Sexual Health and HIV Academic Unit

Summary Report 2019

Prof. Jonathan Ross

Alice Manley

January 2019
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Introduction

University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust (UHB) works in partnership with Birmingham City University (BCU) and University of Birmingham (UoB) to improve the delivery of high quality sexual and reproductive healthcare through:

- a program of health care services research
- increasing research capacity within the field of sexual health and HIV
- contributing to the research and teaching programmes within UHB, BCU and UoB,
- supporting the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Clinical Research Network

Our partners over the past year have included the Birmingham City Council, Aston University, Warwick University, University of Nottingham, Glasgow Caledonian University, Public Health England, Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham Charity and the Sexually Transmitted Infections Research Foundation Charity.

The research team is based within the Umbrella sexual health partnership, and comprises:

- 7 PhD students
- 3 research fellows
- 1 research manager
- 3 research nurses
- 15 NHS consultant medical staff
- 6 medical trainees

Research Activity

The major research themes of the unit are focused on:

- sexual health service delivery
- pelvic inflammatory disease
- human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)

1. Sexual health service delivery

a) In response to the increasing resistance of gonorrhoea to existing antimicrobials:

- the GToG trial evaluated gentamicin as an alternative therapy for gonorrhoea (NIHR HTA £1.4 million – chief investigator J Ross)
- an evaluation of the immune response to gonococcal infection (S McKeand/M Drayson/A Cunningham/J Ross)
- molecular typing of \( N. \ gonorrhoeae \) to assess associations between sequence type and clinical presentation, and whether the immune response to gonorrhoea varies by \( N. \ gonorrhoeae \) genotype (S McKeand/A McNally/J Ross)

b) VITA trial evaluating the safety and efficacy of lactic acid gel in the treatment of recurrent bacterial vaginosis (NIHR HTA £1.5 million – chief investigator J Ross)

c) DEVA trial evaluating the safety and efficacy of dequalinium in the treatment of bacterial vaginosis (NIHR HTA £1.2 million – co-chief investigator J Ross)
d) Understanding young people’s perceptions of the value of STI testing – using a discrete choice experiment to identify key values which affect the decision to be tested for STIs (Sexually Transmitted Infections Research Foundation / Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham Charity £49 986 – L Jackson/J Ross)

e) Evaluating the effectiveness, acceptability and cost-effectiveness of hyfrecator therapy for the treatment of genital warts (principal investigator N Dufty)

f) Identifying patient related outcome measures for clinical care following sexual assault - a systematic review (Sexually Transmitted Infections Research Foundation / Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham Charity £11 126 – R Caswell/J Ross)

g) Evaluating the impact on individuals and wider society of remote testing for STIs (Economic and Social Research Council Studentship £57 501 – PhD supervisors F Griffiths & J Ross)

h) Understanding the costs and benefits of online screening and clinic-based screening for sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in asymptomatic patients: a case study of the Umbrella sexual health system in Birmingham (L Jackson/J Ross/ N Thorley)

i) Measuring patient satisfaction and experience after attendance at the Abuse Survivors Clinic: a new Umbrella Service in partnership with RSVP (R Caswell)

j) An evaluation of pharmacy delivered sexual health services (PhD supervisors H Atherton, J Ross & F Griffiths)

k) Multi-disciplinary evaluation of Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for better Health (MESARCH) (NIHR HSDR £1.2 million – co-applicant R Caswell)

l) PrEP IMPACT Trial – implementation of pre-exposure prophylaxis for HIV (principal investigator D White)

m) LUSTRUM Accelerated partner therapy for chlamydia trial (NIHR PgAR – principal investigator J Ross)

n) VIOLET trial evaluating efficacy and safety of VT1161 for the management of recurrent vulvovaginal candida infections (UK chief investigator J Ross)

o) Sayana Press study assessing patient self-injection of long acting progesterone contraception (principal investigator K Jaffer)

p) Identifying and developing approaches for the economic evaluation of sexually transmitted infection screening and testing interventions: a case study of the Umbrella sexual health system in Birmingham and Solihull (PhD project – supervisor J Ross)

q) Measuring and assessing patient experience and satisfaction with Umbrella services (PhD project – supervisors T Roberts/L Jackson/J Ross/N Thorley)

r) Teens’ experiences of sexual assault (PhD project – supervisors J Ross/R Caswell)
Additional support for the theme of sexual health service delivery was provided via:
- development and maintenance of the UK National STI Treatment guidelines (national committee chairman – K Radcliffe)
- leadership in the development of European STI Treatment Guidelines in association with the International Union against Sexually Transmitted Infections (IUSTI) and World Health Organisation (WHO) (editor in chief – K Radcliffe)
- national Gonococcal Resistance to Antimicrobials Surveillance Group (steering group – J Ross)

2. Pelvic inflammatory disease pathogenesis and management
   a) The department contributes to the international Cochrane Collaboration via the Editorial Board of the Sexually Transmitted Diseases Collaborative Review Group, which has published a Cochrane review for pelvic infection management (J Ross)

   b) An update of the UK national guideline for PID was completed (lead author J Ross)

3. HIV
   A number of commercial/non-commercial and collaborative studies were undertaken in the past year:
   a) POEM study – a multicentre, prospective observational study of the safety of maraviroc used with optimised background therapy in treatment-experienced HIV-1 infected patients (principal investigator J Ross)

   b) AIR study – a case-control study measuring the immune response following vaccination in HIV infected patients, and factors influencing protective immunity (chief investigator K Manavi)

   d) START study – an international, multicentre trial assessing the optimal time after HIV infection to commence antiretroviral therapy. Three sub studies include: informed consent, genomics and pulmonary (principal investigator J Ross)

   e) GS-US-292-0111 – an international study assessing the safety and efficacy of tenofovir alafenamide in the treatment of HIV (principal investigator J Ross)

   g) PRIME study – evaluating post-menopausal women with HIV (principal investigator J Ross)

   h) GS-US-380-1844 study – a multicentre randomised controlled trial assessing switching therapy to an integrase and tenofovir alafenamide based regimen (principal investigator J Ross)

   i) GS-US-380-1489 study – a randomised controlled trial comparing two integrase inhibitor based HIV treatment regimens (principal investigator J Ross)

   j) GS-US-380-1878 study – a randomised controlled trial assessing the effect of switching from a protease inhibitor based regimen to an integrase inhibitor (principal investigator J Ross)

   k) GS-US-380-1490 study – a multicentre trial evaluating a new integrase inhibitor for HIV treatment (principal investigator J Ross)
l) GS-US-292-1826 study – a multicentre trial evaluating a new integrase inhibitor for HIV treatment in subjects over the age of 60 (principal investigator J Ross)

m) AALPHI study (Adolescents and Adults living with Perinatal HIV) A Medical Research Council 5-year cohort study of perinatally infected and HIV-affected (HIV negative) young people (principal investigator C Robertson)

n) CHIPS+ (Collaborative HIV Paediatric Study) – a paediatric-adult cohort study of perinatally HIV infected patients assessing long term outcomes (principal investigator C Robertson)

o) Positive Voices – The national survey for people with HIV (principal investigator K Manavi)

q) B-cell Immune Responses to Pneumococcal Vaccination in HIV-infected patients (PhD supervisors A Richter & K Manavi)

r) TANGO GSK 204862 study - a randomised, open label, clinical trial, sponsored by ViiV Healthcare, to evaluate the efficacy, safety, and tolerability of switching to dolutegravir plus lamivudine compared to continuation of a TAF based regimen (TBR) in virologically suppressed HIV-1-infected- adults (principal investigator J Ross)

**Contributions to the Wider Research Community**

Over the past year, wider research contributions have included:

1. Support for the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR):
   - NIHR Clinical Research Network national speciality lead for sexual health (J Ross)
   - recruitment by the unit for NIHR portfolio studies:
     - a) VITA (UKCRN ID 33038)
     - b) PrEP IMPACT Trial (UKCRN ID 35405)
     - c) LUSTRUM (UKCRN ID 15996256)
     - d) Sayana Press (UKCRN ID REPR 32103)
     - e) TANGO GSK204862 (UKCRN ID 35519)

   - NIHR HTA Funding Committee (Commissioned Research) – evaluation and allocation of funding for NIHR commissioned research (J Ross)

   - NIHR Health Technology Assessment Journal editor (J Ross)

   - NIHR Dissemination Centre Panel of Expert Commentators (J Ross)

2. Editorial support for medical publications (J Ross):
   - associate editor and editorial board of *Sexually Transmitted Infections*
   - editorial board of *International Journal of STD & AIDS*
4. PhD Supervisor
   Warwick University: 2 students (J Ross)
   Birmingham University: 4 students (J Ross/N Thorley)
   Birmingham City University: 1 student (J Ross/R Caswell)

5. Committee Member for FOAM Trial - Folic Acid supplementation in the management of Menopausal symptoms in cancer survivors and healthy postmenopausal women. A phase III, multicentre, double blind, placebo controlled randomized trial (K Jaffer)

International Partnerships

The unit continues to work with the International Union against Sexually Transmitted Infections (IUSTI) supporting the publication of *STI Global Review* which provides a focus for global STI-related issues and highlights the activities of IUSTI. It has also supported the delivery of a European wide sexual health audit network.

National and International Presentations

Prof. Jonathan Ross

January 2018  Joint BASHH / Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Health Symposium, RCOG
**Pelvic Inflammatory Disease – an update** (plenary presentation)

January 2018  Public Health England – Topics in Infection Conference
**What do we do about untreatable GC?** (plenary presentation)

March 2018  Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections
**The Mediterranean portfolio diet in HIV dyslipidaemia: a randomised controlled trial** (poster presentation)

April 2018  British Association for Sexual Health and HIV Annual Conference, Edinburgh
**Assessing the measurement of patient experience and outcome in health care settings on receiving care after sexual violence: a systematic review** (poster presentation)

April 2018  Maltese Association of Dermatology and Venereology
**What’s New in Pelvic Inflammatory Disease** (plenary presentation)

May 2018  Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Health Annual Scientific Meeting
**Spotlight on PID** (oral symposium presentation)

June 2018  American Society of Microbiology & Microbe, Atlanta
**Gentamicin for the Treatment of Gonorrhoea (GToG): Minimum Inhibitory Concentration Data versus Clinical Outcome** (poster presentation)

June 2018  International Union against Sexually Transmitted Infections conference, Dublin
Gentamicin for the treatment of gonorrhoea (GToG) clinical trial: minimum inhibitory concentration data versus clinical outcome (oral presentation by Helen Fifer)

July 2018  European Health Economics Association (EuHEA) Conference, Maastricht Understanding young people’s choices around STI screening: results from a discrete choice experiment (oral presentation by Louise Jackson)

Sept 2018  British Sociological Association Conference, Glasgow Empowerment, power and control of survivors of sexual violence in healthcare settings: evidence from a systematic review (oral presentation by Karen Lorimer)

Sept 2018  The International Society on Priorities in Health (ISPH), 12th biannual international conference, Linköping University, Sweden Understanding young people’s priorities for service development: a case study of sexual health services (oral presentation by Louise Jackson)

Nov 2018  International Union against Sexually Transmitted Infections conference (Asia-Pacific), Auckland Gonorrhoea and Syphilis among Heterosexuals in the UK (oral symposium presentation)

Dr. Meg Boothby
Nov 2018  Federation of Infection Societies Conference, Recording of current non-antiretroviral medication for HIV patients at University Hospitals Birmingham (poster presentation)

Dr. Rachel Caswell

2018  Fourth Joint Conference of BHIVA and BASHH 2018, Edinburgh Assessing the measurement of patient experience and outcome in healthcare settings on receiving care after sexual violence: a systematic review (poster presentation)

2018  Fourth Joint Conference of BHIVA and BASHH 2018, Edinburgh Are women living with HIV being offered appropriate contraceptive methods? An audit of clinical practice (poster presentation)

Dr Claire Robertson
April 2018  Joint British Association for Sexual Health and HIV and British HIV Association conference, Edinburgh.
No microscopy means no slides – does it matter when treating Neisseria gonorrhoea? A review of local practice (poster presentation - commended)

Dr. Kulsum Jaffer
March 2018 RCOG World Congress, Singapore
Migration of a Nexplanon Contraceptive Implant to the Pulmonary Artery (poster presentation)

Dr. Keith Radcliffe
June 2018 Italian Society of Clinical Microbiology, Bertinoro
Diagnostic pathways and management of sexually transmitted infections (invited oral presentation)

May 2018 23rd National Congress of the SEIMC (Spanish Society of Infectious Diseases and Clinical Microbiology) – Bilbao,
Breaking news: current issues in sexual health (invited oral presentation)

2018 European guideline for the organisation of an STI consultation (invited oral presentation)

Dr. Nicola Thorley
April 2018 NICE Fellowship Project, NICE Fellows and Scholars Induction day. NICE Headquarters, London

May 2018 FSRH Annual Scientific Meeting, Birmingham.
BASHH Guideline Update

Sept 2018 St Phillips Place, Birmingham.
Umbrella Service Model Presentation. HIV and Sexual Health Commissioners Group for England

Nov 2018 IUSTI Asia Pacific 2018
Developing methods to understand the costs and benefits of online STI testing (poster presentation)

Dr Penny Goold
April 2018 Fourth Joint Conference BASHH & BHIVA, Edinburgh
Management by nurses of patients presenting with lower abdominal pain and/or deep dyspareunia for a sexual health screen (poster presentation)

April 2018 Fourth Joint Conference BASHH & BHIVA, Edinburgh
An audit of the investigation and management of Erectile Dysfunction within a psychological service for sexual dysfunction (poster presentation)

Dr. Ngozi Dufty
April 2018 England Senior Football Medical Performance, F.A and England Cricket
Sexual health for young athletes (oral presentation)
May 2018  British Army’s first Health and Deployability Conference
Dispelling the myths of HIV (oral presentation)

May 2018  University of Birmingham, MSc in Trauma Science
Sexual Violence in Conflict (oral presentation)

Dr. Denise Williams
May 2018  Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Health Annual Scientific Conference
IUC Insertion: a baseline audit. STI screening, results and outcomes
(poster presentation)

Dr. Kaveh Manavi
April 2018  Fourth Joint Conference BASHH & BHIVA, Edinburgh
Men who have sex with men (MSM) eligible for the PrEP impact trial: do they differ from other MSM clinic attendees? (poster presentation)

Management of anaemia in patients with HIV in a teaching hospital
(poster presentation)

Virological and financial impact of switching of HIV infected patients to generic components (poster presentation)

Dr. Rachel Barlow-Evans
March 2018  RCOG World Congress in Singapore
Migration of a Nexplanon Contraceptive Implant to the Pulmonary Artery (poster presentation)

May 2018  Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Health Annual Scientific Conference
IUC Insertion: a baseline audit. STI screening, results and outcomes (poster presentation)

May 2018  Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Health Annual Scientific Conference
Increasing LARC Uptake in Medically Complex Abortion Patients at a Tertiary referral Centre (poster presentation)

Sept 2018  International Federation of Professional Abortion and Contraception Associates (FIAPAC), Nantes, France
Increasing LARC Uptake in Medically Complex Abortion Patients at a Tertiary referral Centre (poster presentation)

Publications

Prof. Jonathan Ross:
Intravaginal boric acid – is it an alternative therapeutic option for vaginal trichomoniasis?
Thorley N, Ross JDC
Sexually Transmitted Infections 2018;94(8)574-7 DOI: 10.1136/sextrans-2017-053343

Highlighting the clinical need for diagnosing Mycoplasma genitalium infection
https://doi.org/10.1177/0956462417753527

European Guideline for the Management of Pelvic Inflammatory Disease
Ross J, Guaschino S, Cusini M, Jensen J

Antibiotic therapy for pelvic inflammatory disease: an abridged version of a Cochrane systematic review and meta-analysis of randomised controlled trials
Savaris RF, Fuhrich DG, Duarte RV, Franik S, Ross J.
Sexually Transmitted Infections 2018 - http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/sextrans-2018-053762

A randomised controlled trial to compare the clinical effectiveness, cost effectiveness and safety of gentamicin and ceftriaxone in the treatment of gonorrhoea (The G-TOG Trial)
JDC Ross, Jan Harding, Lelia Duley, Alan A. Montgomery, Trish Hepburn, Wei Tan, Clare Brittain, Garry Meakin, Kirsty Sprange, Sukhwinder Thandi, Louise Jackson, Tracy Roberts, Janet Wilson, John White, Claire Dewsnap, Michelle Cole, Tessa Lawrence, on behalf of the G-TOG Collaborative Group
NIHR Health Technology Assessment Journal (in press)

Dr. Rachel Caswell:
Emerging sexually transmitted viral infections: 2. Review of Zika virus disease.
Int J STD AIDS. 2018 June 26 Caswell RJ, Manavi K.

Tropical Medicine and Emerging Infectious Disease,
ELSEVIER (in publication) Book Chapter 39 Trachoma and Inclusion Conjunctivitis. Victor Hu, Rachel Caswell, Anna Last et al Hunter’s

Dr. Kulsum Jaffer:
Essential anatomy: why anatomical words matter when it comes to subdermal implants
R Barlow - Evans, K Jaffer, J K Gupta
BMJ SRH

Dr. Nicola Thorley:
Intravaginal boric acid: is it an alternative therapeutic option for vaginal trichomoniasis?
N. Thorley, J.Ross.

Collaborating with community pharmacists to deliver sexual health services.
NICE Shared learning Example (submitted for publication on NICE website)
N. Thorley – submitted on behalf of UHB NHS Foundation Hospitals Trust.
A service evaluation comparing home-based testing to clinic-based testing for chlamydia and gonorrhoea in Birmingham and Solihull.
P Banerjee, N Thorley, K Radcliffe.

*Dr. Keith Radcliffe:*
Highlighting the clinical need for diagnosing Mycoplasma genitalium infection.

A service evaluation comparing home-based testing to clinic-based testing for chlamydia and gonorrhoea in Birmingham and Solihull.
P Banerjee, N Thorley, K Radcliffe.

Is it time to reconsider epidemiological treatment for gonorrhoea?  
(Letter) S Mensforth, K Radcliffe.

*Dr. Kaveh Manavi:*
Emerging sexually transmitted viral infections: 2. Review of Zika virus disease.
Caswell RJ, Manavi K.
*Int J STD AIDS.* 2018 June 26

Observational study of factors associated with return of home sampling kits for sexually transmitted infections requested online in the UK.
Manavi K, Hodson J  
BMJ Open 2017; 22: e17978

*Dr. David White:*
Immediate Initiation of Antiretroviral Therapy for HIV Infection Accelerates Bone Loss Relative to Deferring Therapy: Findings from the START Bone Mineral Density Substudy, a Randomized Trial.

Acceptability of an open-label wait-listed trial design: Experiences from the PROUD PrEP study.

Dr. Rachel Barlow-Evans

Essential anatomy: why anatomical words matter when it comes to subdermal implants
R Barlow - Evans, K Jaffer, J K Gupta
BMJ SRH

Contributions to the NHS and/or Sexual Health

Prof. Jonathan Ross:
National
- Vice President – British Association for Sexual Health and HIV
- Diploma in HIV Medicine Examiner

International
- Treasurer – International Union against Sexually Transmitted Infections world executive
- Cochrane Collaboration Sexually Transmitted Diseases Editorial Review Group
- European STI Guidelines Editorial Board

Referee for Peer Review Journals and Grant Giving Bodies
Peer reviewer for:
- Sexually Transmitted Infections
- International Journal of STD & AIDS
- Sexual Health
- JAMA
- Journal of Infectious Diseases
- Clinical Infectious Diseases
- Journal of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy
- Medical Research Council
- The Cochrane Collaboration
- BUPA Foundation
- Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology
- National Institute for Health Research – HTA and RfPB
- NHS Choices
- The Wellcome Trust

Dr. Sarah Barrett:
National
- Member of the SAC and regional training programme director of GUM
- LTFT Regional Advisor

Dr. Meg Boothby:
National
- Examiner for Diploma in Genitourinary Medicine at the Society of Apothecaries of London.
- Oversees Undergraduate Teaching for medical students attached to University Hospital Birmingham and Heart of England NHS Trust for GUM clinical placements
• Membership of the University of Birmingham medical student 4th year curriculum committee and writes MCQ and OSCE exam questions and assessing 4th year elective project proposals.
• Leading on HTLV Clinics - A monthly multidisciplinary clinic for the assessment and treatment of patients diagnosed with Human T-cell Lymphotrophic Virus (HTLV), of which there are only four sites in UK set up to look after this group

**Dr. Rachel Caswell:**
**National**
- Secretary for the Sexual Violence Special Interest Group of BASHH

**Dr Kulsum Jaffer:**
**National**
- Training Programme Director for the Community Sexual and Reproductive Health Training Programme in the West Midlands
- Tier 3 educator for the development and delivery of education in a local/regional setting. Faculty of RCOG Medical Educators
- Examiner for the Membership of the Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Health
- NICE expert advisor – Med tech Innovation – Natural Cycles

**Referee for Peer Review Journals**
- *Journal of Obstetrics & Gynaecology*

**Dr. Keith Radcliffe:**
**National**
- Chair of British Association for Sexual Health and HIV (BASHH) Clinical Effectiveness Group
- BASHH Senior Editor on the Editorial Board of the journal Sexually Transmitted Infections
- Member of the Editorial Board of the International Journal of STD and AIDS

**International**
- Senior Councillor on the Council of the European Branch of the IUSTI
- Member of the World Executive Committee of the IUSTI
- Editor-in-Chief of the European STI Guidelines Project

**Dr. Claire Robertson:**
**National**
- Member of Clinical Governance Committee, BASHH
- Chair of the West Midlands, BASHH
- RCP Regional Specialty Adviser for GU Medicine
- Member of BASHH Adolescent Special Interest Group (ASIG)


**Dr. Nicola Thorley:**

**National**
- NICE Fellowship (2018-21)
- NICE Adoption and Impact Reference Panel member

**Dr. John Watson:**

**International**
- Member of End Point Review Committee for The NEAT study - An Open Label Study Examining the Efficacy and Cardiovascular Risk of Immediate Versus Deferred Switch From a Boosted PI to Dolutegravir (DTG) in HIV Infected Patients With Stable Virological Suppression

**Dr. Kate Johnston**

**National**
- FSRH Trainer and Examiner for the DFSRH and Letters of Competence

**Dr. Penny Goo:ld:**

**National**
- Member of BASHH Sexual Dysfunction Specialist Interest Group
- Supervision of fourth year Pharmacy undergraduate student at the University of Birmingham undertake a project within Umbrella ‘The Use of the Unannounced Standardised Patient as a Formative assessment Tool for community Pharmacists Delivering a Sexual Health service’.

**Dr. Kaveh Manavi:**

**National**
- Treasurer of BASHH
- Contributing author to the national standards for online sexual health services.
- Contributing author to the national standards for sexual health services.
- Member of Clinical Governance Committee, BASHH
- Chair of West Midlands HIV Network
- Member of BASHH website group
- MRCP PACES examiner for Royal College of Physicians

**Dr. Ngozi Dufty:**

**National**
- BASHH Lead for STI/HIV Course
- BASHH Education Committee
- Health Education England Postgraduate Clinical Tutor
- Regional committees - West Midlands Foundation School Board, the Postgraduate School of Medicine Board, Regional Clinical Tutor committee
• National Recruitment Interview Panel (Health Education England and UK Foundation Programme)

**Armed Forces (Ministry of Defence)**

- Defence Specialist Advisor for Sexual Health and HIV
- Consultant Advisor (Army) Genitourinary Medicine
- Chair - Defence Sexual and Reproductive Health Expert Advisory Group
- Sexual Health Lead – Military Genitourinary Trauma Working Group
- Defence Lead – MOD STIF and accreditation

**Peer reviewer for:**

- The Journal of the Royal Army Medical Corps, BMJ group
- The Journal of Military and Veterans’ Health (US)

**Dr. Denise Williams:**

**National**

- RCOG Faculty Development Framework Tier 2 educator for the development and delivery of education in a local/regional setting
- FSRH Instructing doctor in Birmingham/Solihull Training Programme