



June 6, 2014

Dear Colleagues,

CDC's Division of STD Prevention is bubbling over with excitement as we prepare for the [2014 STD Prevention Conference](#). This year's Conference will be held next week in Atlanta, in collaboration with the 15th [IUSTI](#) World Congress and 2nd Latin American [IUSTI-ALACITS](#) Congress. I'm certain this will be an enlightening meeting, and would like to thank all of the partners who have worked so hard with us to develop this event: the American Sexual Health Association, the American Sexually Transmitted Diseases Association, the International Union Against Sexually Transmitted Infections, the National Coalition of STD Directors, the Pan American Health Organization, and the Public Health Agency of Canada. For those not attending the Conference, please make sure to follow the official Conference hashtag, #STDConf14, for continuous updates on Twitter and Facebook.

New Resources

In addition to the Conference, DSTDP, together with its partners, has recently developed a number of resources we hope will help health departments, STD prevention programs, and community-based organizations in their mission to prevent the spread of STDs. Expect an invitation in the coming months seeking your feedback and asking you to evaluate the usefulness of these resources.

Partner Services Providers QuickGuide

The DSTDP Guidelines and Training Unit is pleased to announce the arrival of the [Partner Services Providers QuickGuide](#) resource tool. This will assist physicians and other public health staff provide high quality, consistent STD partner services across the nation. Reference links are also provided for Hepatitis, TB, and HIV.

STD Awareness Resource Site

DSTDP and the National Prevention Information Network proudly announce the release of an improved [STD Awareness Resource Site](#). The Site is intended for clinicians and program planners, and includes resources such as current STD data, policy documents, social marketing campaign examples, fact sheets, and a media resources kit. The new Site is also responsive, which means it will be easy to view it on a smartphone or tablet.

Take Charge of your Sexual Health Guide

[The National Coalition for Sexual Health](#) recently released a new guide and website titled, [Take Charge of Your Sexual Health: What you need to know about preventive services](#). The audience-tested guide is for men and women of all ages, and includes action steps for achieving good sexual health, tips on how to find and talk with a healthcare provider, and information about recommended sexual health services, such as screenings, vaccines, and counseling.

Program Highlights

Detect and Protect Against Antibiotic Resistance Initiative

DSTDP and partners have long been concerned about the potential threat of antibiotic-resistant gonorrhea. Antibiotic resistance annually causes more than 2 million illnesses and 23,000 deaths in the United States, as detailed in the CDC report [Antibiotic Resistance Threats in the United States, 2013](#). To reduce morbidity and mortality from antibiotic-resistant organisms, CDC has committed \$30 million in annual funding over a five-year period to the “[Detect and Protect Against Antibiotic Resistance Initiative](#),” known as the AR Initiative.

The AR Initiative identified seven organisms of focus, including multi-drug-resistant *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, and the following four core actions needed to stay ahead of antibiotic resistance: detecting and tracking patterns of antibiotic resistance; responding to outbreaks involving antibiotic-resistant bacteria; preventing infections from occurring, and antibiotic-resistant bacteria from spreading; and discovering new antibiotics and new diagnostic tests for antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

Some of the AR Initiative is modeled after CDC’s [GLSP](#): having lab networks to improve the detection and prevention of future infections; standing up resistant-bacteria specimen banks to facilitate the production of new antibiotics; and creating antimicrobial stewardship programs to improve antibiotic prescribing practices.

STD Surveillance Network

STD Surveillance Network (SSuN) program managers met with SSuN Part A grantees in February to review program progress, refine and revise operational guidelines, and agree on steps needed to finalize program protocols in subsequent discussions later this year. A consensus around key priorities for both the population-based and the facility-based activities emerged from the meetings. Those priorities included refining specific DSTDP objectives for each Part A component, and the methods of data collection; refining draft protocols, with DSTDP input; finalizing data elements for each Part A component; preparation of OMB submission materials; and piloting actual data transmissions.

Lessons learned from SSuN Part B projects will be used to help enhance the efficiency, completeness, and timeliness of routine STD case surveillance activities, and, eventually, to significantly modernize STD surveillance for accessing and processing electronic health data.

STD/HIV Disease Intervention Services Training Centers

DSTDP and the Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention has developed a five-year STD/HIV Disease Intervention Services Training Centers (DISTC) cooperative agreement to enhance the work skills and abilities of Disease Intervention Specialists (DIS) and other partner services provider staff working in or with state and local health department STD/HIV prevention programs. The Family Planning Council, the University of California in San Francisco (UCSF CA Prevention Training Center), and Health Research Inc./NY State Department of Health (NYSDH NY State Prevention Training Center) were selected as DISTC awardees.

Cooperative agreement activities for the first year will include UCSF and NYSDH providing the “Passport to Partner Services” training course to programs across the country; and The Family Planning Council facilitating a national training needs assessment, and developing a new training course for DIS on Detailing which will be piloted next spring. Additionally, the DISTCs will develop and implement a “Linking Patients to Care” course and develop a robust evaluation process for all DISTC training sessions to measure the impact of DISTC on STD Programs.

Commemoration of the Presidential Apology for the USPHS Syphilis Study

The National Center for Bioethics in Research and Health Care at Tuskegee University hosted the 14th Annual Commemoration of the 1997 Presidential Apology for the USPHS Syphilis Study on April 2–5.. This year’s theme was “Ethics and Social Justice.”

CDC and the Bioethics Center created a joint internship program, which allows Tuskegee University Bioethics Honors students to work at CDC on projects in underserved communities, using a public health ethics framework. It also enables Public Health Ethics Fellows to work on public health projects at various sites within the Alabama Black Belt.

New Division Leadership

I am excited to announce that Dr. Hillard Weinstock accepted the position of Branch Chief for the Division’s Surveillance and Data Management Branch earlier this year. Dr. Weinstock has been an integral part of DSTDP since 2001 as the Surveillance and Special Studies Team Lead where he was responsible for the oversight of several sentinel surveillance projects and special studies. Dr. Weinstock also has provided surveillance leadership across the National Center, and has been representing the Center on an agency-level working group to develop a CDC-wide strategy for surveillance. Prior to his assignment in DSTDP, Hillard worked as a Medical Epidemiologist with the Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention’s Prevention Services Research and Surveillance and Information Systems Branches. Additionally, he worked as a Medical Epidemiologist with the Division of Tuberculosis Control in the San Francisco Department of Public Health. Dr. Weinstock received a Doctor of Medicine degree from Tufts University, a Master of Public Health degree from the University of California-Berkley. Please join me in welcoming [Dr. Hillard Weinstock](#) to his new position as Chief of the Surveillance and Data Management Branch.

I am also very pleased to announce the selection of Dr. Kyle Bernstein as the Branch Chief for DSTDP’s Epidemiology and Statistics Branch. Dr. Bernstein assumed this new role in May, moving to Atlanta from San Francisco, where he was the Director of the Applied Research, Community Health Epidemiology, and Surveillance Branch for the San Francisco Department of Public Health. Dr. Bernstein brings with him extensive experience conducting innovative epidemiologic research in both academic and public health settings. He is a recognized expert and leader in the field of STD/HIV prevention epidemiologic research. Dr. Bernstein received both his Master of Science and PhD degrees in Epidemiology from The Johns Hopkins University. Please join me in welcoming [Dr. Kyle Bernstein](#) to CDC as Chief of the Epidemiology and Statistics Branch.

I look forward to seeing many of you in Atlanta next week for the 2014 STD Prevention Conference.

Best Regards,
Gail Bolan, MD
Director, Division of STD Prevention
National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention
U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention