rates (tax deductible for most attendees). Register today for early bird registration fees, ending Sunday 31 July 2016.

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**ASHM NEWS**

**Seeking expressions of interest Australia-wide for Viral Hepatitis Mentoring Program**

ASHM invites all health professions working the area of viral hepatitis to be part of its Mentoring Program – a continuing professional development program that aims to strengthen collaborations between tertiary and primary care through one-to-one relationships, and to enhance patient-centered continuity of care. Become either a mentor or mentee: Experienced viral hepatitis clinicians (mentors, who include Sexual health physicians, Clinical Nurse Consultants, ID Physicians, Gastroenterologists, Hepatologists and Hepatitis B and C prescribers) share knowledge, answer questions, offer clinical advice and provide support to GPs working with patients with hepatitis B and C (mentees).

A successful program launch in Sydney kicked off in Sydney on 1 June, with 20 participants. More participants in NSW are encouraged to join. ASHM will continue to roll-out the launch of this program in Western Australia, South Australia, Victoria, and Queensland in 2016. Visit the website for frequently asked questions. Register your interest now via education@ashm.org.au or call Beni Falemaka on (02) 82040739.

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**Delivery of quality BBV and STI workforce development programs aim to strengthen capacity of health services in Far North Queensland**

Throughout 2016-17, ASHM in Queensland continues its delivery of quality HIV, Viral Hepatitis and Sexual Health services and workforce development programs across the State – targeting Blood Borne Viruses (including HIV and hepatitis B and C) and Sexually Transmissible Infections. Highlights include the inaugural HIV s100 Prescriber course delivered in Cairns on 18-19 June. ASHM will also represent alongside HIV Foundation Queensland in their facilitation of the Queensland HIV Treatment as Prevention Roadshow from 25 July to 5 August, 2016. Read more

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**ASHM Nursing Program delivers training to over 150 nurses Australia-wide in May and June 2016**

Highlights in the ASHM training calendar include Hepatitis B Nursing: Advanced Management and Care course and the Hepatitis C Nursing: Advanced Management and Treatment course, both developed in partnership with the Australasian Hepatology Association. Over 50 nurses attended these two-day workshops which aimed to provide comprehensive understanding of the nursing role in hepatitis B and C diagnosis, management and treatment. Read more
SECTOR NEWS

Adopted global health sector strategies for HIV, Viral Hepatitis and Sexually Transmitted Infections

Geneva, 28 May 2016 – The Global Health Sector Strategies for HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) 2016-2021 were formally adopted at the 69th World Health Assembly (WHA). This is an important milestone, which include targets to end the HIV epidemic as a public health threat by 2030 and to combat viral hepatitis and other communicable diseases, including STI. Read more on the International AIDS Society blog here.

Medicare ineligible Survey needs input from all s100 Prescribers

ASHM, the Kirby Institute and NAPWHA request participation from all HIV s100 Prescribers in a confidential and anonymous online survey to inform our understanding of people who are living with HIV who are currently ineligible for HIV treatment through Medicare. Take the 8 Question Survey before 15 July (5-10 min to complete)

Anal cancer is on the rise; it’s a shame …

‘The diagnosis is anal cancer,’ I hear the oncologist say firmly and formally. As the words leave her mouth and approach me, however, I am whisked away to a subterranean cavern, cool and silent, where the doctor’s voice barely penetrates ... Read Stephen Leppard in this Australian Family Physician article

Position Vacancy: Australian Red Cross Project Coordinator (12 months, P/T 22.8 hr/wk, Sydney)

The Australian Red Cross Blood Service is entrusted with the supply of blood in Australia, and collect and process life-saving blood products for patients in need. Within a professional and close-knit team, they are seeking a Project Coordinator to be responsible for a comprehensive review of the deferral policy in relation to transgender donors. Applications close on 7 July, 2016. For more information, go to the Role Description

RESOURCES

Media Guide for journalists reporting HIV criminal cases

The Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations (AFAO) have designed a web-based media tool kit to guide and brief journalists on code of ethics and principles when reporting on criminal cases involving HIV transmission or exposure. The High Court’s April 2016 appeal decision in the case of Zaburoni v The Queen establishes that if an HIV-positive person has sex with someone without protection/condoms, it cannot be said/inferred that they intended to transmit HIV.

Members working in HIV community health sector may find the useful if the Zaburoni case has triggered any stigmatising media coverage in your area and/or concerns in your communities. Visit the website

Primary Care Providers and Hepatitis C is an updated booklet for Primary Care Providers that includes information on the hepatitis C virus, the natural history of HCV, and a straightforward 12 step plan for the management of HCV and treatment protocols with the new direct acting antiviral (DAAs) medications.
Chronic HCV remains one of Australia's most commonly notified infectious diseases. People living with HCV infection are at risk of progressive liver fibrosis leading to cirrhosis, liver failure and hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). Increasing treatment accessibility is a high priority.

Involving more primary care providers in the prescription of DAAs is a major step towards facilitating HCV uptake. All Australians living with chronic HCV should now be considered for DAA treatment. Download the resource.

Interest in Hepatitis C treatments reflected in huge demand for information

David Baker, long-term hepatitis C community prescriber and clinical advisor at ASHM, hosted a one-hour webinar on 31 May: An Update on Hepatitis C. 104 clinicians from Australia-wide attended the webinar which focused on epidemiology, who and how to test, diagnosis, initial assessment, natural history and new treatment availability. This webinar is one of a 6-part series which can be viewed online here.

The Australian recommendations for the management of hepatitis C virus infection: a consensus statement 2016, is now accessible as an App, available for download via Google Play. This provides guidance on diagnosis, assessment, monitoring and the use of new treatments for hepatitis C. It is also available as a website resource.

The Australasian Contact Tracing Guidelines produced by ASHM aims to provide primary care providers with practical support and guidance with contact tracing. Contact tracing, also known as 'partner notification', is an essential step in the primary care practitioner's diagnosis and management of sexually transmissible infections. Read more

The Australian STI Management Guidelines is a web-based resource designed to provide Primary Care Practitioners with concise information to support the prevention, testing, diagnosis, management and treatment for sexually transmissible infections. It is highly useful for GPs and primary health care nurses who may not deal exclusively with sexual health, but need to make confident management decisions. Read more

Monitoring hepatitis C treatment uptake in Australia (June 2016 issue) has been published by the Viral Hepatitis Clinical Research Program – a rapidly expanding area of clinical research and development within the Kirby Institute, includes an estimation of the total patients initiated on HCV treatment in March-April 2016: 13,000-16,250. The program focuses on therapeutic research in viral
New Resources Available for HIV Support Program (HSP) for doctors making new HIV diagnosis

NSW Chief Health Officer, Dr Kerry Chant has announced on June 10 the release of a suite of resources to reinforce the HIV Support Program (HSP), a program that commenced in May 2013 and involves HIV experts offering tailored support to doctors when they make a new HIV diagnosis. Read more

Review of illicit drug use among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

The Australian Indigenous Alcohol and Other Drugs Knowledge Centre have released a comprehensive review of illicit drug use among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people which is freely available on the Knowledge Centre web resource. It is available online and also as a PDF download.

Surveillance Report: Infectious and congenital syphilis notifications associated with and ongoing outbreak in northern Australia

This report has been published in the Communicable Diseases Intelligence, Volume 40 Number 1. The Multijurisdictional Syphilis Outbreak Working Group (MJSO) was formed by the Communicable Diseases Network of Australia (CDNA) in April 2015, in response to an ongoing outbreak of syphilis among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living largely in remote and rural areas of northern Australia.

The MJSO Communiqué March Meeting (PDF) summarises the outbreak epidemiological data as of 28 February 2016, and the activities of the MJSO from 1 October 2015 - 28 February 2016.

COURSES - JULY to SEPTEMBER

For more information on ASHM training, visit http://www.ashm.org.au/training

Hepatitis C Update: Treatment Pathways and Prevention Strategies (for GPs, Nurses and Allied health workers)
4 July 2016
Mawarnkarra Health Service, Roebourne WA
Info & Register

Preparing Patients for Interferon-free Treatment for Hepatitis C in Drug and Alcohol Settings
18 July 2016
Rydges Sydney Central, Sydney NSW
Info & Register

HIV Prevention Update: Testing, treatment, PrEP and PEP
21 July 2016
HEPATITIS WEBINAR SERIES

Register now for ASHM's 2016 Hepatitis B Webinar Series available for GPs, Primary Care Nurses, Allied Health workers, gastroenterologists, Community Workers, educators, researchers, policy officers and health promotion staff.

Each 30-minute webinar will take shape as a 15-minute didactic presentation followed by a 15-minute case discussion, with expert presenters covering topics on hepatitis B clinical care management, including:

- Overview and transmission, testing, interpreting test results & vaccinations
- Natural history, initial assessment, treatment & monitoring
- HBV & HCC, Screening, HCC surveillance & treatment
- Hepatitis and pregnancy, antenatal screening & interventions during pregnancy, delivery and postpartum
- CHB and immunosuppression and reactivation, testing, risk factors for reactivation, treatment & management
- HBV & co-infection HIV/HCV/HDV, Epidemiology, Natural History & management.
All webinars will be uploaded here. Register for the sessions listed below via Lucie.Perrissel@ashm.org.au

**Fundamentals of Hepatitis B (Part 1)**
Presented by Dr Krispin Hajkowicz
Tues 5 July | 6:00 - 6:30pm (AEST)

**Fundamentals of Hepatitis B (Part 2)**
Presented by Dr Krispin Hajkowicz
Tues 16 August | 6:00 - 6:30pm (AEST)

**Complex chronic Hepatitis B (Part 1)**
Presenter TBA
TBC – September | 6:00 - 6:30pm (AEST)

**Complex chronic Hepatitis B (Part 2)**
Presenter TBA
TBC – October | 6:00 - 6:30pm (AEST)

**Complex chronic Hepatitis B (Part 3)**
Presenter TBA
TBC – November | 6:00 - 6:30pm (AEST)

**Complex chronic Hepatitis B (Part 4)**
Presenter TBA
TBC – December | 6:00 - 6:30pm (AEST)

Register now for ASHM’s 2016 Hepatitis C Webinar Series available for GPs, Primary Care Nurses, Allied Health workers, gastroenterologists, Community Workers, educators, researchers, policy officers and health promotion staff.

These are 1-hour sessions covering topics by expert presenters on hepatitis C clinical care management, epidemiology, treatment, public health and prevention.

All webinars will be uploaded here. Register for the sessions listed below via Lucie.Perrissel@ashm.org.au

**Curing hepatitis C in Australia in 2016: New treatments**
Presented by Professor Alex Thompson
Wed 13 July | 6:30 - 7:30 pm (AEST)

**Recommendations for treating hepatitis C in in people who inject drugs**
Presented by Professor Gregory Dore
Tues 30 August | 6:30 - 7:30 pm (AEST)

**Hepatitis C in Prisons**
Presented by Professor Andrew Lloyd
Tues 20 September | 6:30 - 7:30 pm (AEST)

**Hepatitis C and Liver Health**
Presented by Dr Thao Lam
TBC – October | 6:30 - 7:30 pm (AEST)

**ASHM INTERNATIONAL**

The Regional Network is one comprising of regional professional societies, colleges and workforce development agencies and individuals throughout the Asia Pacific involved in workforce professional development in the HIV, viral hepatitis and sexual health areas. Visit the website designed to be driven by user-generated content and to be a useful tool for Regional Network members to share the issues and challenges they face around their work in this field of public health.

Please encourage any interested parties in your networks to subscribe to the mailing list via the homepage.
PrEParing Health Workers for Better Health among Gay Men

APCOM has organised in the fall of 2015 the regional consultation “PrEPARING ASIA: A new direction for HIV prevention among MSM in Asia” – exploring with 125 participants the feasibility of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for self-identified gay men, and other men who have sex with men (MSM).

They are now seeking further consultation from:

- male sexual health service providers
- public sector health service providers (facility-based special clinic for MSM/LGBTI people, or general/integrated health/clinical services that also provide services for MSM)
- private healthcare providers
- international NGO or local NGO clinics for key population that provide services to MSM

Participate in this consultation

Our neighbours in Bali need your help to raise funds to continue vital HIV support services

ASHM and ACON are proud to be providing support for this fundraising initiative for Bali Peduli (Bali Care), a local not-for-profit organisation that makes a huge difference in the lives of thousands of people in its operation of two clinics; and its range of free programs that support people affected by HIV. Join in and help our neighbours in Bali by making a tax deductible donation and support this very worthy cause. Donate here

Register for scholarships and join leading experts in HIV and Sexual Health

Through our Scholarship Program, ASHM is offering scholarships to attend the Australasian Sexual Health Conference and/or Australasian HIV & AIDS Conference from 14-18 November in Adelaide, South Australia. Register here for opportunities open to:

- HIV s100 prescribers – Application deadline Friday 8 July
- Nurses – Application deadline Friday 8 July
- Health care professionals working in the area of HIV and/or sexual health in the Pacific, including Papua New Guinea – Application deadline Friday 26 August (1700 AEST)

CONFERENCES
Finding relevant medical conferences and events made easy

Healthcarelink.com.au has launched a new online platform for medical and healthcare professionals to access all CPD based conferences and courses information in one place. The platform offers all healthcare and medical professionals the opportunity to register their profile with preferred topics and location. The system will send alerts as matching events and courses are offered around Australia and overseas. Sign up online
Rural Health West: Aboriginal Health Conference | 2-3 July 2016
Perth, WESTERN AUSTRALIA
Visit the website

myPHN 2016 | 9-10 July 2016
Cairns, QUEENSLAND
Visit the website

The Annual Women's and Children's Health Update | 23 July 2016
Brisbane, QUEENSLAND
Visit the website

The Annual Women's and Children's Health Update | 13 August 2016
Perth, WESTERN AUSTRALIA
Visit the website

GPCE | 23-24 July 2016
Perth, WESTERN AUSTRALIA
Visit the website

GPCE | 26 - 28 August 2016
Brisbane, QUEENSLAND
Visit the website

Adelaide, SOUTH AUSTRALIA
Visit the website

Adelaide, SA
Visit the website

Global Indigenous SAY NO to Family & Domestic Violence Conference | 14-16 September 2016
Adelaide, SA
Visit the website

International Congress of Tropical Medicine and Malaria | 18-22 September 2016
Brisbane, QLD
Visit the website

Australasian Viral Hepatitis Conference | 29 September-1 October 2016
Gold Coast, QLD
Visit the website

Rural Medicine Australia | 20-22 October 2016
Canberra ACT
Visit the website

Australasian Sexual Health 2016 Conference | 14-16 November 2016
Adelaide, SA
Early Bird Registration closes on 11 September
Visit the website

Adelaide, SA
Early Bird Registration closes on 11 September
Visit the website

A selection of ASHM’s conference and course presentations, and related educational videos, are available for viewing free on VIMEO.

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