Chlamydia

The emergence of a “new” infection

Chlamydia is a ‘new’ infection. Its incidence has only been reported in the last twenty years or so. But where was it previously?

Dr Michael Worboys, Director of the Centre for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine at the University of Manchester, UK, explores this question by looking at the pre-history of the disease, from the emergence of non-gonococcal urethritis (NGU) in the 1950s, to its “repackaging” as a number of distinct infections, including Chlamydia, from the 1970s onward. Dr Nathalie Broutet, Medical Officer with the Department of Control of Sexually Transmitted and Reproductive Tract Infections, describes WHO’s current initiatives to control sexually transmitted infections, including Chlamydia.