

Welcome to the May edition of 4 Thought Solutions Newsletter. The objective of this newsletter is to provide short abstracts from larger articles about what is going on in the field of sexual health and contraception. We will accept short articles or information on events for advertising giving you the opportunity to share with others what you are doing. Hope you all had an enjoyable May Bank holiday weekend and are looking forward to the next one at the end of the month.

In late April the card game SNAP CLAP was launched in the USA, it was launched across Europe this month. The response to these new distribution contracts with HEALTH EDCO has been excellent and a further development is a mutual arrangement with HIT to team up SNAP CLAP with their excellent card game Contraception. If you are interest in these games contact info@4thoughtsolutions.co.uk

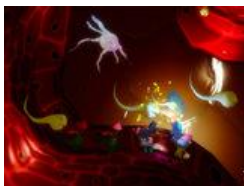


For our subscribers in the Wirral region, please note that there are a number of 4 Thought Solutions sexual health training courses currently being advertised in your region, to book on to a course contact: Lynne.Loughran@wirral.nhs.uk

Unfortunately due to a lack of delegates the GUNA Spring Conference had to be cancelled this event which was to be held in Stafford at the end of April 2010 was undersubscribed which is a great shame as these events are well worth going to. GUNA is an organisation run be volunteers so let's support them. Make a note in your diary now for the Autumn Clinical Meeting which is being planned already, and will be held in Durham on Saturday 2nd October.

We thought of ourselves as calendar girls' Claire Finch was tried for running a brothel in a sleepy village in Bedfordshire, but even the judge was smiling when she was cleared. "We thought of ourselves as calendar girls," says Finch, sitting in her lounge as she describes the parlour where six middle-aged women, two or three working at any one time, sold massages with "happy endings". The prosecution's view was less rose-tinted. Although women are legally entitled to sell sex individually, if they club together they risk a charge of brothel keeping for whoever has their name on the lease. "We weren't worried though," she continues, gesturing with an immaculately manicured hand. "A blind eye has been turned for so many years. You only have to open a paper to see the ads stating 'Choice of eight ladies'."

http://women.timesonline.co.uk/tol/life_and_style/women/body_and_soul/article7125757.ece



Sexual health title 'Privates' revealed - Zombie Cow Studios and Channel 4 have revealed a sexual education title for PC and Xbox 360. *Privates* will be a platform twin-stick shooter where the player must direct an army of condom-hatted marines to destroy infections from within several bodily orifices. Developed by *Time Gentlemen, Please!* maker Zombie Cow Studios, the title will promise a light-hearted take on sexual health aimed at teenage audiences.

<http://www.digitalspy.co.uk/gaming/news/a219447/sexual-health-title-privates-revealed.html>



Teens' Facebook Sex Talk May Not Be Just Talk. Sexual references signal intent to have intercourse, study finds. Researchers reported that teens that include sexual references on their Facebook profiles may very well be planning to have sex. Nearly half of U.S. teens younger than college age report having had sexual intercourse, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation, with the median age of intercourse being 16.9 years for males and 17.4 years for females. Article By Randy Dotinga.

http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/news/fullstory_98283.html





Hearing impaired students in Armenia learn about HIV & sexual health for the first time. Father Esau, friend and supporter of deaf children in Armenia, engaged World Vision to educate them on safe sexual behaviour & HIV prevention. Photo by World Vision staff. **World Vision MEERO**, <http://meero.worldvision.org>

Deaf children or children with hearing impairments in Armenia seldom receive information on sexual health, leaving them even more vulnerable to HIV, other sexually transmitted infections (STI) and early pregnancy. Training sessions conducted by World Vision health specialists are striving to change that and the students themselves have been overwhelmingly receptive.

World Vision

<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/fromthefield/wvmeero/a0fa65aa23ac497079c888dac551dedd.htm>

50 years of a sometimes bitter pill

It is 50 years since the pill was first approved as a contraceptive, finally divorcing sex from pregnancy. But half a century on, our relationship with the tablet credited with revolutionising women's lives is not always an easy one. On 9 May, 1960, the American authorities announced they would allow a hormonal pill previously used for gynaecological complaints to be prescribed as contraception. Over the next decade, a string of other Western countries from Australia to the UK would follow suit. Science, changing social attitudes and even fears about overpopulation in communist states all conspired to make the pill possible. By Clare Murphy Health reporter, BBC News



The pill: a medication or a lifestyle choice?

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/8667418.stm>

FDA Approves New Combination Product Oral Contraceptive - The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved Natazia, a combination hormonal tablet for use as an oral contraceptive. Natazia contains two female hormones, an estrogen (estradiol valerate) and a progestin (dienogest), and is the first four-phasic oral contraceptive marketed in the United States. Four-phasic refers to the doses of progestin and estrogen varying at four times throughout each 28-day treatment cycle. "Nearly 12 million women in the United States and more than 100 million women worldwide currently use oral contraceptives," said Scott Monroe, M.D. <http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm211176.htm>

World Bank Announces Increased Lending For Family Planning, Maternal Health Programs The World Bank last Tuesday released a five-year Reproductive Health Action Plan that aims to reduce maternal deaths and improve family planning in 58 developing nations by increasing access to contraception and maternal health services. The plan calls for greater investments in health worker training, more frequent prenatal visits and improved reproductive health education. According to the World Bank, reproductive health issues have become a lower priority for many donors, aid agencies and governments. Pregnancy- and childbirth-related complications contribute to the deaths of about 350,000 women each year, mostly in developing countries, the World Bank said. The group also noted that unsafe and illegal abortions contribute to the deaths of about 68,000 women annually. <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/188575.php>

To read or download the Action Plan go to <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTPRH/Resources/376374-1261312056980/RHActionPlanFinalMay112010.pdf> as documents go it is relatively short 66 pages.



Could the Pill Lower a Woman's Sex Drive? Sexual dysfunction higher for those on the regimen vs. other methods, researchers report. Women who use hormonal contraception such as birth control pills may be at higher risk for having sexual problems than women who use no contraception or non-hormonal contraception, a new study suggests. The research isn't the first to find such a link, said Dr. Irwin Goldstein, director of sexual medicine at Alvarado Hospital in San Diego and a clinical professor of surgery at the University of California, San Diego. He has found the same link in his own research. The new study, he said, is "more evidence that when you fool around with hormones, you fool around with your sex life." The study is published in the current issue of the *Journal of Sexual Medicine*; Goldstein is the journal's editor-in-chief. http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/news/fullstory_98464.html



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New Approach For Male Contraceptive The year: 2014. Imagine the scene: A man's wife doesn't feel good on the Pill. He'd like to have the "old her" back, and figures it's his turn to take responsibility for contraception. But they want another child, so vasectomy is not an option. So what does he do? While he drops his electric car off for a quick charge, he pops into the doctor's office for a recharge of his own: 15 minutes of ultrasound treatment, for 6 months of contraception. Sound futuristic? It's not. The effect of ultrasound on sperm production has been known since the 1970's, but never pursued since then. But with Monday's announcement of a Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Grand Challenges Explorations grant to a team at the University of North Carolina, this method may finally have its day. <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/188646.php>

Walgreen to hold off selling genetic test kits By MATTHEW PERRONE
WASHINGTON — The largest U.S. drugstore chain, Walgreen Co., said



Wednesday it will hold off selling what was poised to be the first over-the-counter genetic test, after the Food and Drug Administration said the kit has not been proven effective. Pathway Genomics announced Tuesday that its saliva swab would be on Walgreen's shelves later this month, offering millions of Americans the chance peek into their genetic code for signs of inheritable diseases like Alzheimer's. But within 24 hours the company's plan was met with stiff response from FDA regulators who said the products may run afoul of federal laws governing medical tests. On Wednesday, the FDA posted a letter to Pathways online, indicating the San Diego-based company never submitted its product for federal review, a requirement for medical devices.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5iifG4xt1XogW5YdoTpmoyOA-XseAD9FLMNH80>

Articles

Combined antiretroviral treatment and heterosexual transmission of HIV-1: cross sectional and prospective cohort study - Objective To estimate the risk and probability of heterosexual transmission of HIV-1 from infected people taking combined antiretroviral treatment. Design Cross sectional and prospective cohort... (Source: BMJ Online First) http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/abstract/bmj;340/may14_1/c2205

Circumcision in Australia: further evidence on its effects on sexual health and wellbeing - Objective: To report on the prevalence and demographic variation in circumcision in Australia and examine sexual health outcomes in comparison with earlier research. <http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/123344442/abstract>

Resources

http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/bmj;340/may14_1/c2587 Please note an author amendment to- The new UK growth charts for children aged 0-4 years (designed using data from the new WHO standards) describe the optimal pattern of growth for all children, rather than the prevailing pattern in the UK (as with previous charts). The new charts look different, they are suitable for all ethnic groups and set breast feeding as the norm. http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/extract/340/mar15_1/c1140

Sexual Health Profiles and Index - The profiles aim to support the work of Strategic Health Authorities and Primary Care Trusts in monitoring the health of their population and the performance of local health systems. For the most recent data go to: <http://www.hpa.org.uk/web/HPAweb&HPAwebStandard/Page/1237277176628>

The Adolescent Health e-learning project aims to ensure that all health professionals have essential youth communication skills and understand young people's rights to consent and confidentiality. <http://www.e-lfh.org.uk/projects/ah/index.html>

A new resource e-SRH, e-learning for Sexual & Reproductive Healthcare, has been developed by the [Faculty of Sexual & Reproductive Healthcare](#) (FSRH) in partnership with e-Learning for Healthcare (e-LfH) <http://www.e-lfh.org.uk/projects/e-srh/index.html>



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Forthcoming Events

If you are interested in forthcoming conferences around the world subscribe to <http://www.conferencealerts.com/>

12th Annual Conference of the National HIV Nurses Association (NHIVNA)

29-30 June 2010, De Vere Grand Hotel, Brighton <http://www.nhivna.org/events/12th/docs/12thannual.pdf>



GENITO-URINARY
NURSES
ASSOCIATION

GUNA Autumn Clinical Meeting will be held in Durham on Saturday 2nd October.



The 2010 [The Australasian HIV/AIDS Conference 2010](http://www.sexualhealthconference.com.au/) (22nd Annual Conference for the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine), will be held back-to-back with the **Australasian Sexual Health Conference** to be held from 18 - 20 October which was mentioned in previous newsletters. <http://www.sexualhealthconference.com.au/>

Previously Listed Events

2nd National Conference: Current Issues in Sexual Health London United Kingdom 20th - 21st May http://www.mahealthcarevents.co.uk/cgi-bin/go.pl/conferences/detail.html?conference_uid=146

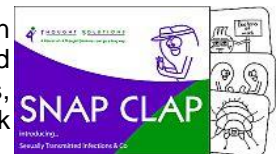
Children & Young People Now's 5th Annual Safeguarding Children Conference, A One-Day Conference, 29 June 2010, The Ibis, Earl's Court, London. <http://baspcan.org.uk/events.php>

Sex and the Law - Criminalisation? Protection? Rights? 23rd September 2010, Sheffield - HIV Centre for HIV & Sexual Health

From April 2010 – In London, Birmingham and Oldham - Sexual health and young people - an introduction, a specially designed one day course for non-specialist staff. <http://www.durexhcp.co.uk/durex-catalyst/powering-excellence.php>

Training: 4 Thought Solutions Ltd provides training programmes ranging from, workshops, single days or tiered programmes. So please contact us to discuss your organisations sexual health training needs info@4thoughtsolutions.co.uk

We are expanding our product range. The images from the Snap Clap game have been reproduced on Mugs. These mugs are an easy way to introduce sexually shared infections. Snap Clap a fun and versatile resource suitable for training workshops, educational settings, with a range of professional and non-professional groups. Check out the website for more information <http://www.4thoughtsolutions.co.uk/pr.html>



This is an example of one of our INFORMATION PACKS – a selection of the Information Pack available now include SNAP CLAP and another card game 'Contraception'. Both of these games provide a versatile resource suitable for use in workshops, youth groups and class room activities. Included in the Information Packs are facilitator's guidelines, a number of information leaflets, fact sheets and quizzes to assist in the delivery of sex and relationships education.

This newsletter is for you if you have any questions, research or audits you would like assistance with or if you would like to contribute news items, event listings, vacant positions, items of interest then please email any contributions directly to the editor at info@4thoughtsolutions.co.uk

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