

Guest Lecture – London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, Keppel Street

Wednesday 2nd August 12.45pm

Manson Lecture Theatre

All Welcome

Mycoplasma genitalium: antimicrobial resistance and implications for management

Dr Catriona Bradshaw

Mycoplasma genitalium is an established cause of urethritis and cervicitis and has recently been shown to increase the risk of pelvic inflammatory disease, spontaneous abortion and pre-term delivery. Lacking a peptidoglycan containing cell wall, *M.genitalium* has limited susceptibility to currently available classes of antimicrobials and has displayed a marked propensity to develop antimicrobial resistance (AMR) to recommended first and second line antimicrobials. Limited access to testing and commercial assays has significantly impacted on progress in establishing its role in disease, but has also resulted in the emergence of AMR on a scale that now surpasses *Neisseria gonorrhoea*. This presentation will present global data detailing the extraordinary rise in AMR which has largely gone unnoticed outside the field in the absence of surveillance. With increasing availability and recent regulatory approval of a number of commercial diagnostic assays in Europe, diagnoses of *M.genitalium* will substantially increase and present unique challenges to clinicians who will struggle to achieve high levels of cure with available drugs and recommended regimens. New classes of antimicrobials are urgently needed, but in the meantime we need to develop innovative treatment strategies that limit the use of azithromycin and use combined diagnostic-resistance assays to individualize antimicrobial therapy. Data will be presented on the repurposing of old drugs and novel approaches to achieve high level cure.

Dr Catriona Bradshaw is based at Melbourne Sexual Health Centre where she works as a consultant and holds honorary Associate Professorial positions at the Central Clinical School, Monash University and the School of Population and Global Health, University of Melbourne. She has a strong interest in clinical and epidemiological research in sexually transmitted infections and a particular focus on bacterial vaginosis, the vaginal microbiome and Mycoplasma genitalium.

For further details please contact sarah.harman@lshtm.ac.uk