



Sexually transmitted infections: An evidence-based online course 2026

Course overview

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Collaborating partners



**The Geneva
Foundation for Medical
Education and
Research (GFMER)**

**The World Health
Organization (WHO)**

Course coordinators



Dr Antonio Gerbase
Senior STI Consultant;
Director, GFMER
Former WHO staff member



Dr Ismail Maatouk
Professor of Dermatology and STIs,
University of Balamand, Lebanon
Former WHO staff member



Course module developers

- **Dr Antonio Gerbase**
Senior STI Consultant; Director, GFMER
- **Dr Ismail Maatouk**
Professor of Dermatology and STIs, University of Balamand
- **Dr Remco Peters**
Department for HIV, TB, Hepatitis & STIs, World Health Organization



Course goal

To strengthen the capacity of health professionals to deliver evidence-based prevention, diagnosis, treatment, programme implementation, and research in sexually transmitted infections through a comprehensive online course.



Course objectives

Strengthen	Develop	Promote	Enhance	Foster
Strengthen participants' knowledge of STI epidemiology, prevention, diagnosis and treatment.	Develop competencies in planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating STI programmes.	Promote evidence-based clinical practice in accordance with WHO recommendations.	Enhance participants' capacity to conduct training, operational research and programme evaluation.	Foster multidisciplinary approaches integrating STI prevention, HIV, sexual health and human rights.



Course topics

Week 1

- STIs as a global public health challenge: past, present and future

Week 2

- **Epidemiology of STIs**
 - Interactions between HIV and STIs

Week 3

- **Prevention of STIs**
 - Vaccination
 - HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP)
 - Doxycycline post-exposure prophylaxis (doxy-PEP)
- **Live webinar: Syphilis prevention and care**

Week 4

- **STI screening and diagnosis**
 - STI screening
 - Laboratory diagnosis
 - Point-of-care testing

Week 5

- **STI treatment**
 - Clinical management of STIs
 - Syndromic management
 - Etiological diagnosis and treatment
 - STI management during pregnancy

Week 6

- **STI programmes and service delivery**
 - Monitoring and evaluation
 - Surveillance
 - Programme design and implementation
- **Sexual health, human rights and STIs**
- **Live webinar: Antimicrobial-resistant gonorrhoea**

Module calendar



21 October 2026 - 01 December 2026 (6 modules)

**I. STIs as a global
public health
challenge: past,
present and future**

III. Prevention of STIs

V. STI treatment



**II. Epidemiology of
STIs**

**IV. STI screening and
diagnosis**

**VI. STI programmes
and service delivery
Sexual health, human
rights and STIs**

What each course module will contain



Each module contains:

- Recorded lectures with downloadable slides
- Reading materials and WHO guidance documents
- Assignments
 - Written assignments (weekly)
 - Multiple-choice questions (weekly)



Teaching-learning methods

What the course organizers will do to support the participants:

- **A GFMER mentor will be assigned to you at the start of the course who will provide academic support, facilitate learning, answer questions and provide feedback throughout the course.**
- **Your mentor will review your paperwork assignments and provide you with feedback promptly.**
- **You can reach out to your mentor by email whenever required or if needed by phone.**
- **You can always contact the GFMER secretariat with questions or concerns.**





Teaching-learning methods **cont'd**

What is required of you (the course participants):

- **To connect with your mentors at the start of the course & to reach out to them when needed**
- **Attend the live webinars and/ or watch the recordings**
- **Participate in the course Google Groups forum**
- **Participate in the end-of-course ZOOM meeting**
- **To complete & submit the end of course evaluation**



For each module:

- **Study the slide sets and / or watch the recorded lectures**
- **Read all accompanying documents as applicable**
- **Complete the short assignments and MCQs**

Each module will take about 6 hours of work/week (total 36 hours of work)



Teaching-learning methods cont'd

Google Groups:

- You will receive an invitation to join the group.
- You will need a Google account to join and post in the group.
- You can create a Google account without changing your email address. Alternatively, you can create a new Gmail address. Learn how at:

<https://accounts.google.com/SignUpWithoutGmail>

- Once you become a group member, you can create a new topic for discussion or response to any topic through email or direct access to the group website.
- Google has clear online instructions on how to access and participate in the group at:
<https://support.google.com/groups/answer/1067205#join>





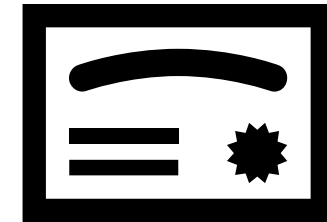
Online meeting schedules

Activity	Description	Date and time
Orientation session for coaches	To Orientate coaches before the start of the course	Wednesday 21 October 2026 Time: 2 PM CET (Geneva time)
Course introduction/ opening	To welcome and introduce participants to the course	Thursday 22 October 2026 Time: 2 PM CET (Geneva time)
Webinar 1	Live webinar on syphilis prevention and care • Panellist: Dr Remco Peters (World Health Organization)	Thursday 05 November 2026 Time: 2 PM CET (Geneva time)
Webinar 2	Live webinar on gonorrhoea resistance • Panellist: Dr Ismail Maatouk (University of Balamand)	Thursday 26 November 2026 Time: 2 PM CET (Geneva time)
End of course meeting	For participants, coaches, course organizers, course resource persons to reflect on the course	Wednesday 09 December Time: 2 PM CET (Geneva time)

Certificates



Participants who successfully complete all required assessments will receive a certificate.





GFMER organizing team: Names and designations

- Prof Aldo Campana, GFMER Director
- Dr Raqibat Idris, GFMER Course Manager
raqibat.idris@gfmer.org
- Ms. Fionna Poon, GFMER Course Administrator
fionna.poon@gfmer.org
- Dr Aseel Mugahed, Technical Officer
- Dr Fariza Rahman, Technical Officer

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**Welcome to the
course!**