

STI & HIV WORLD CONGRESS

REPORT 2023

LOCAL ENGAGEMENT | GLOBAL IMPACT

Reflecting on the successes and insights from the 2023 STI & HIV World Congress held in Chicago, this annual report encapsulates the spirit of collaboration and innovation that characterized this year's event.

We present a curated overview of the congress activities, including the program highlights, pre-congress activities, networking events, novel initiatives, art contest, and design-a-thon, along with a breakdown of registration data and an acknowledgment of our sponsors and scholarship recipients. Join us in exploring the advancements and community efforts to combat STIs and HIV

Prepared By:
ASHA

STI & HIV 2023 World Congress Overview



The Sheraton Grand Chicago Riverwalk hosted the STI & HIV 2023 World Congress from July 24 to 27, embracing health professionals from around the globe. The venue, located in the heart of Chicago's bustling River North district, provided an exceptional setting for discussions, knowledge exchange, and networking.

Chicago
July 24 to 27, 2023

This report captures the essence of the congress, summarizing key events and discussions. It serves as a reflection of the collective efforts to address the challenges in STI and HIV research and treatment.

Detailed summaries of the congress program, pre-congress activities, networking events, and more can be found in the subsequent sections of this report.



Congress Organization

A Unified Approach to Global Health

Partner Organizations: A Collaborative Foundation

The congress was organized by a consortium of leading institutions, each with a distinguished history of advancing the field of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) research and care.



ASTDA

American Sexually Transmitted Diseases Association champions the eradication of STIs by supporting research and developing leadership in the field.

ISSTDR

International Society for Sexually Transmitted Diseases Research promotes multidisciplinary STD research and information dissemination through its biennial scientific meetings.

IUSTI

International Union against Sexually Transmitted Infections advances international collaboration to combat STIs and has been a pivotal force in the field since 1923.

ASHA

American Sexual Health Association empowers individuals and healthcare providers with critical sexual health education and advocacy.



Committees

Driving Progress and Innovation

Scientific Committee

The STI & HIV 2023 World Congress was steered by a Scientific Committee chaired by Patricia Kissinger, with Andrew Winter as co-chair, guiding the congress to significant strides in HIV and STI research and policy. Accompanied by track chairs Jorgen Jensen in Basic & Translational Science, Bradley Stoner in Behavioral & Social Science, Pingyu Zhou in Clinical Science, Elizabeth Torrone in Epidemiology & Monitoring, Adele Schwartz Benzaken in Policy & Community Engagement, and Emma Harding-Esch in Implementation Science, the committee unified global experts to forge advancements in understanding, prevention, and treatment of STIs and HIV.



Conference Steering Committee

Led by Congress Chair Barbara Van Der Pol, ISSTDR President, the Steering Committee, including IUSTI President Janet Wilson, ASTDA President Khalil Ghanem, and ASHA CEO Lynn Barclay, alongside past ISSTDR President Henry de Vries, efficiently directed the STI & HIV 2023 World Congress to new heights in STI research.

Communications Committee

The Communications Committee, co-chaired by Beth Meyerson and Joseph D. Tucker, and consisting of members Fabian King, Susan Tuddenham, Teresa Batteiger, Hilary Reno, William Miller, Arlene Sena-Soberano, Brad Stoner, Remco Peters, Lynn Barclay, Lauren Maggart, and Fred Wyand, played a pivotal role in promoting the STI & HIV 2023 World Congress.

Scholarship Committee

The Scholarship Committee, chaired by Caroline Cameron and comprised of Khalil Ghanem, Somesh Gupta, Prof. Jane Hocking, William Miller, Angelica Espinosa Miranda, Chelsea Morroni, Francis J. Ndowa, Kees Rietmeijer, and Bradley Stoner, pooled their extensive expertise to advance educational and research initiatives at the STI & HIV 2023 World Congress.

Young Investigator Committee

The Young Investigator Committee, integral to ASTDA's mission of fostering scientific knowledge and developing STI professionals, was pivotal at ISSTDR 2023. Chaired by Kevin Ard and including members Teresa Batteiger, Caroline Cameron, Charlotte Gaydos, Khalil Ghanem, Matthew Hamill, Jane Hocking, Candice Joy McNeil, Johan Melendez, Angelica Espinosa Miranda, Bill Miller, Jessica Morgan, Preeti Pathela, Meena Ramchandani, Kees Rietmeijer, Olusegun O. Soge, Lizzi Torrone, Susan Tuddenham, and Abbie Norris Turner, the committee focused on enhancing the visibility of young investigators.

From Insights to Impact

Congress Program Highlights

The 2023 STI & HIV World Congress in Chicago delivered a rich tapestry of scientific discourse, expertly unfolding over four days.

Plenary Insights

The program showcased compelling narratives from eleven Plenary speakers, offering invaluable perspectives on the pressing issues in the STI and HIV landscape.

Spotlight Discoveries

The congress featured five major Spotlight sessions, illuminating the forefront of research and the ever-evolving challenges in the field.

Research Symposia & Oral Abstracts

Attendees participated in ten Symposia and engaged with groundbreaking research across fifteen Oral Abstract sessions, including two exclusive Late Breaker sessions.

Community & Connection

The event fostered a thriving network through Breakfast Symposia, an ASTDA luncheon, and special acknowledgment of Global Young Investigators' achievements.

Pre-Congress Activities

The 2023 STI & HIV World Congress kicked off with a series of pre-congress activities designed to catalyze collaboration and innovation. Exclusive gatherings, including the ISSTDR Board and IUSTI ExCo meetings, were held on Sunday, the 23rd of July, creating a collaborative atmosphere for strategic dialogue among key figures in the field. The following day, attendees were welcomed with enriching Pre-Congress Symposia and Workshops, setting an educational foundation for the week ahead.

Monday's Opening Session was marked by influential introductory remarks from esteemed leaders such as Barbara Van Der Pol, Janet Wilson, Khalil Ghanem, and guest speakers including Irina Tabidze, Allison Arwady, Leandro Mena, Kevin Fenton, and Teodora Wi. This set a compelling precedent for the congress, later celebrated with a Welcome Reception and the IUSTI Centenary. Furthermore, a diverse array of workshops on topics like Program Science, STI diagnostics, and Queer Anatomy offered valuable insights and discussions, underpinning the Congress's commitment to multidisciplinary learning and global health advancement.

Abstracts



622

Abstracts Accepted

405

Posters Presented

Fostering Collaboration

Connections and Innovations



Networking Opportunities

The STI & HIV World Congress not only thrived on scientific exchange but also on the vibrant networking opportunities it presented.

The Welcome Reception, a staple of the congress, provided an informal backdrop for attendees to connect and discuss the day's events.

Moreover, an exclusive boat event offered a unique setting where the beauty of Chicago's skyline was matched by the potential for collaborations and the forging of new professional relationships.

Novel Activities

In addition to the scheduled program, the congress introduced novel activities designed to engage and inspire attendees.

These activities were tailored to enhance the congress experience, fostering interaction, and creativity beyond the traditional sessions and presentations.

Details of these innovative and engaging activities, which left lasting impressions on the participants, will be shared here.

Visualizing Sexual Health

Art of Health Competition



The 2023 STI & HIV World Congress was not just a platform for scientific discourse but also a showcase for creative expression through the global Art of Health Competition.

Artists were invited to answer, "What does sexual health mean to you?" resulting in a kaleidoscope of perspectives from the five IUSTI geographic regions and host city Chicago. Winners were honored with cash prizes, workshops, and the display of their art at the congress, celebrating their contributions to sexual health discourse.

The exhibited artworks served as powerful narratives that intertwined art and science, emphasizing the multifaceted nature of sexual health and its significance across cultures and communities.

Winners Showcase

From top left:

- **Morgan Richardson (Chicago)**: Through embroidery, Morgan celebrates sexual health, enthusiastic consent, and trauma-informed care, while challenging reproductive health stigma and elevating historically female domestic labor through textile art.
- **Mudiwa Kimberley Marasa (Africa)**: Mudiwa's art invites a positive and vibrant approach to sexual engagement, with nude forms adorned in bright colors and flame lilies, advocating for beauty and tenacity in healthy sexual practices.
- **Maxim Timofeev (Asia)**: Maxim's work confronts the shadows of family secrets and the shame associated with sexual discourse, advocating for open communication and acceptance.

From bottom left:

- **Adam D N Williams (Europe)**: As both a researcher and a gay man, Adam's entry blends artistic expression with scientific inquiry, embodying the dual impact of sexual health in his life.
- **Ruben Molina (Latin America)**: Ruben's belief that sexuality should be embraced joyfully and respectfully from childhood is expressed in his entry, emphasizing sex as the basis of a healthy life.
- **Alex Kelly (North America)**: Alex's use of blended colors symbolizes the gender spectrum and the beauty of trans identities, championing the intersectionality of identity and presentation.

Design-a-thon

Participatory Designation



Creative Solutions for STI Reduction

The STI & HIV 2023 World Congress embraced innovation with the introduction of a designathon—a dynamic, collaborative competition aimed at harnessing collective creativity to decrease STIs. The event called upon participants to pitch their bold ideas through a process that promoted collaboration, inclusion, and out-of-the-box thinking.

Participants at the STI & HIV 2023 World Congress engaged in a transformative **design-a-thon**, organized into four groups to harness a wealth of experiences: the Silver Group of veteran researchers, the Early Career Research Group, the Traveller Group from diverse economic backgrounds, and the Community Group with direct STI/HIV experiences.

These groups brainstormed via videoconference pre-congress and crafted three-minute pitches of actionable ideas, presented on the final day.

This collaborative initiative not only generated dynamic discussion but also led to concrete outputs, including **two manuscripts**—one already submitted and another in press.

Additionally, a practical guide developed from the design-a-thon has received **conditional approval by the World Health Organization**, marking a significant contribution to the field and demonstrating the practical impact of collective innovation.



Partners in Advancing Global Health

Our Gratitude to Sponsors

The STI & HIV 2023 World Congress was made possible through the generous contributions of our sponsors, whose support was vital in fostering a collaborative environment for sexual health professionals around the world. Each sponsor played a crucial role in facilitating the exchange of knowledge, research, and innovations.

Diamond Sponsor: Roche - Leading with their highest level of support, Roche demonstrated a steadfast commitment to driving healthcare forward.

Platinum Sponsor: Hologic - As a key partner, Hologic's significant contribution underscored their dedication to women's health and diagnostics.

Gold Sponsor: Preventx - Their support highlighted Preventx's focus on accessible and innovative STI screening services.

Silver Sponsor: Abbott - With a vital contribution, Abbott reinforced their long-standing reputation in pioneering health technology.

Sponsor: NCSD - The National Coalition of STD Directors (NCSD) furthered their mission to promote sexual health through their valuable sponsorship.

Exhibitors

In addition to the sponsors, the Congress featured 12 exhibitors representing corporate, non-profit, and federal stakeholders.

Global Representation

Final Report Data



The 2023 STI & HIV World Congress saw a total of 1,135 attendees converge from around the globe.

This included attendees from 55 different countries, showcasing its global reach and the widespread interest in advancing sexual health and combating STIs and HIV worldwide.

55

Countries Represented

- **North America:** The United States led with a significant representation of 764 attendees.
- **Europe:** Notably strong participation from the United Kingdom (63), the Netherlands (29), and a combined total from other European nations demonstrating the continent's active involvement.
- **Oceania:** Australia stood out with 37 participants, alongside New Zealand contributing 3 attendees, underscoring the region's commitment to sexual health.
- **Africa:** South Africa (17), Kenya (10), and Zimbabwe (6), among others, showcased the continent's engagement and research in STI and HIV.
- **Asia & Middle East:** With China (7), Qatar (7), and other countries contributing, the representation spanned across emerging research hubs to established centers.
- **Latin America & the Caribbean:** Brazil (12), Canada (58) indicating North America's diverse input but also reflecting strong participation from Brazil and other countries reflecting the vibrant research and community engagement from the region.

Final Report Data

Scholarships

A total of **35 scholarships** were granted to facilitate attendance: 12 full scholarships, 12 partial scholarships, and 11 registration waivers.

These awards ensured the inclusion of attendees from a range of economic backgrounds, with 12 from low-income countries (LICs), 12 from lower-middle and upper-middle-income countries (LMICs and UMICs), and 11 from high-income countries (HICs).

The scholarships emphasized support for early career professionals and those from LMICs, underlining the congress's commitment to fostering the next generation of STI professionals.



Breakdown by Fee Type

The 2023 STI & HIV World Congress structured its registration fees to cater to a diverse global audience, recognizing different roles within the sexual health community. Here's how attendees participated across various registration categories and phases:

Full Rate Participants: A significant portion of attendees registered under this category, showcasing robust interest from professionals across all stages. Early Bird registrations accounted for 322 participants, with 191 registering during the Regular phase and 195 in the Late phase, totaling 708 participants.

US Public Health Agency Employees: Tailored to public health workers, this category saw 121 Early Bird registrations, 58 during the Regular phase, and 44 in the Late phase, highlighting the committed involvement of 223 public health personnel.

Full-time Students: Supporting student engagement, 43 registered during the Early Bird phase, 20 in the Regular phase, and 10 in the Late phase, underlining the congress's dedication to nurturing future professionals with a total of 73 student participants.

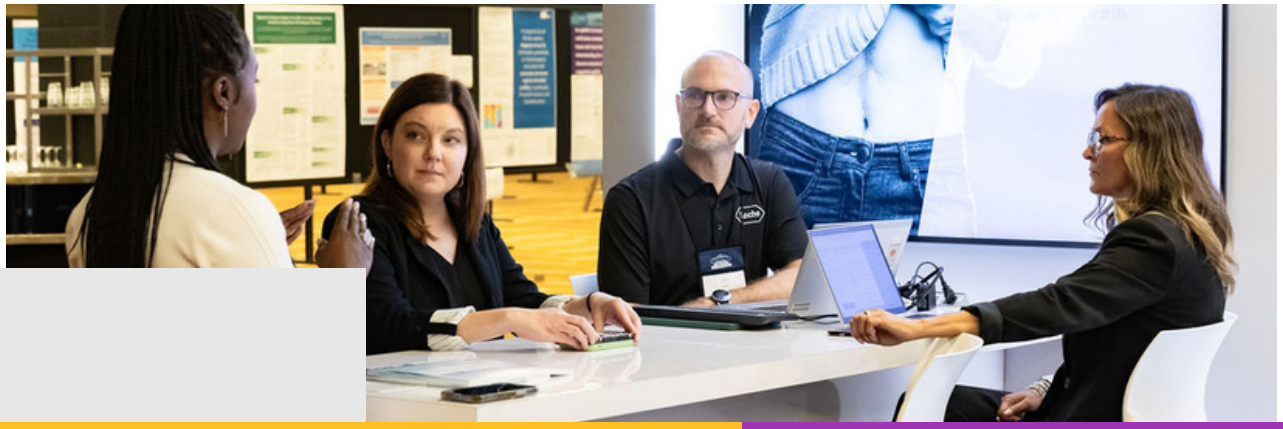
Lower/Middle Income Country Participants: Reflecting the congress's global reach, 52 registered in the Early Bird phase, 40 in the Regular phase, and 17 in the Late phase, totaling 109 participants from lower and middle-income countries.

Community Members: 22 individuals directly affected by STI/HIV or actively engaged in community health participated, emphasizing the congress's inclusive approach.

This detailed breakdown by registration category and phase not only highlights the broad participation but also the congress's strategic planning to accommodate and welcome a diverse range of attendees, reinforcing its status as a pivotal event in the global STI and HIV discourse.

Key Insights

Attendee Survey Results



- **Engagement:** The survey indicated high levels of attendee engagement and interaction, with a majority finding the Q&A time adequate.
- **Impartiality Upheld:** Attendees' overwhelming consensus on the absence of commercial bias reinforces the congress's commitment to objective scientific exchange.
- **Communication Channels:** Word of mouth and official websites were key in informing potential attendees about the congress, pointing to strong community networks and effective online presence.

92.5%

of respondents felt there was 'Usually' or 'Almost Always' sufficient time for questions during sessions.

- **Overall Quality** of the congress was highly regarded, with attendees rating it at a weighted average of 4.27 out of 5, demonstrating the event's excellence.
- **Scientific Content** stood out as particularly impressive, receiving a weighted average rating of 4.47, indicating the congress's strength in delivering cutting-edge research and discussions.
- The **Schedule of Sessions** was well-received with a weighted average rating of 4.13, reflecting the event's well-structured program.
- **Registration, Venue, and Staff** efficiency were also commended, each earning high satisfaction scores.
- **Favorite Sessions:** Attendees' top picks were the **Opening Session, Plenary 1, and Spotlight 1**, showcasing diverse interests and the effectiveness of the congress's programming.
- **App Usability:** Nearly half of the respondents found the Congress app very useful for engaging with Q&A sessions.
- **Integrity:** A remarkable 97% perceived the congress as free from commercial bias, supporting its integrity and scientific focus.
- **Discovery:** Word of mouth was the leading way attendees heard about the congress, emphasizing the strong reputation and community within the field.

Financial Summary



Revenue

Registration - $801,376

Sponsors - $290,000

Exhibitors - $47,200

Other Revenue - $157,972

Total Revenue - $1,296,548

Total Expenses - $1,028,968

NET REVENUE- $267,580

Attendees - 1,135

Abstracts - 622

Countries Represented - 55


LOCAL ENGAGEMENT / GLOBAL IMPACT
CHICAGO
STI & HIV 2023
WORLD CONGRESS
CHICAGO, IL USA 24-27 JULY 2023
American Sexually Transmitted Diseases Association
ISSTDR
IUSTI
asha