The Brazilian Society of Sexually Transmitted Diseases (SBDST) has held its congress biennially for over 25 years. Rich in themes and highly democratic, the conference is attended by professionals and entities involved in the fight against sexually transmitted infections. It is always a success thanks to the fundamental support of our partners.

This year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the organizing committee of the XIII Brazilian Congress on Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD) and the SBDST had a significant challenge — to hold online an event which has always taken place in person, while maintaining the high quality of the addressed themes.

The organizers saw fit to mobilize the executive committee of the congress, including the board of the SBDST, to be present in a studio in Vitória from where the principal solemnities and conferences were streamed, and interactions with other speakers and fellow congress members took place hybridly. It was a great challenge.

We are very grateful to our partners, such as the Brazilian Ministry of Health, the Pan American Health Organization, and the Syphilis No project, which helped put on a great hybrid event reaching more than a thousand delegates. Undoubtedly, the most significant support came from these more than one thousand subscribers who virtually attended the tables, panels, conferences, discussions, and work presentations.

A large number of results from studies and works were evaluated in a complete or abstract way. Under peer review, the most interesting papers were accepted for poster and oral presentations. These are available in this issue of the Brazilian Journal of Sexually Transmitted Diseases.

The great challenge of hosting a hybrid congress has been met with utter success. We now hope that these exceptional circumstances will pass, and that in-person events will be possible again so we can meet face to face and without fear in 2023, in the city of Florianópolis, for the XIV Brazilian Congress on Sexually Transmitted Diseases.

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