



Victorian News

The Australian Society for Microbiology VIC Branch Newsletter

July 2016, Vol 491

Victorian Branch ASM:

The Australian Society for Microbiology
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klwaller@unimelb.edu.au

Submission Deadline: 4th of the Month

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Find us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/250340155042466/>

ASM Vic Branch would like to invite you to join us for an evening highlighting how flow cytometry can be used in the study and detection of microbes.

Going with the Flow

The Application of Flow Cytometry to Microbe Analysis

Date: **Wednesday, 27th July 2016**

Finger food & refreshments from 6.15pm
Presentations commence at 7:00pm

Venue: The Geoffrey Wiley Lecture Theatre
Ground Floor, The Royal Dental Hospital, 720 Swanston St, Carlton

Cost: This is a free event for ASM members (student or full members), or

- \$40 non-ASM member
- \$15 student non-ASM member

PRESENTATIONS:

- *Principles of Flow Cytometry.*
Alexis Gonzalez, Flow Cytometry Platform Manager, The Univ. of Melbourne
- *Dyes for flow cytometry and Acoustic flow cytometry.*
Dr Antonio Castillo, Technical Sales Specialist, Thermo Fisher Scientific

Research presentations:

- *Monitoring bacterial membrane changes in response to antimicrobials using flow cytometry.*
Assoc. Professor Neil O'Brien-Simpson. Oral Health CRC and Bio21 Inst.
- *Flow cytometry as a tool for measuring bacterial aggregation/co-aggregation and opsonisation.*
Dr Jason Lenzo. Oral Health CRC and Melbourne Dental School

Talks will be followed by a questions and answer opportunity

For catering purposes, please RSVP for this event by 5pm Monday 25th July 2016, by registering at: <https://www.trybooking.com/MBNO>

Enquires: Dr Christine Seers (caseers@unimelb.edu.au), or
Dr Jacqueline Heath (jhea@unimelb.edu.au).
Applications for membership accepted on the night.



**ASM Victorian Branch
in conjunction with the
Doherty Institute presents**

Public Health Night

Join us for an evening of presentations by Doherty Scientists and invited speakers on Antimicrobial Resistance Topics.

- Venue:** Ground Floor Auditorium
The Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity
Corner Grattan and Elizabeth Streets, Melbourne
- Date:** Wednesday 10th August, 2016
6:15 pm for finger food & refreshments, presentations from 7:00pm
- Chair:** Ben Howden
- Keynote Speaker:**
John Turnidge - National Antimicrobial Surveillance System

Presentation Topics:

Update on Carbapenemase-producing *Enterobacteriaceae* (CPE) in Victoria
HIV Drug Resistance Update in Victoria-a Lab Perspective
The Victorian Vancomycin Resistant *Enterococcus* (VRE) Snapshot Study
Trends in Enteric Pathogen Surveillance and Resistance
(Speaker details to follow.)

Cost: This is a free event for ASM members (student or full members), or \$40 non-ASM member & \$15 student non-ASM member

**For catering purposes, please RSVP for this event by 5pm
Monday 8th August, 2016 by registering at
<https://www.trybooking.com/LYBP>**

For further details, please contact **Mary Valcanis** (valcanis@unimelb.edu.au) or **Karena Waller** (klwaller@unimelb.edu.au).

The Doherty Institute is a joint venture between the University of Melbourne and Royal Melbourne Hospital.

**ASM Victorian Branch and ASM Food
Microbiology SIG are pleased to present**

Save the Dates

2016 Bi-State Conference, Victoria / Tasmania

Friday 25th / Saturday 26th November 2016

**Peppers Seaport Hotel,
Launceston TAS**

What you can expect:

- A diverse and engaging scientific program of invited speakers at a picturesque location
- Great networking opportunities
- Catering, with an optional dinner opportunity on Friday night



Poster Presentations: Would you like to present a poster at Bi-State? If so, contact Dr Ed Fox (edward.fox@csiro.au) for abstract and application instructions. **Abstract submissions close: August 29th 2016.**

Enquires:

Christine Seers (caseers@unimelb.edu.au), or Karena Waller (klwaller@unimelb.edu.au)

Food contamination, outbreaks and impacts to industry

Event Report

On June 20th ASM Vic Branch together with the Food Microbiology SIG held an evening of talks which detailed some high profile foodborne disease outbreaks and contamination events that have occurred in Australia and New Zealand, some which occurred in recent times and also other high profile outbreaks that have been key events which have shaped Australian food regulation, legislation and manufacturing practise. An audience of roughly 40 people were in attendance, including researchers, academics and industry professionals. The presenters at the seminar included a number of leading figures in the Australian food microbiology, which included a wide range of experience across a variety of areas such as research, policy development and implementation, industry practise and epidemiology and outbreak investigations.

Dr Narelle Fegan, a Team Leader in CSIRO's Food Safety and Stability Group, provided an in-depth analysis of an infamous *E. coli* outbreak linked to fermented meats, which was instrumental in impacting food manufacture best practise and as Narelle pointed out the repercussions of which were still being dealt with some 20 years after the outbreak.

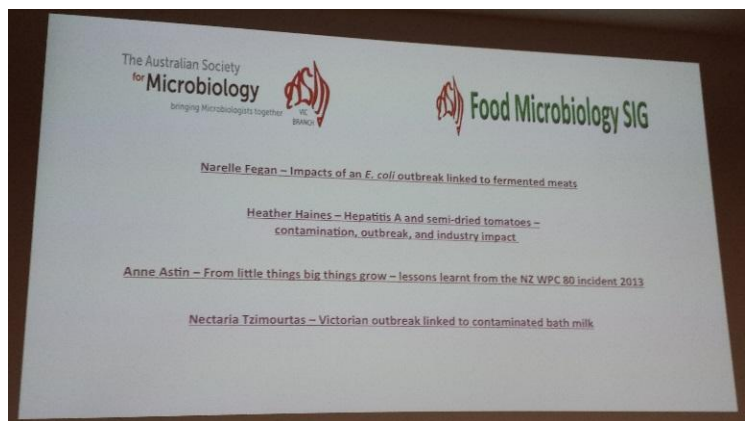
Dr Heather Haines then presented a review of a Hepatitis A outbreak linked to sun-dried tomatoes. This was particularly interesting as this was a highly unusual food-pathogen combination, and highlights the complexity of identifying and responding to unusual foodborne outbreaks.

Dr Anne Astin led the audience through the complex series of events that unfolded during the WPC 80 *Clostridium* contamination incident that occurred in 2013 and showed how when such events happen to large businesses this can even have a knock-on effect to a country's economy.

Finally Nectaria Tzimourtas, a Senior Public Health Officer within the Communicable Disease Prevention and Control Unit at the Department of Health and Human Services, reported on a recent emotive outbreak linked to the consumption of unpasteurised bath milk.

The wealth of experience in the room also led to an engaging panel session after the talks which discussed the complexities of food production and how a concerted effort by a number of key stakeholders is necessary to help ensure the safest food supply for consumers.

Contributed by: Ed Fox



Event Report

VSP Dr Mathieu Pernice

and

Mass Spectroscopic Techniques for Microbial Analysis

We had 25 attend a very diverse and informative ASM meeting on the Science and Application of Mass Spectrometry for Microbial studies. Two local (Melbourne-based) early career researchers (Dr Adrian Lutz, Metabolomics Australia, Univ Melbourne and Dr Snehal Jadhav, Swinburne University) bookended the presentation by the ASM Visiting Speaker (Dr Mathieu Pernice). A lively discussion on technical aspects and the application of mass spectrometry followed the presentations. Earlier, all speakers met for a discussion on their work and for dinner at a local pizza café. Special thanks went to all the excellent speakers and to Adrian Lutz for organising the room and access after hours.

Contributed by: Prof. Linda Blackall

Visiting Speakers Program

Do you know of an outstanding speaker coming to Australia?

If so, consider them for the Visiting Speakers Program (VSP).

**Further information about the VSP and the speaker
recommendation form can be found at:**

**[http://www.theasm.org.au/events/visiting-speakers-
program/](http://www.theasm.org.au/events/visiting-speakers-program/)**

**Alternatively, contact Catherine Satzke
(catherine.satzke@mcri.edu.au), who is the VSP Coordinator
for the ASM VIC Branch.**



ASM History SIG – Column

Today the issue of quarantine is still very relevant. Note the recent court case regarding the dogs, Boo and Pistol, belonging to Johnny Depp and Amber Heard.

The New Quarantine Act [post Federation] did not come into force until July 1909, when all of the quarantine stations Australia-wide were taken over by the Commonwealth. However the actual transfer of individual stations did not occur immediately.

ASM Inc is putting together a together a permanent microbiology display for the Point Nepean Quarantine Station.

Do you have any historical microbiological items to donate to the ASM History SIG for this ASM Inc display? If so, please contact Dr Di Lightfoot (dlight6@bigpond.com)

ASM memorabilia:

If any ASM members have significant ASM memorabilia that they would like to donate to the ASM archives or would like to suggest topics suitable for possible symposia at future ASM Annual Scientific Meetings, please send details of the memorabilia or suggested symposia topics to:

History SIG convener
c/o Australian Society for Microbiology Office
9/397 Smith Street
Fitzroy VIC 3068

Advertise in the ASM VIC Branch Newsletter!

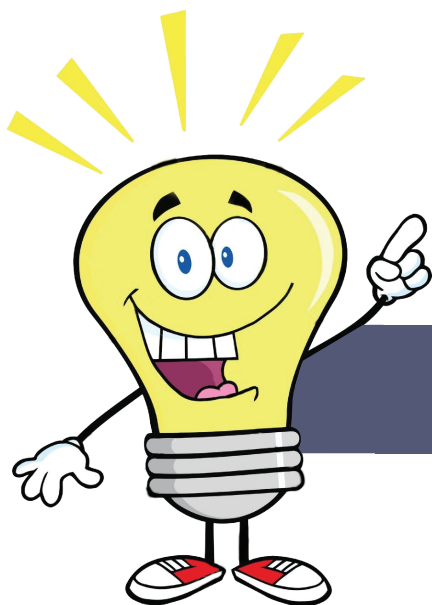
Would you like to advertise your event, job vacancy or other news item in our newsletter?

Advertising rates are:

Not-for-profit adverts: free of charge

For-profit adverts: \$50 per advert

If so, please contact Karena Waller
(klwaller@unimelb.edu.au)



AIMS VICTORIAN BRANCH PRESENTS:



BRAVE NEW WORLD

INNOVATION IN DIAGNOSTIC TESTING

Multidisciplinary Scientific Workshop

WHEN

Saturday, 16th July, 2016.

9:00am-4:15pm

WHERE

Cabrini Health,
The Auditorium.

183 Wattletree Rd, Malvern, 3144.

PROGRAM

Kerrie Scott-Dowell

Histology – title TBA

Dr. Darren Jardine

New HPV testing model – title TBA

Dr. Meg Wall

SNP Arrays – title TBA

Marc Potten (ESL Bioscience)

Digital blood film microscopy

Cara McSweeney (Roche)

Roxane Legaie

What is Bioinformatics?

Dr. Amy Crowe

New applications of MALDI-TOF – title TBA

Natalie Caldwell

BioArray Red Cell Genotyping

Nicola Flowers

NIPT (non-invasive prenatal testing)

Dr. Asif Alam

Mass spectrometry for haemoglobinopathies

PLUS case studies and short talks from young scientists:

Cristina Bitzilis, Amanda Hong, Jeremy Wells and Samantha Drummond

COST/REGISTRATION

Members: \$55, Non-members: \$75, Students: \$25

(Includes lunch and refreshments)

Register at: www.aims.org.au, **RSVP:** 13th July 2016

Attendance contributes to APACE points.

Enquiries: Patricia Szczurek

E-mail: patriciaszczurek@gmail.com

PARASITOLOGY

& TROPICAL MEDICINE S.I.G

Organised by

A.S.M. Victorian Branch

In collaboration with Doherty Institute

The annual meeting of PTM SIG for 2016 will be held at Doherty Institute Auditorium

Venue: PDI Auditorium, 792 Elizabeth St, Melbourne 3000 (University of Melbourne)

Date & Time: Tues 16 Aug 2016, 6-9 pm

Program

Meet and greet over Drinks/Dinner: 6 – 7.30 pm

(Chandra's curries are back!)

Talks: 7.30 to 9 pm

Drinks sponsored by:
ThermoFisher
SCIENTIFIC
The world leader in serving science

- Evaluation of protozoa PCR in Netherlands: Dr Bert Mulder
 - Perils of a Peripatetic Pursuit: Dr Andrew Steer (RCH)
 - Liver abscess: Dr Mark Tang (Austin)
 - Other speakers TBA
-

Register through TryBooking

<https://www.trybooking.com/LXUT> OR <https://www.trybooking.com/209423>

Note: Confirmation will be on payment only



ASM VIC CALENDAR 2016

When planning meetings, please book dates with Karena Waller
(Phone: (03) 8344 0045, Email: klwaller@unimelb.edu.au)

- **AIMS VIC Branch presents Brave New World – Innovation in Diagnostic Testing – 16th July 2016, Malvern VIC**
- **Going with the Flow: The Application of Flow Cytometry to Microbe Analysis – 26th July 2016, Carlton VIC**
- **Public Health Night – 10th August 2016, Melbourne**
- **Parasitology and Tropical Medicine SIG Meeting – 16th August 2016, Melbourne**
- **2016 Bi-State Conference, 25th and 26th November 2016, Launceston TAS**

**Submission Deadline for August ASM Victorian
News:
August 4th 2016**

Email submissions to: klwaller@unimelb.edu.au or
asmvicbranch@gmail.com