JANUARY 2017 – HAPPY NEW YEAR | Scroll down for ASHM News, Sector News, Available Resources, Upcoming Courses + Details of Forthcoming Conferences

ASHM NEWS
Join us at the launch of VHHITAL: A new blood-borne virus training program for GPs in Victoria

On Thursday, 9 February 2017, Primary Care Providers are invited to the launch of the VHHITAL (Victorian HIV and Hepatitis Integrated Training and Learning) program—a comprehensive education and training program for the general practice workforce in Victoria for the diagnosis, treatment and management of HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C. VHHITAL is delivered through a consortium comprising of North West Melbourne PHN (NWMPHN), the Australasian HIV, Hepatitis and Sexual Health Medicine Society (ASHM), Alfred Health, and the Doherty Institute.

This launch held in North Western Melbourne PHN (Parkville) will provide GPs in Victoria the opportunity to network other health professionals, and to obtain further information about VHHITAL and the training opportunities available. Bookings are essential before 2 February 2017. Register Here

Sexual Health Society of Queensland and ASHM collaborate on joint meetings

ASHM was proud to partner with the Sexual Health Society of Queensland (SHSQ) in two joint clinical meetings during AIDS awareness week in November 2016. In these meetings Dr Mekala Srirajalingam (Ipswich Sexual Health), Ms Carla Gorton (Cairns Sexual Health) and Dr Katelin Haynes (ASHM) presented reports from the AIDS 2016 conference (Durban), and the 2017 Australasian Sexual Health and HIV conferences (Adelaide). ASHM looks forward to continuing this partnership with joint clinical meetings to be scheduled around World AIDS Day 2017 that will be made available to ASHM and SHSQ members. Read more

ASHM seeks expressions of interest: Writers to contribute to a National Training Unit of Competency for Aged Care Workers working with people with HIV

In 2014, ASHM published Aged Care Workers and HIV and Ageing—a booklet developed for Aged Care Workers who work in a range of residential facilities and in the community providing services to clients in their own homes. The booklet provided basic information about HIV and the effects of HIV and HIV treatment on the ageing process.
ASHM has been funded by the Western Australian Department of Health to produce a new national unit of competency to provide support to people with HIV. Due for completion in March 2017 the unit will be delivered nationally through combined on-line modules and face-to-face workshops.

In developing teaching/learning materials, we now seek volunteers who could contribute to developing the educational content. Although not a paid project, this would be an excellent opportunity for a junior clinician or PhD student interested in supporting the aged care sector and making a difference to the important face to face work with this growing population. You would be cited and acknowledged appropriately in the published teaching materials.

If you are interested in this project and would like more information, please contact Karen Seager on 02 8204 0761 or Karen.seager@ashm.org.au

ASHM endorses AMA Position Statement on Blood Borne Viruses

On 9 January 2016 the AMA released a very welcome position statement on BBV. Importantly it endorses NSP in prisons, the role of primary care in management of BBV, legal protection for sex workers, a recognition of key affected populations and HTLV-1. ASHM hosted a meeting at the recent 2016 Australasian HIV and AIDS Conference on HTLV-1 with the view to supporting Aboriginal communities, clinician and researchers in central Australia to expand their work in this area. We have written to the AMA, endorsing their statement and offering to work with them to progress the calls. Access the Position Statement

Two job opportunities in ASHM (Sydney) are currently available

Education Project Officer (HIV/Sexual Health programs) | Applications close 1 Feb 2017
IT Support Officer (Operations) | Applications close 27 Jan 2017

We encourage you to circulate this news with potential interested party/ies within your networks.

SECTOR NEWS

Australasian Hepatology Association releases consensus guidelines for the provision of adherence support to patients with hepatitis C on direct acting antivirals

These are the first guidelines to support patients and health professionals in the delivery of clinical care by identifying practical adherence support interventions for patients taking DAAs. Access the research paper

Pozhet Drop-In: Support for heterosexual people with HIV on the first Wednesday of every month in 2017

Venue: Redfern Health Centre (old Courthouse)
103 Redfern Street, Refern NSW

Contact 1800 812 404 or email pozhet@pozhet.org.au and for more information, visit www.pozhet.org.au

The NSW Hep B & Hep C Communications Strategy seeks feedback from medical professionals
Hepatitis NSW and Multicultural HIV & Hepatitis Service (MHAHS) are currently developing a NSW based state-wide communications strategy to engage with people who are living with hep B/hep C. As part of that process they seek to consult with medical professionals and clinicians who currently work with, or are considering commencing work with, patients living with hep B/hep C.

This consultation will be scheduled in February and consists of a number of short questions via email or web based form, aimed at assessing the type of material and messaging you feel would be essential in helping your patients to start a conversation around testing for and treating/monitoring their hepatitis.

Register your interest before 9 February with Grace Crowley, Hepatitis NSW

RESOURCES

Third National Hepatitis B Mapping Project Report

- Interested in how your PHN, State or Territory is performing against the National Hepatitis B Strategy targets?
- Would you like an update on the prevalence of Hepatitis B in your local area?
- How big a burden is Hepatitis B in your community?

The Third National Hepatitis B Mapping Project Report is now available to download or as a hardcopy. Covering data from 2014 and 2015, the report provides updated estimates on the prevalence, diagnosis, immunisation coverage, monitoring and treatment of hepatitis B at the Primary Health Network (PHN), State and Territory level.

A further supplementary information report also presents breakdown estimates of the prevalence of chronic hepatitis B (CHB) within each PHN at the Statistical Area 3 (SA3) geographic designation of which there are 333 in Australia. These are boundaries used and standardised by the Australian Bureau of Statistics representing the most granular available for many data parameters (generally populations of between 30,000 and 130,000 residents; and often functional areas of regional towns and cities). Download the Report

HIV Management in Australasia: a guide for clinical care

This is a key text used in ASHM’s accreditation course for HIV s100 prescribers and in the continuing medication education scheme for community medical practitioners to maintain HIV s100 prescriber rights. Our invaluable clinical monograph is an essential teaching tool in training programs for participants and educators and is now available as a website.

A new section HIV Management for nurses and midwives has been added for HIV, sexual health and public health nurses from around Australia who present a nursing perspective on caring for people with HIV in the Australian context. ASHM would like to thank editors Martyn French and Liz Crock and all contributors and reviewers for their work on bringing this to reality. Visit the website

ASHM COURSES – February-March 2017

ASHM Training available for a broad range of clinicians, not just general practitioners. On offer is a range of training courses and format for clinicians at all levels who are seeking to up skill in HIV, hepatitis C and hepatitis B management. While GPs usually make up the majority of participants in our courses, sexual health physicians, AoD and general physicians as well as ID physicians who might be wanting to update their viral hepatitis skills are encouraged to attend. Nurses working in hepatitis are also able to attend these, in addition to courses in the Nursing Program.
Our courses are accredited by Colleges and so build to your regular CME/QACPD and professional standards requirements. For more information on ASHM Courses, please contact education@ashm.org.au or +61 2 8204 0796

Click on the links below to see a list of ASHM accredited Continuing Professional Development training and courses to be delivered nationally in 2016:

- HIV and STI Courses [PDF]
- Hepatitis B and C Courses [PDF]
- ASHM Courses in QLD [PDF]

__New South Wales__

**Fundamentals of HIV & Sexual Health: Expanding the Scope of Primary Health Care Nurses**
18 February 2017 | Wollongong NSW | Register Now

**Viral Hepatitis Workshop for ACCHS staff**
20 February 2017 | Illawarra AMS, Illawarra NSW | Register Now

**Short Course in Sexual Health Nursing**
10-11 March 2017 | RACP Sydney NSW | Register by email

**Hepatitis B Nursing: Preventing Liver Cancer in Primary Care**
23 March 2017 | Sydney NSW | Register by email

**HCV in Drug and Alcohol Settings**
23 March 2017 | International Convention Centre Sydney NSW | Register by email

**Chronic Hepatitis C: Curing Hepatitis C in 2017**
29 March 2017 | Nowra NSW | Register by email

__Northern Territory__

**Hepatitis C New Treatments Course**
15 February 2017 | Double Tree, Alice Springs NT | Register Now

__Queensland__

**Preparing Patients for Interferon-free Treatment for Hepatitis C in Drug and Alcohol Settings**
15 February 2017 | Peppers Soul, Surfers Paradise QLD | Register Now

**HBV/HCV/HIV/STI update**
23 February 2017 | C Square, Nambour QLD | Register by email

**Hepatitis C New Treatments Course for Primary Care Providers**
25 February 2017 | Brisbane North PHN Office QLD | Register Now

**deLilver a healthier outcome: Update in hepatitis B and C for Primary Care Providers offering Refugee Health Services**
2 March 2017 | Diana Plaza Hotel, Brisbane QLD | Register Now

**Deadly Sex Network Meeting**
13 March 2017 | Cairns QLD | Register by email

**Hepatitis B s100 Prescriber Update**
13 March 2017 | Cairns QLD | Register by email

**Hepatitis B s100 Prescriber Course**
15 March 2017 | Thursday Island QLD | Register by email

**HBV/HCV/HIV/STI update**
16 March 2017 | Community Wellness Centre, Thursday Island QLD | Register by email

**Deadly Sex Network Meeting**
16 March 2017 | Community Wellness Centre, Thursday Island QLD | Register by email

**HBV/HCV/HIV/STI update**
17 March 2017 | Bamaga QLD | Register by email

__South Australia__

Update in Hepatitis B for Primary Care Practitioners
15 February 2017 | Mawson Lakes SA | Register Now

Victoria

HIV Case discussion
7 February 2017 | The Alfred, Melbourne VIC | Register Now

Launch of VHHITAL: Our new collaborative blood borne virus training program for GPs in Victoria
9 February 2017 | North Western Melbourne PHN, VIC | Register Here

HIV s100 Prescriber Course: Introductory Modules 1-3
18-19 February 2017 | North Richmond Community Health, Melbourne VIC | Register by email

Hepatitis B s100 Prescriber Course
5 March 2017 | North Western Melbourne PHN, VIC | Register Now

Hepatitis B & C in Primary Care
8 March 2017 | St Vincents, Melbourne VIC | Register by email

Hepatitis B & C in Primary Care
9 March 2017 | Albury-Wodonga VIC | Register by email

Update in Hepatitis B for Multicultural Health Workers
23 March 2017 | Melbourne VIC | Register by email

Western Australia

Hepatitis C New Treatments Course
11 February 2017 | Quality Inn Railway Motel & Function Centre, Kalgoorlie WA | Register Now

Update in Hepatitis B for primary care practitioners
13 February 2017 | Perth WA | Register by email

Online Webinar

Curing hepatitis C: your role as a primary care nurse [Webinar 1]
16 February 2017 | 12:30-1:00pm | Speaker - Dr Jacqui Richmond
Find out more | Book Now

Curing hepatitis C: your role as a primary care nurse [Webinar 2]
21 February 2017 | 12:30-1:00pm | Speaker - Dr Jacqui Richmond
Find out more | Book Now

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 (mentors and mentees) through one-to-one relationships, and to enhance patient-centered continuity of care.

ASHM will continue to roll-out the launch of this program in Western Australia, South Australia, Victoria, and Queensland in 2017. Visit the website for frequently asked questions. Register your interest now via education@ashm.org.au or call Beni Falemaka on (02) 82040739

CONFERENCES

26th Conference of Asian Pacific Association for the Study of the Liver (APASL 2017)
15-19 February 2017 | Shanghai, China
Visit the website

Australasian Chapter of Sexual Health's Medicine Annual Scientific Meeting
ASID Annual Scientific Meeting
29 March-1 April 2017 | Blue Mountains NSW
Theme: Infectious Disease into the Future
Topics will include Climate Change, New Technologies, New Drugs and One Health. The ASM is the leading Australasian meeting for adult and paediatric infectious disease + clinical microbiology specialists. More Info
Abstract Deadline: 27 January Submit Abstract
Early Bird Registration Deadline: 27 January Register

1st Australasian Diagnostic Error in Medicine Conference
24-25 May 2017 | Melbourne VIC
Improving diagnosis is a patient safety imperative that requires team effort. In this conference, researchers, nurses, clinicians, cognitive psychologists, medical educators and patients come together to explore this rapidly expanding, often puzzling and exciting field of patient safety. More info
Abstract Deadline: 10 February Submit Abstract
Early Bird Registration Deadline: 19 March Register
Standard Registration Deadline: 14 May

Save the date: Australasian Viral Hepatitis Elimination Conference
10-11 August 2017 | Pullman Cairns International, Cairns, Queensland
There is an urgent need to increase the number of clinicians able to treat hepatitis B and hepatitis C. Until 1 March 2016, therapy uptake for HCV was slow, due to both hard to reach priority populations and the difficulty and length of the treatment itself. In hepatitis B, many people remain undiagnosed and confusion still exists around the idea of a ‘healthy carrier’, masking the need for monitoring and, in some cases, the prescription of effective therapy.

This is the first time that the Australasian Viral Hepatitis Elimination Conference will be held. It is to be held in the off-year of the Australasian Viral Hepatitis Conference to cater for the educational needs of clinicians and researchers given the major changes that are happening in the sector. Visit the website

SCHOLARSHIPS
Congratulations to the successful round one recipients of ASHM scholarships that were open to HIV s100 prescribers (GP/Primary care), Sexual Health Physicians & Hospital Based Specialists managing HIV to attend the CROI 2017 (Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections) to be held from 13-16 February, 2017 in Seattle, Washington.
Are you a GP in Regional Victoria who is interested in training to become a S100 Prescriber in Hepatitis B?

VHHIT AL (Victorian HIV and Hepatitis Integrated Training and Learning) are offering grants aimed to support GPs in rural and remote Victoria to become Hepatitis B S100 prescribers. Applications will be accepted until COB on Friday 27 January 2017 for attendance to a course to be delivered on 5 Mar 2017.

Access the eligibility criteria + more information

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TRUCITAVIR 300/200 listed on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG)

The TGA has listed TRUCITAVIR 300/200 tenofovir disoproxil maleate/emtricitabine for treatment of HIV and for use as HIV Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP). Details can be accessed from the ATRG website here

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HIV & VIRAL HEPATITIS DRUG AVAILABILITY

Videx and Zerit treatment phased out

15 December 2016: Bristol-Myers Squibb would like to inform that the sale and distribution of all strengths of ZERIT® (stavudine) Capsules and Powder for Oral Solution (OS); and Videx® (didanosine) will be phased out globally. The discontinuation in New Zealand is planned to be effective by March 2017. In Australia, it is planned to be effective by September 2017. Read more

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VIRGINIA FURNER, SENIOR HIV CONSULTANT, THE ALBION CENTRE (NSW)
RICHARD MOORE, DOCTOR, NORTHSIDE CLINIC (VIC)
MICHAEL SEAH, GP, GUNGAHLIN FAMILY HEALTHCARE/CANBERRA SEXUAL HEALTH CENTRE (ACT)

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Australasian Society for HIV, Viral Hepatitis and Sexual Health Medicine (ASHM)
Locked Bag 5057 | Darlinghurst NSW 1300
Head Office: L7, 46-56 Kippax St Surry Hills NSW 2010
QLD Office: L1, 725 Ann St Fortitude Valley QLD 4006

T: +61 2 8204 0700  F: +61 2 9212 2382
E: ashm@ashm.org.au  W: www.ashm.org.au
ABN 48 264 545 457  CFN 17788