

## **BIA Monthly Digest – 17<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

### **News Items**

#### **BIA Council Elections 2021**

Elections and nominations are now open for a number of posts on the BIA Council.

Nominations are being made online, please [click here](#) to register as a candidate or to support a nomination. Closing date for nominations is Wednesday 14th April.

Further details can be found [here](#)

#### **UK guidelines for the treatment of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) have been updated**

Much has changed since the previous guidance was issued in 2008, in particular, the incidence of MRSA in UK hospitals has fallen markedly as well as new anti-staphylococcal antibiotics becoming available. An update to the national MRSA treatment guideline in light of these changes is therefore required.

Updating these national guidelines was a joint initiative of British Society for Antimicrobial Stewardship (BSAC), British Infection Association (BIA), Healthcare Infection Society (HIS) and Infection Prevention Society (IPS). However, BSAC and BIA alone were involved in the production of this guideline. A separate guideline updating recommendations for infection prevention and control of MRSA will be developed by HIS and IPS.

Read the updated guidelines [Here](#)

#### **PHE COVID-19 Literature Digest**

Public Health England's Literature Digest team produce a digest three times a week which summarises a selection of COVID-19 papers potentially relevant to incident stakeholders. The digest contains both peer reviewed and non-peer reviewed papers, alongside a weekly guest editor feature. Papers are categorised into seven themes:

- Immunology and serology
- Diagnostics
- Genomics
- Epidemiology and clinical
- Treatment
- Modelling
- Overviews, comments and editorials

If you would like to sign up to receive the reports (via email) on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays please email the team on [COVID.LitDigest@phe.gov.uk](mailto:COVID.LitDigest@phe.gov.uk)

A selection of previous Digests are available [here](#) on the Finding the evidence: Coronavirus page under the 'Keeping up to date' tab, alongside other complementary resources.

#### **COVID-19 Therapeutics Advice & Support Group (CTAG)**

BIA continues to support the work of the COVID-19 Therapeutics Advice & Support Group (CTAG). CTAG has been established by a group of Drugs and Therapeutics Committees, Area Prescribing Committees and specialists to provide advice and support in the management of COVID-19 whilst national guidelines evolve.

Its ongoing work is supported by BIA and the Royal College of Physicians through the Joint Specialist Committee on Infectious Diseases.

Please visit the [CTAG website](#) for more information.

## LearnInfection

a learning platform for infection trainees

LearnInfection is an online resource for infection trainees to test, learn and share knowledge on infection topics and best practice. Aimed at BIA trainees, it is available to all BIA members and can be accessed using your BIA login details.

Please take a look at <https://learn.britishinfection.org/>

### **BAJIR Bone and Joint Infection Registry**

The BAJIR database is the UK Bone and Joint Infection Registry. It is designed to collect data on all patients with bone and joint infections in the UK.

The information will be used to better understand bone and joint infections and how best to treat them. It will also be used to assess and improve the quality of services across the NHS to achieve better outcomes for patients with these conditions.

For further information, or if you would like to join the BAJIR, visit <https://bajir.org/>.

Contact us via [nhc-tr.bajir@nhs.net](mailto:nhc-tr.bajir@nhs.net).



### **Grants**

See [Grants](#) page for full information of all grants available

### **BMA Foundation for Medical Research HC Roscoe Grant**

The BMA Foundation for Medical Research awards research grants each year to encourage and further medical research in a variety of areas. One of these grants, the HC Roscoe, is to promote research into the elimination of the common cold and/or other viral diseases of the human respiratory system.

Applications are invited from UK-registered medical practitioners or research scientists working in the UK, and can be for either research in progress or prospective research.

This grant, and other BMA Foundation grants, is now open for online application via the [BMA Foundation website](#).

The application deadline is 7 May 2021

If you have any queries please contact [researchgrants@bma.org.uk](mailto:researchgrants@bma.org.uk)

### **BMA Foundation for Medical Research Kathleen Harper Grant**

The BMA Foundation for Medical Research awards research grants each year to encourage and further medical research in a variety of areas. One of these grants, the Kathleen Harper, is to assist



research into antimicrobials. Applications are invited from UK-registered medical practitioners or research scientists working in the UK, and can be for either research in progress or prospective research.

This grant, and other BMA Foundation grants, is now open for online application via the [BMA Foundation website](#).

The application deadline is 7 May 2021

If you have any queries please contact [researchgrants@bma.org.uk](mailto:researchgrants@bma.org.uk)

### **Caudwell LymeCo Charity Innovation Fund 2021**

This annual fund will award small project grants of up to £50,000 towards innovative projects which address our research priorities.

The aim is to build capacity within Lyme disease research. We want to help get ideas for pilot studies off paper and in the lab.

These grants will be for short term projects of up to 18 months.

We will consider funding both salary and direct project costs. Our grant can also make up part of the costs for a larger project.

Who can apply: The award is open to accredited laboratories, academic institutions and small commercial enterprises in the UK or Europe.

If you are unsure on your eligibility, please contact us at [lymecocharity@caudwell.com](mailto:lymecocharity@caudwell.com)

The deadline for submission is Thursday 1st April 2021

For further details and to apply please visit the [Caudwell LymeCo Charity website](#)

### **Guidelines**

#### **Consultations**

##### **Call for evidence: Long Term Condition Management of HIV**

HIV Clinical Reference Group is putting together a toolkit to enable commissioners and local services to provide support to people living with HIV around long term condition management. This may relate to physical conditions that are worsened or complicated by HIV (e.g. cancer, cardiovascular and respiratory disease) or the mental health and wellbeing.

As the HIV Commission report points out “Combined with the higher rate of age-related conditions, our services must evolve to manage multi-morbidities, polypharmacy, psychosocial issues, residential/nursing care services and end-of-life care, to maintain excellent HIV care outcomes.”

To inform this toolkit the Long Term Condition Management Working Group has commissioned a systematic review of published literature, and alongside that, we want to seek examples of best practice from those working in the field. We write to you today to invite your contributions to this evidence review: “What services, interventions and support (from the public, private or third sector) in England are available for people living with HIV to manage their overall health and wellbeing over the long-term?”

We are particularly interested in examples of services provided in rural settings, within primary and community care, involving peer support or social prescribing and from non-traditional providers such as social enterprises and charitable groups. You may be a service user, provider, commissioner or partner – we welcome submissions from all sectors.

Please [click here to complete a simple form](#) to provide contact details and information about the example you wish to highlight. If you have a “gmail” account, you can upload any files as well, or you can email them to [lucy.lynch@phe.gov.uk](mailto:lucy.lynch@phe.gov.uk).

### **Published Guidelines**

See [Published Guidelines](#) page for full information of all guidelines published

### **UK guidelines for the treatment of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) have been updated**

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Read the updated guidelines [Here](#)

### **Clinical Infection in Practice (CLIP)**

**CLIP, the online BIA journal is available [here](#)**

The Journal provides a forum for the advancement of knowledge and discussion of clinical infection in practice. It will embrace relevant clinical research and clinical management issues, including case reports and case series demonstrating novel or interesting findings.

The CLIP Editor in Chief is Professor Martin Wiselka supported by a distinguished Editorial team.

Currently looking for several further Associate Editors, each expected to review and manage around 4 or 5 papers a year

Please contact [martin.wiselka@uhl-tr.nhs.uk](mailto:martin.wiselka@uhl-tr.nhs.uk) for further details.

Visit the [Elsevier website](#) for further information

To submit an article please [click here](#).



### **NITCAR Update**

See [BIA NITCAR](#) page for more information

Regional and supra-regional audit and research collaboratives exist to facilitate larger scale audits, service evaluations and research projects. The aim of the National Infection Trainee Collaborative for Audit and Research (NITCAR) is to facilitate such multi-centre projects within the field of infection.



### **Necrotising otitis externa**

Sites have been fully recruited, and patient enrolment will begin at these sites in January 2021.

Project lead: Susanne Hodgson. Email: [interest@noe.nitcollaborative.org.uk](mailto:interest@noe.nitcollaborative.org.uk) to get involved

Visit <http://nitcollaborative.org.uk/wp/noe/> for further information.



### **National Audit of the Management of Encephalitis**

University of Liverpool Brain Infections Group is looking for sites to contribute to its National Audit of the Management of Encephalitis. Please get in touch if you/ trainees at your hospital might be interested in supporting this work.

Our hope is to recruit at least 40 sites, please express your interest by emailing [interest@name.nitcollaborative.org.uk](mailto:interest@name.nitcollaborative.org.uk)

For more information please see: <http://nitcollaborative.org.uk/wp/name/>

If you would like further information about NITCAR, or would like to ask us a question, please go to our website - [www.nitcollaborative.org.uk](http://www.nitcollaborative.org.uk)

### **Infection Events**

See [Infection Events](#) page for full information

### **RCPE Symposium: The Public's Health after COVID: science and social justice**

14 Apr 2021

Virtual Event

Topics: This exciting programme led by eminent scientists and renowned speakers, who will describe how they experienced and sought to overcome Covid-19. Topics include; COVID-19: What do we now know? How did we respond to growing (and at times misleading) evidence? What did we learn? How has COVID-19 affected health inequalities? What opportunities does the 'new normal' offer? What other opportunities does the 'new normal' offer?

Audience: This meeting will be of interest to all grades of public health, medical - including general and specialist physicians, general practitioners, doctors in training and medical students, nursing and scientific staff, public health specialists, and allied health professionals

[Website](#)

Contact: [m.allan@rcpe.ac.uk](mailto:m.allan@rcpe.ac.uk)



### **BSAC Spring Conference**

29th - 30th April 2021

2021 marks 50 years of the BSAC. Join us to celebrate! Full details to follow. To register your interest, please contact [Esme Carruthers](#)

### **BIA Spring Trainees' Day 2021**

Wednesday 19th May 2021

Manchester Conference Centre, 78 Sackville Street, Manchester, M1 3BB

### **BIA 23rd Annual Spring Scientific Meeting 2021**

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Manchester Conference Centre, 78 Sackville Street, Manchester, M1 3BB

### **ECCMID 2021**

9th - 12th July 2021 - Online

The 31st European Congress of Clinical Microbiology & Infectious Diseases (ECCMID), will take place online 9 – 12 July 2021.

The usual ECCMID scientific symposia, keynote lectures, meet-the-expert sessions and educational workshops will all be present, in addition to exciting new ECCMID formats tailor-made for online delivery. Be sure to join us for the keynote fireplace discussions and online escape room, amongst other new initiatives.

Click for the [programme](#) and to [register](#)

### **39<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the European Bone and Joint Infection Society**

7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Ljubljana, Slovenia

The main conference theme is: Joining forces: optimising diagnosis and management of bone and joint infections.

Find more information on the conference website: [Click here](#)

### **Workshops and Courses**

See [Workshops and Courses](#) page for more information

### **Tuberculosis, Postgraduate Certificate (1-year Part-time Distance Learning)**

This new programme will provide a comprehensive overview of Tuberculosis with an emphasis on prevention, diagnosis, and management of drug-susceptible Tuberculosis.

The programme has been developed for trainees and consultants in infection specialities and respiratory medicine; it can also be taken by nurses and public health workers, and practitioners with experience in Tuberculosis.

For further information [click here](#)

### **Advanced courses + scientific conferences**



Welcome Genome Campus Advanced Courses and Scientific Conferences is the only UK-based programme providing open postgraduate courses and conferences focused on biomedicine. We fund, develop and deliver training and conferences that span basic research, cutting-edge biomedicine, and the application of genomics in healthcare.

Please [click here](#) to view upcoming virtual courses and conferences

### **Vacancies**

See [BIA Jobs](#) page for full information

#### **HTD Charitable Fund Centenary Fellow**

Job Reference: 309-MB1084-YV

Employer: University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Department: Infection

Location: UCLH, London

Salary: £32,478 - £51,069 per annum inclusive pro rata

For further information please [click here](#)

#### **Senior Clinical Fellow in Mycobacteriology x 2 posts**

Applications are invited for the post of Senior Clinical Fellow in Mycobacteriology. There are 2 posts advertised, one based at the National Mycobacterial Reference Service-Central and North (NMRS-CN) based at the Public Health England (PHE) Midlands Public Health Laboratory in Birmingham and the other at the National Mycobacterial Reference Service-South (NMRS-S) based at PHE Colindale, London. This is an excellent opportunity to work within a role in PHE's world-leading NMRS. The successful candidates will be part of an innovative and supportive team delivering Whole-Genome Sequencing for TB as a routine diagnostic service for clinical and public health use.

Both posts allow the post-holder to develop expertise in genomic microbiology and mycobacteriology, with exciting possibilities for being involved in and developing research projects.

Further details of qualifications required and duties of the post-holder can be [found here](#) and the closing date is Monday 22nd March 2021.

For an informal discussion please contact [grace.smith@phe.gov.uk](mailto:grace.smith@phe.gov.uk)