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JUNE 2015: NEWS, RESOURCES, RESEARCH, COURSES, CONFERENCES

From the CEO, Levinia Crooks

This has really been a very remarkable month for the sector and ASHM, with most of the activity in the last week. It started with the positive recommendation by the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) of three new hepatitis C drugs. The START study, which looked at the efficacy of earlier initiation of antiretroviral therapy for people living with HIV, was stopped by the data review board and all participants offered treatment because of the inferiority of the deferred treatment arm. In relation to hepatitis B, the Minister for Health has accepted the recommendation of the PBAC to allow GP initiation of treatment, making way for HBV care



ASHM International Urgently Needs Financial Help

to be delivered in the community, as is the case in HIV. Gilead has also approved an extension of the duration of the PrEP trials. The Victorian Government has at last repealed section 19A of the Crimes Act, Australia's only HIV-specific criminal law. Lastly, the ASHM Conference Division won, for the second year in a row, the Meetings Industry Awards, In-house Meeting Organiser of the year. Congratulations!

START Trial Stopped

The sector has been eagerly awaiting the results of the Strategic Timing of Antiretroviral Treatment (START) trial about the efficacy of earlier initiation of antiretroviral treatment. The NIH announced today that the trial has been terminated early after an interim review found a clear benefit for commencing treatment at CD4+ counts above 500 compared with delaying until CD4+ falls below 350. [Read More](#)

NSW HIV Testing Week

A combined testing promotion and music tour will aim to increase awareness and encourage people to get tested during NSW's HIV Testing Week during the first week of June. Run by NSW Health, the #easytour will run over seven days and take in Sydney metropolitan, and regional areas such as the Hunter and Illawarra. [Read More](#) To coincide, the Heterosexual HIV Service, Pozhet, is seeking to increase awareness amongst primary healthcare workers of the programs and services available for heterosexual people at risk of HIV infection. For more information, please visit www.pozhet.org.au or call the Heterosexual HIV Information Line on 1800 812 404.

\$11 billion dollars has been cut from the Australian overseas aid program. ASHM International's work has been heavily impacted by this decision. It means our work in Vietnam, Timor Leste, the Pacific, Indonesia, Philippines, Cambodia, and Papua New Guinea will stop unless we can find alternative funding. Before June 30th, please consider making a tax-deductible donation to the International Gift Fund to help us to continue ASHM's programmes in our region. Your donation is very much needed, will make a genuine difference and is deeply appreciated.

[Read more and donate](#)

JUNE COURSES

[Fundamentals of HIV and Sexual Health Nursing](#)
1 Day Course | Albury | 10-Jun-2015

[Hepatitis C s100 Prescriber Course - Surry Hills](#)
1 Day Course | Surry Hills | 13-Jun-2015

CEASE Project

ASHM is pleased to partner with the Kirby Institute on the CEASE project, which aims to control and eliminate HCV infection from the majority of the Australian HIV positive population. ASHM will be coordinating the delivery of the education program in HCV treatment with interferon-free DAA therapy to HIV prescribers with high HCV caseloads in preparation for rapid scale-up of HCV treatment. This is a one-day course that will enable current HIV prescribers to broaden their clinical role in management of HIV/HCV co-infection into management of HCV mono-infection. [Read more about the CEASE project](#)

Nursing News

Tracey Cabrié, a Hepatitis B Clinical Nurse Consultant in the Integrated Hepatitis B Nursing Service (IHBS), recently won the Nurse of the Year - Clinical Award within Melbourne Health.

RESOURCES:

Gay Friendly GPs - Online Learning Module

STIGMA have partnered with ASHM to present a new Online Learning Module aimed at GPs who wish to become more 'gay friendly'. Topics include sexual health, common STIs and specific

[Chronic hepatitis C: treat now or wait? Preventing liver cancer - Narooma](#)

Dinner Update | Narooma | 16-Jun-2015

[Antenatal Care & hepatitis B - Bourke Webinar](#)

Bourke | 17-Jun-2015

[HBV Prescriber Update](#)

Dinner Update | 18-Jun-2015

[Short Course in Sexual Health Nursing - Sydney](#)

2 Day Course | Sydney | 19-Jun-2015

[HIV Shared Care: What is the Role of the GP? - Canberra](#)

Dinner Update | Canberra | 22-Jun-2015

[HCV Treatment Update for Prescribers - Sydney](#)

1 Day Course | Sydney | 23-Jun-2015

[HIV/STI Case Discussion for Primary Health Care Nurses - Sydney](#)

1 Day Course | Sydney, TBC | 24-Jun-2015

[Hepatitis C Nursing: Advanced Management and Treatment - Sydney](#)

2 Day Course | Sydney | 25-Jun-2015

issues faced by gay men and other men who have sex with men.

Earn 2 RACGP Cat. 2 QI&CPD points.

Register <https://lms.ashm.org.au/>

General Practitioners and HIV

Revised and updated, this booklet includes introductory information on the prevalence of HIV in Australia, natural history, transmission and clinical management. There are new sections on rapid testing, pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and monitoring and the role of the GP. [Order or download](#)

RESEARCH:

'Who's coming up next to do this work?' Generational tensions in accounts of providing HIV care in the community'

Generational change is believed to be transforming the educational and employment preferences of medical trainees. In this article, we examine generational tensions in interviews with policy leaders and clinicians on workforce issues within one subset of the Australian medical profession: general practitioners who provide care to people with HIV in community settings. [View the Article](#)

CONFERENCE:

Call for Late Breaker Abstracts

The Congress organisers of the World STI & HIV Congress 2015 (ISSTD/IIUSTI), 13-16 September 2015 are interested in attracting the latest and strongest scientific finding in STI and HIV research. You are invited to submit late breaker abstracts reporting your research in the format specified in the Late Breaker [Abstract Submission Guidelines](#). Submissions close 17 July 2015.



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